



January 2017

3 Tevet - 4 Shevat 5777

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Keys Jewish Community Center

January 2017 3 Tevet - 4 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
New Year's Day Blessing of Fleet 10 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock James Brush Sisterhood Meeting 1:30 p.m.	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	9	10	11	12	13 Meredith Cline Meredith Cline	14
15	16 M.L.K. Day	17	18	19	20 Gary Margolis & Susan Gordon Advertisers Dinner 6 p.m.	Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10 a.m.
Movie: The Disputation + disc. with Rabbi Agler 7 p.m.	23	24	25	26	Yardena Kamely & Art Itkin Steve Steinbock	Rosh Chodesh Shevat
Refugees 101 Event 6:30 p.m.	30	31				

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Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Sam Vinicur

t's almost exactly two vears since I was first elected to occupy this chair. Though I love both words and conversation, I've never been a natural public speaker. I'm much happier to sit and compose my thoughts. discarding the inevitable chaos that invades the mind as I will myself into coherence. I think, at the precise moment Bernie had happily handed me the scepter, I mumbled something into the mic about not having any grand ambitions. I'm aware that the rubble of grandiosity is often strewn mockingly at the feet of the vain or foolish. Racing through my mind was: what, exactly, do I do now?

KICC wasn't broken. Though I'd never wanted to be, I'd been on the Board for eight years, learning and feeling its rhythms. I'd been publishing Chai-Lights for even a little longer; from that perch I could see very well what its personality was, how it tended to go about its business, how it sand and danced and laughed and sometimes cried.

The way forward soon revealed itself. I'd spent my adult life in the communication business. I'd been able to strengthen the connective matrix of KJCC some by developing and expanding Chai -Lights. I just needed to follow my own model, which I knew worked, slowly and





experience is glue. A member told me the other day that she'd joined a while ago but initially felt like an outsider here, typically left to sit alone. She's feeling a different vibe lately, a warmer and more welcoming air. Though I get teased about my weekly emails, that's where I began my work. People need to feel what's going on, taste it and see themselves in it, not just quickly scan bulleted listings. Activity levels gradually began going up. I know, because I get weekly reports, that twice as many people read the emails now compared to when I began.

I knew that our Torah Restoration Project had to be more than just a simple repair. It had to offer an experience. Many members now have their certificates and photos with the *sofer* framed and hanging on their walls.

Activity begets activity: good expands, bad contracts. We now have the largest membership in our history. Our services have more energy and better participation. We do more here than ever, and more often. We're more connected to the Keys community. The whole building pulsates with energy. I like to think, as my term is very near its end, that I've had something to do with all this.

Nosh

Rabbi Agler's Torah Service

Save Saturday morning, January 21st, to experience the first of Rabbi Agler's uplifting spiritual and educational services of the new (secular) year. There are no special holidays to be celebrated in January this year, but it is a truism that Shabbat is the most important of all Jewish holidays. Plan to spend this one with Rabbi Richard Agler, KJCC's Resident Scholar, and gain new insights and enthusiasms for our Torah and traditions. Services start without exception promptly at 10:00 a.m. There will be light refreshment - kiddush - afterward. You'll be glad you came.

And if you're the type who's assiduous about planning ahead, here is his Saturday service schedule for the rest of the season: February 11th, March 18th, April 8th and May 6th. (Please note that, with events being beyond the control of even a rabbi, it is possible these dates might need to change. We'll of course let you know.)

Chocolate Festival Coming Soon

Even though we primarily focus on cultural activities in the Upper Keys, we have to make one exception. Knowing we are a congregation of chocolate lovers, if not actual chocoholics, how could we not support a field trip to the most delicious, lovely, and educational event of our South Florida winter: the 11th Annual International Chocolate Festival at Fairchild Gardens. Friday, January 20th, 2017, 9:30 a.m. to Sunday, January 22nd, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Beautiful surroundings, unusual art, informative lectures and, ummm, samples. Think carpools.

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to Founding KJCC member Bob Faeges and his family on the death of his wife Janis Faeges.



Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of

Claire Lempel/Murray Pincus by Linda Pincus & Family

New Members

It's been a few months since we formally introduced new members in Chai-Lights. Our ranks continue to grow in both variety and talents plus backgrounds, too. Marcia Kreitman has been a member for some time. But she's now added hubby John Hawver, one of the truly great and nationally known Keys artists, to our roster. Laura Wolf first came to the Keys on a film crew, and has decided to stay, living in Key Largo. Gary Margolis and Laurie Blum decided the cold up north was no longer for them, and they now live in Marathon. They've already become regulars at all our events, and Gary has even led services. Gunther and Shirley Karger live in Homestead. They came for High Holidays and were so taken with KICC they decided to join. It's a special connection for us, too. Gunther is a Holocaust survivor, one of the Kindertransport children whose life was saved by being put on a train and sent off to live with strangers. He and Shirley met just after the war.

The JNF Needs Funds for New Trees

As most of you know, Israeli forests in the north, around Haifa, have been devastated by recent fires. As of late November, over 32,000 acres of forests have been destroyed. Over 70,000 residents in Haifa had to be evacuated. More than 2,500 firefighters have been working on over 630 fires. (Yes, there's evidence of arson, but that's not the point here.)

JNF, the little blue box fundraiser of our youth, needs us again. They're raising money to re-plant the forests. And to buy and refurbish fire-fighting equipment. And to help all the people affected. If you can help, go to JNF.org, call I-800-JNF0099, or e-mail customerservice@jinf.org.

January Birthdays

•	•
lst	Justin Wade Gilson
lst	Jerry Olsen
lst	Laura Goodman
2nd	
2nd	
4th	Randi W. Freundlich
4th	Howard Gilson
6th	
6th	Janice Gorson
8th	Matthew Barrett
8th	Roger Levy
9th	Cathy Rakov
9th	Deborah Beinfest
9th	Sarah Kamely
10th	
12th	
12th	
13th	
14th	
15th	
15th	
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l6th	
16th	
17th	
17th	
17th	
18th	
19th	
19th	
19th	
22nd	
24th	
24th	
26th	Marshall Kanlan
27th	
27th	
28th	
29th	
29th	
30th	
JUII	NI ISCEIT I'I. SCHUI

January Anniversaries

		Years
lst	Sanford & Nancy Yankow	27
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof	36
I2th	George & Muriel Swartz	37
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg	24
23rd	Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld	68
26th	David & Pamela Marmar	32
27th	Michele & Ed Riley	44
	•	

Tikkun Olam - Refugees & Refreshments

On January 29th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Linda Kaplan and the Tikkun Olam Committee will present an intriguing program at KICC titled "Refugees 101." Linda, a practicing immigration attorney with over 30 years' experience, will talk about legal aspects of the current crisis. Short films will be shown. Then Rabbi Richard Agler, KICC's Resident Scholar, will discuss the issues from a religious perspective, including Judaism's view of "the stranger." The Q & A that follows should be fascinating. The public will be invited, and the evening will conclude with a delicious home-cooked meal of dishes initially brought to this country by our immigrant forebears (on this night prepared by us, their children and grandchildren). There will be no charge for either the presentation or the international feast to follow. Please see the ad on page 22 for further details.

Leaf on the Tree of Life

To honor

Patty Silver Schocket Forever Remembered and Loved

By Linda Pollack, December 2016

KJCC Student Scholarships 2017

We are proud of the youngsters who have gone through our KJCC school and wish to advance their educational goals. To this end, Joel Pollack, many years ago, established a KJCC Scholarship Fund, which still receives gifts from people who share this commitment. If you have a child who will be graduating High School this spring and is applying for fall admission to an institute of higher learning, academic or technical, you can go to the KJCC website (keysjewishcenter.com) and download the Scholarship guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application forms as of January 1st, 2017. If you

have any questions, contact Susan Gordon (susangordon424@yahoo.com) or Gloria Avner (geetavner@gmail.com). Deadline for receipt of completed applications is April 1st, 2017; awards are announced before graduation.

The KJCC Torah Day Video is on YouTube

As the Board knows (and saw), Jan Hartz has taken all the photos Eve Knowles took at our Holocaust Torah Rededication Day last March and edited them into a brilliant and moving 8-minute film. It's now uploaded to YouTube, available for viewing by everyone. Just Google "KJCC Torah Day Video," or write us for the direct link.

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 or to sponsor an orchid.

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.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation or research costs.

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.

Oneg Sponsors for January 2017

January 6th - James Brush, to celebrate the wedding of William Brush to Tennessee Bell (Tennie) Kapps in 1881, great, great, great grandmother.

January 13th - Meredith Cline to celebrate her birthday.

January 27th - Steve Steinbock, Remembering Carol.

This Year's Advertisers Dinner

As we have every year for the past five or six years, KJCC will once again, on Friday, January 20th at 6 p.m., be offering a special Shabbat dinner to honor and thank all those who support us with their advertising in both Chai-Lights and the KICC Membership Directory. This includes both members and non-members. It's always a rollicking and happy event, and our non-member friends have begun to look forward to this each January. (Why wouldn't they? The food is great, the atmosphere warm and cordial, and people spend the whole evening telling them how wonderful they are and how grateful we are.)

It's being managed again this year by Medina Roy. Please contact Medina to tell her how many are coming and what yummy (dairy) dish you'll be able to bring. There's no charge for members. This is also the dinner each year where we invite potential members to let them see what they've been missing. Please tell Medina if you have potential-member guests. For more info, please see the ad on page 16 of this issue.

The Most Famous Disputation

In medieval Europe, in case you hadn't heard, lews and their religion were continually under siege. The first formal ghetto was established in Venice in 1516, but restrictions on Jews had existed for centuries across the continent. Things weren't so perfect during the "Golden Age" in Spain, either, though lewish culture, religious studies and commerce all thrived there. (Moses Ben Maimon — Maimonides — after all, hailed

from Spain in this period. As did Moses de Leon, the probable author of the Kabbalistic Zohar.)

Another Spanish Moses of the period, Moses Ben Nachman, known to Jewish history as Nachmanides, is still a revered Talmudist and learned commentator on Jewish law and practice. But he's also famous for a Disputation in which he was forced to publicly defend Judaism against calumnies and charges hurled at it by medieval Christianity. Such Disputations were common in the period. But in none other was there a lew of the stature of Nachmanides.

On Sunday evening, January 22nd, KJCC will be showing a British-made film depicting the famous Disputation, arranged by King James of Aragon, between Nachmanides and a New Christian (read "apostate Jew") named Pablo Christiani. The film is fascinating. To top things off Rabbi Agler has agreed to lead a discussion group afterwards. Please see the ad on page 18. There's no charge.

Sam & Dave in Concert at KICC

On Wednesday, February 22nd, Dave Feder will once again be in full concert mode at KJCC. But this time he'll be joined by internationally renowned 12-string guitarist and composer Sam Weis, another KICC member. This will be our big

event of the season. Tickets are currently scheduled to be priced again at \$25. Sponsors and Angels are being sought. The entire Upper Keys community



will be invited to attend. We'll be sending out lots of info, but for now please contact Linda Kaplan if you have questions. This could become the biggest entertainment event ever at KICC.



Sisterhood Sam Weis and Renee Salant



s the clock chimes midnight and glasses are raised in a toast to a New Year of the common calendar, a new chapter begins in the life of the KICC Sisterhood. As Renee Salant and I (Sam Weis) begin our term as co-presidents we are looking forward to building upon the great foundation put forth by the work of all past Sisterhood presidents and members, and most recently by Erica Lieberman-Garrett. She has set the bar high and Renee and I are deeply honored to be given the opportunity to guide the Sisterhood to even greater heights of service to our community.

To be completely candid, at first we were a bit nervous about taking this responsibility. We are new to The Keys and the KICC. But, as I am sure you have already noticed, this is a Jewish community guite unlike any other. And one of the things that makes this community so special is that none of us is working alone. One really can feel the energy, the love and the support of the entire KJCC family. If you are not already an active part of the Sisterhood. I now invite you to join in our pleasurable work. We welcome all talents and all levels of participation.

Erica will not be too far away. (Every good trapeze artist needs a safety net at first.) She and Susan Gordon will be co-vice presidents. Beth Hayden remains our steadfast Treasurer and Oneg chairperson. Geri Smith will be staying on in her role as Recording Secretary. never missing a word. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Michele Rilev has stepped up to be our new Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to all of our officers for being there to catch Renee and me when we trip over our well-intentioned novice selves. And, let's not forget the efforts of Susan Gordon and Sydney! Fave-Davis, creating an amazing gift shop. Thank you.

As I write this column we are looking forward to many celebrations together. And

now, as you are read-

ing this, we have enjoyed a busy month. Can anyone imagine anything more festive than viewing the beauty of a room full of tiny dancing flames from our Chanukah candles while sipping Champagne? Linda Pollack, you are a gem; thank you for sponsoring the Dec. 30th Chanukah Champagne Shabbat Potluck Dinner. And thank you to all who brought the always delicious food items. Sharing these experiences with our Keys Jewish community is certainly one of the highlights of my life in the Kevs. If you feel the same way, please consider sponsoring an event. Dinners are great, of course, but think about celebrating a special event by sponsoring an Oneg. It's pretty simple, just e-mail Beth Hayden at hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net. We would all love to celebrate your *simchas* with you; your spouse's birthday, your anniversary, your niece's Bat Mitzvah, your dog had puppies, or your dog will now never have puppies. The KJCC Sisterhood does, of course, depend upon your donations to help fund these wonderful events. I admit that when I first joined KICC I absolutely took it for granted that after Friday night services there would be an oneg. The food and beverages would simply be there, apparently delivered by elves while we were praying. Imagine my surprise when I once arrived early and I saw women (and a couple of men - fellows, you can participate. too) scurrying around the kitchen and social hall "magically" setting out plates of cookies, cakes, salads, and fruit. Even a wee dram of Scotch on occasion. You, too, can be part of this excellent Sisterhood. Thank you to all of our members.

Renee and I are honored to be of service. Good health, good work, remember to enjoy the beauty of this amazing place we live in. Shalom. &

Keys Jewish Community Center Tikkun Olam Project

How many prescription and vitamin bottles do you discard almost on a daily basis? We have the opportunity to contribute to an ongoing project at Burton Memorial. They are collecting empty medicine bottles and sending them to Haiti. The hospitals and clinics there are in need of these bottles in order to provide prescriptions to their patients.

Simply bring your empty bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. Remove all personal information and medication information first.



Note that this is a request for bottles, not for medications.

In Memoriam January 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Talia Agler	Bernice Bernstein	Laurie Beth	
By Richard & Mindy Agler <><><>>>>	By Paul & Barbara Bernstein	By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Annette Bitton	David Pearlman	Emma Kohlenbrener	
By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly	By William & Donna Bolton	By Joan Boruszak <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Irving Kulick	Betty Weinstein	Rita Zalk Cline	
By Thomas & Renée Brodie	By Dick & Rita Bromwich <><><>>>>	By Meredith A. Cline <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Carolynne H. Cline	David Cohn	Yetta Hitzig	
By Meredith A. Cline <><><>>>>	By Nancy L. Cohn	By Wes & Rita Conklin	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Lola Rosenberg	Nathan Weisberg	Marcus Weiss	
By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea	By Gerri & Frank Emkey <><><>>>>	By Janice Gorson <><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Marvin Greenbaum	Judy Lombardi	Alvin S. Gross	
By Marilyn Greenbaum	By Marilyn Greenbaum	By David & Patti Gross	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Louis Hartz	Daniel Harvey	Ernest Isenberg	
By Steven & Jan Hartz	By Mitchell Harvey	By Patricia Isenberg	

On Memoriam January 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sylvia Emsig **Bernard Kaminstein** Aaron Rosenzweig By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs By Beth Kaminstein By Gunther & Shirley Karger <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Irving Rosen** Walter Hankin Goldie Schweitzer By Harvey & Joan Kay By Richard & Barbara Knowles By Richard & Barbara Knowles <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Henry H. Rubin Samuel Neubauer John Evans By Carol Laskin By Jackie LePree By Stanley & Jenny Margulies <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ann Netzman **Betty Weinstein Eta Brownstein** By Jerry & Sheila Olsen By Alan Netzman By Pauline Roller <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Nat Gulkis Bea Gulkis Paul Kaminsky** By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Joan Kaminsky Joseph Cohen Jacob Menahem Shabathai By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Jules & Nettie Seder By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Joseph Shapiro Sally Sussman Karen Hayhurst By Libby P. Shapiro By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Stephen Steinbock

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World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Do You Still Pass "GO" and Collect \$200?

Forget about Park Place, Boardwalk and Marvin Gardens and becoming a tycoon by swallowing up the prime properties of Atlantic City. Now you can own a piece of the Kotel (Western Wall)! An Israeli company has teamed up with Hasbro, the world's largest toy maker, to market the latest version of the rainy-day-favorite board game, *Monopoly*. The new version, Jerusalem Monopoly, features 28 tourist destinations, identified in both Hebrew and English. The "stops" along the way include the Israel Museum, the Western Wall, the Knesset and the Machane Yehuda market. This new version is expected to be marketed not only in Israel but in many other countries as well. *Monopoly* originated in 1903. The current version was first released in 1935 by Parker Brothers. (Imagine how exciting it was to pass Go and receive \$200 in the worst years of the Great Depression.) (www.haaretz.com, 12-8-16)

An \$850,000 Slab of White Marble

A 1,500-year-old white marble slab containing the earliest known chiseled inscription of the Ten Commandments (it's the Samaritan version, not either of the versions of the Decalogue written in the Hebrew Bible) was sold in mid-November at an auction in Beverly Hills, California for \$850,000. (The opening bid was \$300,000.) It was most likely chiseled during the late Roman or Byzantine Era, between 300 and 500 C.E. The slab is thought to have marked the entrance of an ancient synagogue that was probably destroved by the Romans. Discovered in 1913 during an excavation for a railroad line near the city of Yavneh in Western Israel, someone - perhaps a construction worker - found it and set it in a courtyard, where it remained until 1943. At that point an archaeologist acquired it and owned it until his death in

2000. Rabbi Shaul Deutsch, founder of the

Living Torah Museum in Brooklyn, New York, came into possession of the tablet for temporary display through an agreement with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and later bought it outright. Rabbi Deutsch then put the tablet up for sale with the stipulation that it be placed on public display.

Rabbi Deutsch said his plans were to sell the tablet and other artifacts from his collection, which chronicles Jewish life and history back to antiquity, in order to raise money for a makeover of his museum. He hopes to transform the museum with more hands-on exhibits in order to attract younger visitors. (www.reuters.com, 11-17-16)

Mitzvah Day 2016

Some 25,000 people participated in British Jewry's *Mitzvah Day*, held on November 27th, 2016. Organizers said that the number of volunteers for the faith-based day of social action was the largest number to participate since Mitzvah Day was first inaugurated in the United Kingdom in 2005. The event brings together Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and others involving a variety of activities. This year's event focused on building bridges in British society following the polarizing effect of the referendum held in May leading to the British exit (or Brexit) from the European Union, Following the vote, British watchdog groups reported a spike in xenophobic-related hate crimes. Sadig Khan, London's first Muslim mayor, participated in this year's Mitzvah Day. Some of the activities included making teddy bears, cooking meals and collecting goods for immigrants and the poor. In addition to the 25,000 volunteers in Great Britain, some 15,000 people participated in Mitzvah Day projects in 25 countries.

giving a total of 150,000 hours of their time to help hundreds of charities and causes. (www.jpost.com, 12-2-16)

\$2 for an Incredible Story

Last year, Jillian Eisman was rummaging through a closet at a garage sale on Long Island, New York, when she immediately recognized a blue and gray striped jacket, complete with numbers on the chest of the jacket. Eisman paid two dollars for it and promptly donated it to the Kupferberg Holocaust Center in New York City. Curators at the center put the jacket on display and also traced the serial number, connecting it to one Benzion Peresecki (who later changed his name to Ben Peres). Peresecki had been taken by the Nazis from his home in Lithuania and forced to make munitions for the German war effort because he was fifteen. (According to the curator, all Jews, sixteen and older, which would have included his father and seventeen -year-old brother, were executed.) He spent four years in a displaced persons camp where he was reunited with his mother. The two later came to America. He married, raised a family on Long island and worked as a mechanical engineer. Peresecki didn't share much with his family about his Holocaust experience in Dachau, but he did keep detailed records which were discovered by his daughter, Lorrie Zullo, long after he died of a stroke in 1978. According to Holocaust historians, jackets such as the one kept by Peres are rare, since most of the clothing worn by concentration camp prisoners was burned because of lice and other possible diseases. Also, most freed prisoners didn't want to keep reminders of their ordeal. Iillian Eisman. whose 24-year-old brother was killed in the terror attacks on 9-11, said: "There is a reason why I was...in that house...There is a reason why I was friends with someone who worked at the Holocaust museum. What are the chances of that?" (www.ap.org, 11-23-16)

Move Over. Rodin!

A team of Israeli archaeologists has discovered a 3,800-year-old pottery jug depicting a statuette of a person who appears to be lost in thought. The figure is sitting with knees bent and with his head resting on his hand, reminiscent of Auguste Rodin's iconic 19th century sculpture, The Thinker. The Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) said the jug which stands about seven inches tall - dates back to what archaeologists call the Middle Bronze Age. The artifact was found during an excavation in the Tel Aviv suburb of Yehud. "It seems that at first the jug, which is typical of the period, was prepared and afterwards the unique sculpture was added, the likes of which have never before been discovered in previous research," said Gilad Itach, director of the excavation. The IAA conducts excavations at all major building sites across the country to make sure that no relics are destroved. (www.reuters.com, 11-23-16)

Girl-to-Girl Advice Goes for \$150K

Towards the end of November, a poem handwritten by Anne Frank sold for \$150,000 at an auction, more than four times the minimum bid of \$32,000. It was sold to an unnamed online bidder after two minutes of bidding that was described as "tense." The eight-line poem is written in Dutch and is dedicated to "Cri-cri," the sister of Anne Frank's primary school friend Jacqueline van Maarsen. The subject of the poem is girl-togirl advice. The poem is dated March 28, 1942, three months before the Frank family went into hiding in an Amsterdam attic. Anne was twelve years old at the time. Christiane, or "Cri-cri" died ten years ago. In 1988, letters written by Anne and her sister Margot to American pen pals sold for \$165,000. (www.ita.org, 11-23-16)

Shoah Foundation at 54,000 Testimonies

Some 700 quests at the Ambassadors for Humanity gala in early December contributed approximately \$3.5 million for the global outreach work of the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation. The celebration, which featured actor Harrison Ford and composer John Williams, honored filmmaker and entrepreneur George Lucas and his wife Melody Hobson with a Humanitarian Award. Following the success of his film "Schindler's

List," director Steven Spielberg established the Shoah Foundation: The Institute for Visual History and Education in 1994, an organization that has, to date, compiled over 54,000 testimonies of survivors of and witnesses to the Holocaust. The project has grown and now includes those who have witnessed genocides in Armenia, Nanking, Rwanda and Guatemala. Hobson, a Chicago businesswoman, praised the foundation for "giving a face to the faceless."

(www.forward.com, 12-11-16)

The Global Shabbat Project

The 2016 global *Shabbat Project*, which took place on November 11th and 12th, broke all records and brought together over one million lews - including some 40 members of the KICC - in 1160 cities spread over 94 countries. (Last year's event saw participants in 919 cities in 84 countries.) In Israel alone. 163 cities and towns took part in the project. The project included pre-Shabbat challahbaking activities as well as post-Shabbat havdalah and musical ceremonies. This latest project came away with all sorts of interesting stories. To name just a few: some 8.000 women participated in a challah-baking event in Buenos Aires; a lone Jew in Karachi, Pakistan decided to keep Shabbat with the rest of the Jewish world; one thousand Israelis from all different backgrounds ate a Shabbat meal together in Tel Aviv at the Hangar 11, one of Israel's largest event venues (with another 29 Shabbat Project locations throughout the city). "It's incredibly fulfilling and inspiring to see how...Jews from all over the world, from different backgrounds, worked together to turn this uplifting moment into a special moment of Jewish unity," said Rabbi Warren Goldstein. Chief Rabbi of South Africa and founder of the project, which he spearheaded in 2013.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-14-16)

In Memoriam

★ Ben Zion Shenker, a gifted composer of hundreds of modern Chasidic prayer melodies, died recently. He was 92. Shenker was known for preserving the *Modzitzer* musical

tradition, a tradition based on a Polish-rooted Chasidic sect. (Modzitz is a famous Chasidic Rabbinic dynasty that is known for its music, or Nigunnim, as well as for learning and Torah. The Modzitzer dynasty traces back to students of the Baal-Shem-Tov, founder of the Chasidic movement in the 18th century. Interestingly, the proliferation of music in Chasidic life had been one of the changes that annoyed the Talmudic rabbis.) Shenker composed hundreds of songs and melodies for prayers, many of which are sung to this very day every Shabbat, such as Aishes Chavil (A Woman of Valor) and Mizmor L'Dovid (A Song of David), both to words from the Bible.

Shenker introduced famous modern Jewish composer Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach to the Modzitzer tradition. Born in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn to immigrant parents from Poland, Shenker annotated the music which the *Modzitzer* rebbes had composed. He graduated from the New York Conservatory of Music and produced some of the earliest recordings of authentic Chasidic music. Shenker began preserving the *Modzitzer* musical tradition in 1941.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-20-16)

★ Jacob Neusner, scholar and prolific author and one of the most influential voices in American lewish intellectual life, died in early October. He was 84. Neusner achieved national and international recognition in a career that covered more than fifty years, writing or editing over 950 books. (Did he sleep?) Neusner was raised in West Hartford. Connecticut with no formal lewish education. He graduated from Harvard University and spent a year at Oxford before making the lifechanging decision to enroll in Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His area of expertise was Rabbinic Iudaism and rabbinical lewish writings.

Neusner had taught theology at Bard College since 1994. He also served on the faculties of Columbia University, Brandeis University, Dartmouth College, Brown University, the University of South Florida and the University of Frankfurt, among others. He was a true giant of contemporary Jewish thought. (www.forward.com, www.jta.org, 10-9-16) >

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 In Honor of

Chester, Nelson & Bobbie

Pincus, Linda Michael Pincus — College Graduate Pollack, Linda Cole Silverman — bar mitzvah

Steamer, Donald & Ellen Eiss

General Fund In Memory of Hartz, Steve & Jan Patty Silver

Schneider, Mollie D. Ronald Horn

Holocaust Ed Center

Pincus, Linda

Meditation GardenIn Memory ofSteve SteinbockPatty Silver

Scholarship Fund In Honor of

Pincus, Linda Melissa & Danielle Pincus

– High School Graduates

Sisterhood General Fund

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Pincus, Linda Jennifer Pincus, College Graduate Pollack, Linda Hannukah Dinner Wenyah Chan & Alice Chuang Patty Silver shiva Bernard Ginsberg Patty Silver shiva Oreofeoluwatomi Adesina Patty Silver shiva Nan Wang Patty Silver shiva Helen Mintz-Hittner Patty Silver shiva Nick Bell Patty Silver shiva John O'Brien Patty Silver shiva Christophe Ribelayga Patty Silver shiva Fredi Bleeker Franks Patty Silver shiva Richard and Mindy Agler Patty Silver shiva

Sisterhood Onegs In Honor of

Brush, James Cline, Meredith

Corrigan & Eisenstein Families | Jack's 11th birthday

Ginsberg, Bernard

Knowles, Richard & Barbara

Solas, Elaine Steinbock, Steve

Social Hall Chair Plates In Memory of

Pincus, Linda Claire Lempel/Murray Pincus

Tree of Life In Memory of

Pollack, Linda Patty Silver

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan Julius Kohlenbrener, Burton Boruszak Krissel, Michael Deborah Cannon Pincus, Linda Murray Pincus, Claire Lempel Riley, Michele Abraham Travers

YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



Student Awareness Day

In the first week of December 2016, a group of teachers and educators attended an educational program organized by the Holocaust Documentation & Education Center at the Broward County Convention Center. More than a thousand students from Broward High Schools met Holocaust survivors and participated in "Student Awareness Day." They came to listen to the survivors' stories and to ask them questions about their experience in World War II, living the Holocaust and its aftermath.

This day, December 7th, was the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. There were several war veterans present in the program who told us about their experiences during the war, all expressing gratitude to live in this country of freedom. One of the speakers, a Liberator, Kenneth Hunt, described how as a young soldier he saw the concentration camps and the survivors barely alive; that had taught him to stand up against hate, prejudice, bigotry and injustice.

At our table the survivor was Dora Shvartsman. We heard another story of immense strength, faith and courage. Dora was born in Bershat, Rumania. She was five when the war came to Rumania. They were living comfortably, a happy family of six children. Her father was the town's rabbi. And then one day everything changed. The people of the town turned against their Jewish neighbors with hate. Dora, her family and all the rest of Bershat's Jews lost everything. The Nazis drove them out of their houses. The whole Jewish population of Bershat was forced on a death march. "We were like animals, driven from one village to another," Dora said. One of her sisters died on the way. Her father was not

allowed to look back to see his child; the soldiers would have killed him. Sometimes, when they stayed in a house, there were ten people in one room. The children would go out into the streets to beg for food. One day Dora's other sister came back to the house and found their mother dead. The dead were taken away in a cart. Dora remembered: "Every day they would come knocking at the doors asking: 'are there any dead here?' "

"We were always hungry," Dora said. "There was no food. I survived because I was small and so thin. My sister went from house to house, begging for food." They survived, the father and three children. "The people in the villages helped us, giving us a little food and hot water."

When the war ended, they returned to their town. After some difficult time trying to survive in a "broken world," Dora's father got a position as Rabbi in Chernovitz (Russia). He was a respected man, dedicated to raising his children and serving his community. And then tragedy struck again. He was arrested because of his activities as a rabbi, prohibited in Stalin's Soviet regime. He was sentenced to ten years without any trial. Dora had to leave school and work to take care of her little brother and sister. Tears still come to her eyes when she remembers. Her father came out of detention after five years, but no longer the same man. He died in 1963. Dora decided to leave Chernovitz and go to America, where her married sister was living.

Dora was suddenly smiling as she continued to tell us her story, the good part, the story of resilience, forming a family with her husband, a Holocaust survivor himself. Her message to the students: never give up hope, have courage and faith, speak up when you see injustice, prejudice, bullying... "Be your brother's keeper." \$



EYE ON THE ARTS January 2017

anuary marks a new year and a new excuse to enjoy the creativity flowing from our unique Keys environment. Here are some suggestions for ways support our local artists, and enrich your mind and soul this month. The focus is on the Upper Keys.

Friday, January 13th thru Sunday, January 15th: Baygrass Bluegrass Festival.

The main event is located at the ICE Amphitheater, MM 87 bayside at Founders Park, but there are related musical activities elsewhere. Tickets are available in advance online (keysice.com) and at the gate. Bring lawn chairs, but not coolers. Monies raised help fund music, dance and art scholarships for local students. See the ICE web site keysice.com — for further information. ICE, of course, was founded by KICC's own Dave Feder and Ron Levy, and is currently run by Dave.

Saturday, January 14th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Art Under the Oaks.

Outdoors at San Pedro Church Gardens, Mile Marker 89.5 bayside. The show (ongoing for many years) features fine art & crafts, raffles of the artwork, and specialty food booths. Free parking is available at Coral Shores High School, with shuttle service to the event.

Saturday, January 14th, Blues Brothers dinner and show:

Tavernier Elks Lodge, MM 92 bayside. Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner, Dancing & Show 7 p.m. \$20 per ticket. Call 305-852-1872 for reservations after 4 p.m.

Monday, January 16th and Tuesday, January 17th, 7:30 p.m. — Canadian Brass.

Florida Keys Concert Association begins its six-concert series, with the famous brass quintet that plays Baroque to Dixieland. The performance on Monday will be at Marathon High School, and Tuesday at Island Community Church, MM 83.3 bayside. Tickets are \$40, or \$110

for the series. Speak to Joyce Peckman, Marcia Kreitman or Gloria Avner, all of whom work hard to make the series happen. www.floridakeysconcerts.com.

Thursday, January 19th, 6-9 p.m. Morada Way Art Walk.

There is a small (and burgeoning) local arts district. MM. 81.6 Oceanside in Islamorada. On the third Thursday, the street is closed off, and national and local artisans set up booths. There is live music and "culinary art." It is a lovely evening stroll. (Many of the KICC artists are represented in the participating galleries.)

Monday, January 23rd and Tuesday, January 24th, 7:30 p.m. — Intersection

Monday at San Pablo Church, MM 53 and Tuesday at Island Community Church, MM 83.3. \$25 tickets for this young and playful piano trio that blends Broadway, Classical. Latin and Jazz. Tickets (and subscriptions) are available at the gate or at www.floridakevsconcerts.com.

Thursday evenings 9 p.m. - midnight, Weekly Jam Night at OO-Tray.

In Islamorada, MM 80.9 oceanside. A jam night with an ever-changing roster of local and visiting musicians, playing in a casual, open-air restaurant. There is no cover, but try the food. >

Keys Jewish Community Center



Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017

Program: Adult Education

MOVIE: 7:00 pm - 65 minutes

Followed by discussion led by Rabbi Agler about the profound historical and religious issues raised by both the event and

the film.

In 1263, King James I of Aragon organizes a debate between representatives of Judaism and Christianity regarding whether or not Jesus was the Messiah.

Produced in England, this remarkable, tense drama is based on the Barcelona Disputation that took place in the court of King James of Aragon in 1263. During the Middle Ages, there were numerous disputations between Jews and Christians, but the Barcelona Disputation was unique. The other notorious debates were not authentic, but attempts by Christians to force conversion on Jews. The Barcelona Disputation, on the other hand, was the only occasion on which the Jewish spokesman was allowed to speak freely. This led to a genuine, eye-opening confrontation between Judaism and Christianity in which the basic differences between the two religions were brought to light.

The Jewish side was represented by Rabbi Moses ben Nachman (Nachmanides), the leading Talmudic scholar of his time. The apostate Pablo Christiani aggressively led the Christian side.

Finely acted by an extraordinary, distinguished cast, the story examines the disputation between the Christians and the Jews where Nachmanides used his unparalleled knowledge of sacred literature and the power of his oration to defend his faith. In the end, King James of Aragon rewarded the "Rabbi of Gerona" 300 dinarim for his courage and success in the disputation. It is a fascinating and empowering film for all to enjoy.

No Charge - Guests are welcome.

Photo Gallery

On Friday, November 18th, Gloria Avner sponsored the oneg to celebrate her birthday. She's turned over a new dietary leaf, so instead of a cake she brought fruit. Her artistic impulses always bubble out, however, so note (at right) the little fruit birdie gargoyle she made to guard the treasure. All the other photos on this page were taken at Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah service the following morning.





that Saturday morning, November 19th.

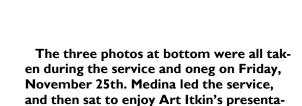
Old friends of his

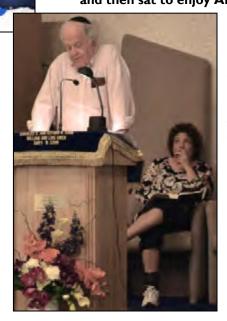
and Mindy's from Boca came to enjoy, center inset. At bottom, as Steve Hartz reads from the Torah, are Rabbi Agler's friend Rev. Marlin Simon, left, and at right KJCC friends Bert and Carolyn Jimenez.



Just in case, from the previous page, you thought Gloria was the only one to celebrate her birthday, oh, no. The three photos at top were taken at a lunch her many

close friends arranged. As you can see, above, they disdained the healthy for the sinfully yummy.



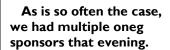


tion of that week's D'var Torah. At left, she and Bernie, the two Far Rockaway kids with the same birthday, led the kiddush afterward. Anyone who's ever been there knows that at a certain part of the chant Bernie always feels the passions of his ancestors and channels his inner Yossele Rosenblatt. That moment is captured here.



Most of the photos on this page were taken at the oneg partially sponsored in honor of Jan Hartz's birthday after the December 2nd service. The two Steves at left, Steinbock and Hartz, had led the service.

Some special guests joined us that evening. Bob and Barbara Epstein, on the short list of KJCC's surviving founders, are shown below with another founder, Pauline Roller.



Gary Margolis and Laurie Blum, left, also sponsored in celebration of their anniversary.





The two photos at left were taken during KJCC's

Sunday School class on December 4th. Stephanie Fink is shown at far left with Ruby and the boys. They're joined, center, by teacher Randy Klein-Gross and daughter Oceana.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM PRESENTED BY THE KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

REFUGEES 101 WITH A RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE

The Tikkun Olam (Social Justice) Committee has prepared this program for the members of the KJCC and the Keys Community based on materials from HIAS (The oldest resttlement organization in the world.)

The event is free and open to all those who come in peace



JANUARY 29th, 2017 6:30-8PM

Short Films, Discussion and Q&A in the KJCC Sanctuary. will be followed by a light meal in the Social Hall, featuring food representing the diversity of our immigrant experience. We are located at

Mile Marker 93.1, Oceanside

Topics will include:

Definitions: Refugee, Asylum Seeker, Internally Displaced Person, Migrant Myths and Facts of Refugee Resettlement U.S. Screening Process for Refugee entry Scope of the Refugee Crisis What you can do about the Crisis

Linda Kaplan, Esq. (an immigration attorney with more than 30 years experience) will present the legal aspects of the refugee crisis and lead the program

> Rabbi Richard Agler will discuss the religious aspects of "What is our obligation to the Stranger"

For additional information please contact Linda Kaplan at Linda@lindakaplan.com or at 305-396-7000



On December 8th, Beth Kaminstein hosted a pottery show and display for her students at her home studio in Islamorada. It's always fun to wander around a working artist's studio.



Much of KICC turned out to be supportive, of course. The smiles are because lots of holiday shopping got done that day.







New Sisterhood officers were chosen at their meeting in early December. At far left, new copresidents Sam Weis

and Renee Salant surround new VPs Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Susan Gordon. Just above are, from left, Recording Secretary **Geri Smith, Corresponding Secretary** Michele Riley, and Treasurer Beth Hayden.





The top two photos on this page were taken during Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning service on Saturday morning, December 10th. That's Stan

> Margulies concentrating diligently on the prayers, near left.



It isn't often we get to run photos taken in Rwanda. At right (with dark hair) is Elizabeth Giddens, a close friend of KJCC's Roy Pollack. Elizabeth visited KJCC on her way to Africa to raise funds for a children's hospital being constructed in Rwanda, before which she stands. One way she and others will be raising those funds? By a sponsored climb of fabled Mt. Kilimaniaro.

The photo at left depicts our Medina Roy at her summer shul in Boone, NC, along with students from the Hillel at nearby Appalachian State University. (They even have a Judaic Studies program there.) In the small world department, the student in the

white kippah next to Medina is Mike Greenstein, who happens to be the grandson of KJCC's own **Barney Colt**man.

KJCC Live Green - Recycle



In our quest to help you help the planet, we are collecting:

- ink cartridges
- laser toners (not previously recycled)
- cell phones

lap top computers

- i devices
- tablets
- and more.
- Items can be working or in need
 of repair

of repair.

Contact Steve Steinbock 305-394-0143 or just bring to the KJCC.

Sitting Shiva: Being Alone Together The Jewish Way of Bereavement

by Gloria Avner

f Methusaleh had lived another month or two (969 years probably felt sufficient), he might have been a passenger on Noah's ark - one more good man, a zaydeh, among the species worth saving. Methuselah was Noah's grandfather, and had he not died when he did, we might never have known that the Jewish custom of supporting the bereaved for seven days after burial predates the Flood. "Sitting shiva," as the custom has always been called, is simply and effectively named after the prescribed number of days (seven, or "sheva" in Hebrew") for initial mourning. The one who is sitting is the mourner, and traditionally it is done on low stools, symbolically reflecting the closeness to the earth where the departed lies and the depressed emotional state of the person suffering from loss.

We know this bit of history because the Torah tells us, in Genesis 7:10, "And it came to pass after the seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth." The rabbis say that seven days "had to pass before the waters of the flood could come," so that Methusaleh's family could sit shiva for him. How supremely righteous he must have been for God to delay a world-destroying flood so that his family could mourn him for the entire period.

How does it happen that a religion's customs for caring for the bereaved remain nearly unchanged for millennia? (Only recently have some stopped sitting on low chairs or covering mirrors, or begun sitting for one or three days instead of seven, even while the core of observance is intact.) The answer is both simple and profound. We follow precedent both because it is a commandment (a mitzvah - the same Hebrew word as "blessing") and because, since time immemorial, it works. Our ancestors and our ancient laws have brilliant psychological underpinnings. (Remember, it is not just a mitzvah to comfort the bereaved, but one of the duties whose "worth cannot be measured" - as we read in the Siddur every Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Agler.) Judaism is expertly attuned to the psychology of loss and the role of friends, family and community at life's most critical moment - the death of our closest loved ones.

Many years ago a book by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, "On Death and Dying," made a huge impact in psychology circles. It dealt with the stages one goes through before dying: denial, anger, bargaining, despair, and finally, acceptance. Jews were the earliest pathfinders and way-setters in the most practical, heartful and psychologically effective means of dealing with the after-effects of death and the needs of the loved ones left behind. Judaism also recognized stages of grief, and how needs and practices have to be different in each phase of mourning. Burial at the cemetery is stage one. Sitting *shiva*, stage two, starts when the family returns home. A pitcher and water for ritual hand washing is sometimes available at the cemetery or outside the door of the shiva house. A shiva candle, in a custom that may go as far back as the 13th century, is lit that will burn for seven days, symbolizing the soul of the deceased and the Shechinah, the feminine aspect of God, "the light of God's presence."

Father or mother, sister or brother, son or daughter, and spouse - these are the seven relatives for whom a lew is required to observe shiva. According to lewish law, there is a specific etiquette for paying a shiva visit. Visitors enter quietly, take a seat near the mourner, and say nothing until the mourner speaks. According to Rabbi Agler, one need say nothing at all. The only thing required is presence. There are no words sufficient to take away the aloneness. We honor that. The person we care for and have come to comfort needs to experience their aloneness but will know that we are with them. Surrounded by community, by friends and relatives, the bereaved is alone but, at the same time, "together."

Doors are left unlocked so there is no doorbell noise and people can enter and depart quietly. Traditionally, mirrors were covered to reinforce the idea of inward reflection and the lack of focus on outward appearance. The mourner does not go to work or shave or take luxurious baths or do laundry. This is a time out of time and rules of ordinary life do not apply. And yet, although the phases all have different practices, supports, and limits - the first night, the three days, the seven, then the first month (Shloshim), the eleven months of saying Kaddish, and finally the unveiling - who could not be struck by how each phase of supportive caring points to the primal Jewish goal, returning the mourner to community and productive life within it?

From the very first meal, steps are taken toward return to wholeness. The meal of condolence or comfort, seudat havraah, is provided for the family by friends. Otherwise they might not eat at all. It typically consists of peeled hard-boiled eggs and some variation of the lentil stew that, according to the Talmud, Jacob was preparing for his father, Isaac, who was sitting shiva for his own father, Abraham. These foods – especially the round hard-boiled eggs – symbolize not just the promise of new life but life's unbroken cycle.

It is a kindness to bring food to the family, to help with chairs and tables, to later put things away, to make sure that there are enough people present to say *Kaddish* each night, a minyan of ten, that there are kippot and siddurs and a person to lead the service. A good *shiva* guest would offer to help organize meals being sent, help clean up and pack away food, offer to prepare the house, be a good listener, think about how other ways to help the mourner (little things like offering to take care of a pet), perhaps make a donation in memory of the deceased to a charity they cherished. Respect set hours for visiting, don't stay overly long, and check in with the person after *shiva* is over. Remain

supportive and do not judge anyone's grieving process. Mourning can be painful and lengthy.

t KJCC, we are an eclectic community of Jews, embracing all degrees of practice and observance. We have a Shiva Committee, made up of Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman, and Bernard Ginsberg, who can be contacted and counted on to provide all ritual Shiva support required. We have a Sisterhood, headed by copresidents Renee Salant and Sam Weis, which will assist in coordinating food and be ready to help if other needs are expressed by the family. Above all, we get and are committed to the big picture, the primal psychological connection between life and death, celebration and mourning. Though things will never be the same as before the loss, we are and will continue to be that extended family we call mishpocha, committed to be together with the person who is terribly alone as they begin to make their way back, in their own sweet time, to life and our community. >

When All That's Left is Love by Rabbi Allen S. Maller

When I die
If you need to weep
Cry for someone
Walking the street beside you.
You can love me most by letting
Hands touch hands, and Souls touch souls.

You can love me most by
Sharing your Simchas (goodness) and
Multiplying your Mitzvot (acts of kindness).
You can love me most by
Letting me live in your eyes
And not on your mind.
And when you say Kaddish for me
Remember what our Torah teaches,
Love doesn't die People do.
So when all that's left of me is love
Give me away.

Maurice Ravel and his "Jewish" Connection

A Fond Look at One of the Favorite Composers of Musicians

by Beth Hayden

→ aurice Ravel was born in 1875 in the small village of Ciboure, located in the Basque region of France. His mother was Basque and his father was a Swiss engineer. The family moved to Paris while Ravel was very young and, after an early start in piano and theory lessons, it was at

the prestigious Paris Conservatory that Ravel, at the age of 14, began his formal study of music. His composition studies began with Jules Massenet, with whom Ravel had a lessthan-cordial relationship. Ravel was a lackluster student, teachable only on his own terms, and was expelled from the Paris Conservatory after failing to win the *Prix de* Rome in 1895. His failure to win the prize and his expulsion from the Conservatory led to an upheaval and scandal that resulted in drastic changes in the conservative leadership of the Conservatorv. The most important of these changes for Ravel was the appointment of Gabriel Fauré in the late 1890s as Professor of Composition.

Fauré, considered one of the most modern and advanced among contemporary French composers, mentored and encouraged Ravel following Ravel's readmission to the Conservatory in 1897. Nevertheless, Ravel, because of his "modern" ways, was a constant thorn for Conservatory conservatives; he was expelled for a second time in 1900.

In the early 1900s Ravel and other forward -looking young artists, including painters, composers, and writers founded "Les Apaches." While the name, of course, refers to the Apaches native to North America, it had the additional connotation in French of "hooligan." (A label evocative of the name given a contemporary group of modern French painters: Les Fauves, or "The Wild Beasts.") Members of "Les Apaches" included

> musicians such as Manuel de Falla, Ricardo Viñes, Erik Satie and Igor Stravinsky, as well as Jean Cocteau, André Gide, Paul Valéry, Vaslav Nijinsky and Sergei Diaghilev. Les Apaches sought to support "modern" artistic expression and encourage the expression of new ideas. These were the heady days when Paris was called home by evergrowing numbers of young, innovative artists in all fields. Sergei Diaghilev and the Ballet Russe were in the process of conquering Paris with ballet productions such as Stravinsky's "L'Oiseau de feu" (The Firebird) in 1910. "Petrouchka" in 1911 and "Le Sacre du Printemps" (The Rites of Spring) in 1913. Choreographed by Nijinsky, the

radical music and dancing at the premiere performance of the latter ballet culminated in a riot. Years later Stravinsky remarked that the only one who immediately understood the music was Maurice Ravel.

In 1914 World War I broke out. Ravel, who by now was an established and respected composer, could have remained uninvolved in the conflict, nevertheless, he attempted to enroll in the French Air Force. He was refused as being too old (39) and too short (5'3"). He



Many scholars tagged their music with the term "impressionism," borrowed from the painters of the day. But both Debussy and Ravel despised the term as applied to their music.

subsequently volunteered to drive a lorry on the Verdun front. "Le Tombeau de Couperin" (The Tomb of Couperin -Couperin was a French Baroque composer) has six movements. each of which commemorates a

friend of Ravel's lost in the Great War.

Ravel was a younger contemporary of Claude Debussy. While Debussy and Ravel began their relationship on a cordial footing, over the course of time, amidst critics and supporters of both men arguing as to who influenced whom, and who was the better composer, their relationship deteriorated. Ravel only became France's premiere composer following Debussy's death in 1918. Many commentators and scholars tagged both composers' music with the term impressionist, borrowed from the painters of the day. Both Debussy and Ravel despised the term as applied to their music. Ravel's influences included the French composers Emmanuel Chabrier and Gabriel Fauré, and - per Ravel himself - Mozart and Couperin. While Ravel's musical language reflects a new use of sound and harmony, his harmonies remain functional and he relied on classical structure and form in his compositions. Nevertheless. his use of sound ravishes, from the early Jeux d'eau (1901, https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=J_36x1_LKgg) through Gaspard de la nuit Ondine (1908, https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj8cBmWZhP0) and Scarbo (one of the most technically demanding pieces in the piano literature. https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=cjH4mnK7prw.) His orchestration was second to none, as evidenced by La Valse (composed over a 14-year period and premiered in 1920, https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=tbeiXUJUfy4) and the superb orchestration of Moussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition (which premiered in 1929, https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=spU8HnYOMW). In addition to French influences, Ravel took inspiration from Asia, Russia, Spain, folk music, dance and jazz. He knew and was friendly with George Gershwin, although when Gershwin requested to study with Ravel, Ravel refused to teach him. The influence of American jazz is very evident in the "G Major Piano Concerto," (https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=am73Didoin8, composed in 1929-1931 following Ravel's successful 1928 concert tour of America.)

Ravel's musical output is not large compared to that of many composers; it is, however, of an exceptionally high quality. He wrote slowly, with deliberation and great at-

tention to detail. His musical works include ballets. operas, chamber music, orchestral works. songs and a significant body of works for the piano. Bolero, perhaps his bestknown composition, was commissioned



by the Russian dancer Ida Rubenstein. Ravel. always fascinated by repetitive rhythms and motifs, had often considered composing a monothematic work without development except for changes in harmony and orchestration. On vacation in Saint-Jean-de-Luz, the story is told of Ravel calling a friend over to the piano and asking if this theme did not have an insistent quality as he played with one finger the melody that one day would be world-famous. Bolero premiered in 1928; it is essentially a composition with 18 variations

played over one of Ravel's favorite devices, a repeated rhythmic pattern played by the snare drum while each variation presents a different orchestration.

At the premiere of Bolero one woman repeatedly shouted "Au feu! Au feu!" (Madman! Madman!). When this was told to Ravel he reportedly said, "That lady - she understood." Years later, he is reported to have said about Bolero: "I have written a masterpiece; unfortu-

nately, there is no music in it." Bolero was one of Ravel's last compositions. Some symptoms of aphasia - deterioration in his speech and motor skills had begun to set in. These were greatly exacerbated by a severe blow to the head suffered in an automobile accident in 1932. His condition continued to deteriorate until Ravel, painstaking master of the smallest detail, was increasingly unable to write or speak. He died December 28, 1937 following unsuccessful brain surgery. The following is an excerpted version of Ravel's obituary wired to the New York Times on the day of his death and published the following dav:

December 29, 1937 Maurice Ravel. 62. Composer. Is Dead

PARIS, Dec. 28 - Maurice Ravel, one of the best-known French composers, died in a clinic here today at the age of 62. He had been operated upon on Dec. 17 for a brain ailment from which he had been suffering for some vears.

Mr. Ravel deliberately fashioned his musical style and followed his self-appointed path. When he was asked about the need for a composer to write with sincerity, he replied: "I

don't particularly care about this 'sincerity.' I try to make art.'

He illustrated his point by saying that he had worked on a violin and piano sonata for four years, three of which were spent in taking out the notes that were not necessary.

His own tastes led him to study the music of Satie, Liszt, Chabrier and many of the Russians, principally Rimsky-Korsakoff, all of whom exerted some influence upon his work.

> But from the first, as is revealed in his earliest known compositions, his style was a personal one.

Assiduously avoiding public attention, Ravel rarely accepted prominent posts or honors. Twice he was proposed for the Legion of Honor, but he declined. Three vears ago he accepted the position of director of the American Conservatory of Music at Fountainebleau. but ill health prevented him from continuina his responsibilities.

subsequent article next month will discuss Ravel's settings of three Hebrew texts. Despite the fact that Ravel was listed in two Nazi publications as a Jew be-

cause he set "Hebrew" texts to music, he was, in fact, not lewish. The Chanson Hébraique (1910) and Deux Mélodies Hébraiques (none of which are actually Hebrew) are not among his major works but should be of interest to us as part of our cultural heritage. And why, then, would Ravel have set Hebrew text to music when he was not lewish and, growing up in far southwest France just north of the Pyrenees, had minimal exposure to European Jewish culture? For the same and sensible reason that composers have written music from the beginning of time: the pieces were written on commission. >





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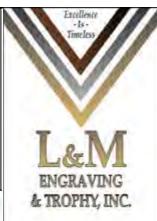
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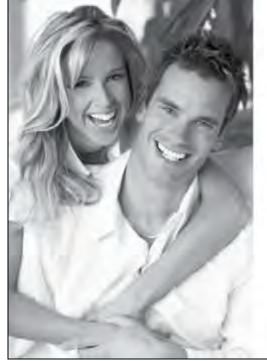


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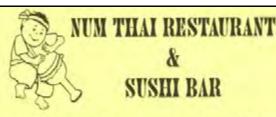
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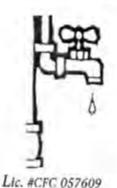


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Chai-Lights



February 2017

5 Shevat - 2 Adar 5777

A Festival of Lights recap - page 28 A Look at Ravel's Chanson hébraique - page 37 Tu B'Shvat and the Four New Years - page 41

February 2017 5 Shevat - 2 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Dana Grace Erica Lieberman- Garrett	4 Film Fest Film 7 p.m. "The Band's Visit"
Sisterhood meeting 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9	Steve Hartz & Sydney Fields Elaine Solas	11 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10 a.m. Film—"Lemon Tree" 7 pm
Board Meeting 10 a.m. Annual Meeting noon	13	14	15	16	Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur Beth Hayden	"Bagels Over Berlin" film 7 p.m. with Alan Feinberg, Director
19	20 President's Day	21	Sam & Dave In Concert at KJCC 8 p.m.	23	24 KJCC Sisterhood Susan Ellner	Film Fest, "Remember" 7 p.m.
26	27	28				

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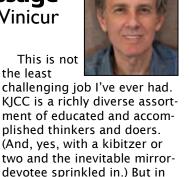
President's Message Sam Vinicur

It's thrilling, if but for a trice, to share an insight with one of the great minds. I'm talking, of course, about one of the great Jewish minds, perhaps the greatest pure Jewish mind of all: Albert Einstein. (A discussion of his personal behavior is for another time, or for rabbis.)

Time, Einstein famously said, is relative. Is it only bespectacled geniuses with electrified hair who understand this? No. we all do. We may not, observing the old photos, be able to fathom the equations written on the famous blackboard. The underlying concept, though, is one we've all lived: time spent doing something pleasurable goes much faster than time spent in hapless drudaerv.

This is my last column from this chair, on this page, in this space. In less than a fortnight - how often does one get to unsheathe that ancient and lovely word? -KICC will have a whole new configuration of officers and Board members. You'll be in very good shape with the new leadership. Those at the top - Beth Hayden and Gloria Avner - are capable and experienced, learned and versatile. And they not only love KJCC, they love the idea of KJCC, this unconventional and vital locus of Jewish life that together we've all imagined, tended and nourished.





slower but changed by an appreciation of colors. I'd like to thank all of you for your trust and occasional indulgence, plus send special oak leaf clusters to my closest allies. I'd also like to ask you to join me in the quiet seat of perspective for a moment.

complex jobs, if you're lucky,

you end up earning more than

also find vourself, at some illu-

minating point, with something

just a proficiency badge. You

more important: perspective.

Time is altered, not faster or

KICC is at a special place in its history. Our founders began it with boundless energy and heart. But it's an adult now, no longer a searching and awkward adolescent. As I've said often, there's no "them" at KICC. There's only "us." We have a rhythm here, and a vibrant culture. We have never been stronger, or as wonderfully active. Yet the future needs constant tending. Please consider how that future can be midwived (or husbanded, same concept) by you. Our KICC is a living thing. It will always need an arm, an ear, a hand. And vour love.

Nosh

Sam and Dave - The Concert

Is Wednesday, February 22nd, 8:00 p.m., circled in red on your calendar? Three years ago, when Dave Feder and Friends played here, the concert sold out. We're expecting a repeat, for a very different kind of performance.

Known and loved throughout our archipelago for his many years of fine entertainment and generous support of charitable causes of all description, Dave will be playing solo this year (with a few great exceptions). We'll get to hear his de-



lightful patter plus compositions old and new. His evolving versatility and virtuosity amaze us.

This year we'll have another renowned

solo artist sharing billing and the stage. Help us give a warm welcome to Sam Weis, nationally acclaimed 12-string guitarist whose original pieces feel like narratives of shifting landscape for the ear and mind. She brings an ethereal but substantive bell-like quality to her music. It's original and it takes you places. We like to hear her sing too.

None of us have any idea of what will happen when these two different types of music come together, but we can't wait. These two fine musicians and good friends can't, either.

Remember, it is not too late to become a supporting Sponsor (for a contribution of \$250) or an Angel (for a donation of \$500). Don't miss what will surely be a memorable evening. For information, tickets, details about the benefits of being and Angel or Sponsor and opportunities to be special contributors, call or write Linda Kaplan at (305) 396-7000 or lk@lindakaplan.com.

Thanks to Michael & Lorena

Let's have a standing ovation. KJCC is teaming up with Michael and Lorena Kaufman - a brand new movie production partnership. In memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez, their family is generously underwriting our new First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest, an exciting array of well-directed and engaging movies with diverse Jewish-content-related themes. From drama to documentary to thriller to laughout-loud comedy, the series, put together by Adult Education Chair Medina Roy and her committee, will assure that you never lack for stimulating weekend entertainment this season. (Please see the poster with February's schedule on page 30.) Get ready now for the first February film, set for Saturday, the 4th, at 7:00 p.m., a delightful saga about the hidden gifts of getting lost in strange terrain titled "The Band's Visit." It has sub-titles, so bring your glasses. (You really don't want to miss any of these movies. Date night should not be a conflict. Bring your date, apologize for not being able to offer popcorn in the sanctuary, stress our great a/v system and tell them we are famous for fabulous treats afterwards). See you at the flicks.

New Members

KJCC warmly welcomes our newest members, Jeff and Cheryl Margulies (no relation to Stan and Jenny), from Homestead. We hope we'll enrich you as much as your presence enriches us.

"Bagels Over Berlin"

In a season full of special events, and terrific films, one somehow stands out above the others. On Saturday evening, February 18th, at 7:00 p.m., KJCC will be offered a special screening of "Bagels Over Berlin," a film by Alan Feinberg about American Jews who joined the Army Air Corps in World War II to fight the Nazis. And Mr. Feinberg himself will be here to screen the film and lead a discussion afterwards. How often do any of us get the chance to discuss a film with its producer/director?

February Birthdays

	Libby Shapiro
lst	Roy Pollack
2ndJa	ckson Brandon Lebofsky
3rd	Dick Bromwich
3rd	Leslie Janowitz
5th	Rebecca Smith Strasser
6th	Evan Harvey
6th	Martin Field
7th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th	Larry Jacobs
9th	
9th	Ron Garrett
12th	
12th	Paul Roberts
13th	Jerrold Benowitz
I4th	
15th	Judith Weber
18th	Beth Hayden
21st	
22nd	Harry Friedman
22nd	Tomar Gross
23rd	Sienna Rose Lebofsky
24th	
24th	
25th	
26th	Jim Williams
26th	•
	•

Oneg Sponsors for February2017

February 3rd - Erica Lieberman-Garrett to celebrate her birthday.

February 10th - Elaine Solas

February 17th - Beth Hayden in honor of her birthday.

February 24th - Susan Ellner in honor of the Sisterhood Service.

Contact Renee About Onegs

From now on, new Sisterhood co-president Renee Salant will be the one to contact regarding sponsorship of KICC's weekly onegs. (Beth is about to have a big new job.) Renee's phone is 206-730-8002, e-mail reneesam@mac.com.

February Anniversaries

		Years
9th	Uri & Liliam Kamely	25

Rabbi Agler's Service and the Evening Film

February 10th through 12th will mark a big weekend at KICC. Friday night we will have services led by Steve Hartz and his niece, Sydney Fields.

Saturday morning, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., a Torah service will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler, our incomparable and stimulating Resident Scholar. You won't want to miss a minute of this two-hour period of engaging discussion, Torah chanting, and warm Shabbat interactive learning. (Have a friend or neighbor who hasn't joined because they think rabbis are boring, or that the Torah is just fairy tales and unfathomable "thou shalts?" Bring them along with the promise that another world awaits.)

On Saturday evening, at 7:00 p.m., the next feature in KICC's Film Series will present "Lemon Tree," a dramatic, well-acted Hebrew film (with English subtitles) which echoes the themes of Tu B'Shvat, the Birthday/New Year of the Trees. (See the review on Page 41.) A short sweet Havdalah service will be held before the film and there will be refreshments afterwards.

KJCC Luncheon Meets Tu B'Shvat

When KICC has a lot going on, we get creative. Especially when all that is going on is happening at the same time as one of our favorite lewish holidays (and last of the four New Years'). On Sunday, February 12th, at 10:00 a.m., there is a Board meeting at which the new slate of officers for 2017-2018 will be presented for the mandated second time. At noon there is meeting of the full KICC membership to vote on the slate and to install the officers. After installation, which will be conducted this year by Susan Ellner, we will reassemble in the Social Hall for our customary Annual Installation Luncheon.

Now here comes the "but." Yes, but Sunday, February 12th is also Tu B'Shvat, the day we ordinarily celebrate the New Year of the Trees by blessing every kind of fruit that grows in Israel. (The format we use, re-enacting a seder, was initiated by the mystics of Tzfat in the 16th century.) It's the day we usually all celebrate with our children in the schoolroom, and it's the day they (with our help) typically plant trees. We love Tu B'Shvat and just can't bring ourselves to omit this treasured activity because there's too much going on. Instead, we adjust. We will have a brief but meaningful mini-seder right before the lunch

eon. We will sing Shehechiyanu, bless the fruits, honor the earth, drink wine, share a short story, and then have a great lunch thanks to Sisterhood.

When lunch is over, whoever wants to can go outside and help water the trees planted by Mort Silverman. We can even sing and dance to the water song: "Mayim." And our children will still have their seder, but earlier during class time; if any virtual sabas and savtas want to join them, speak to Randy Klein-Gross or Susan Gordon. It will be a very full, organic kind of day, and will last just the right amount of time. See you there.

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 KICC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 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 KICC.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

In Memoriam Sebruary 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sue Steinberg Lou Roazen Sunnie Bernstein By Sylvia Berman By Richard & Mindy Agler By Paul & Barbara Bernstein <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Kitty Nyman Ted Nyman **Marvin Galanty** By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake By Marc & Ellen Bloom <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sarah P. Zalk Reuben L. Zalk **Eve Greenstein** By Meredith A. Cline By Meredith A. Cline By Barnet O. Coltman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Robert Kinney **Barry Feinberg** William Feinberg By Gerri & Frank Emkey By Arthur Feinberg By Arthur Feinberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Dr. Louis Fishman Manya Gelbard Rose Gilson By Michael & Suzanne Gilson By Eina G. Fishman By Sy A. Gelbard <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Charles Gilson** Joseph Gorson A. James Weiss By Michael & Suzanne Gilson By Janice Gorson By Janice Gorson <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Nicholas Goldenberg Frances Weiser Leila Horne By Mrs. Marty Graham By Andrew & Randi Grant By Andrew & Randi Grant <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><>

Chai-Lights February 2017 7

In Memoriam Sebruary 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Robert Greenbaum Ilona Ban **Nella Gross** By Marilyn Greenbaum By Franklin & Judy Greenman By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Chalom Haviv **Archie Zacks Ida Ratchik** By Leo Haviv By Jerry & Barbara Herson By Susan Horn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Fannie Phillips** Lillian Janowitz **Pinchas Kamely** By Patricia Isenberg By Sam & Leslie Janowitz By Yardena Kamely <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Samuel Marmar Sylvia Kay Joseph Krissel By Harvey & Joan Kay By Michael Krissel By David & Pamela Marmar <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Joseph Kaufman Sara J. Cohen Irene Nobil By Jeff & Lisa Miller By Lynn Nobil By Lynn Nobil <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of William Pollack Malka Frank Al Roller By Linda Pollack By Linda Pollack By Pauline Roller <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Miriam Blinder Sarah Felder John A. Schur By Lee Schur By Steven & Barbara Smith By Stuart & Geri Smith <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><>

In Memoriam February 2017

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

Ann R. Kapulskey

Morris I. Estrin

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><>

By George & Muriel Swartz <><><><><>

By Claire & Lillian Tallent <><><><><>

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

David C. Willner

Morris Feinberg

Samuel Wolfe

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner <><><><>

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe <><><><>

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe <><><><>

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 KICC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

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Sisterhood Sam Weis and Renee Salant



enee and I want to get to know you all better, and want you to get to know us. Sometimes it seems like we just dropped out of the sky and landed in Islamorada. It may well have happened just like that. But we have all been having very interesting lives, and it would be wonderful to learn about them. Sisterhood offers many opportunities to get to know each other. Preparing for a dinner or an oneg, tidying up the kitchen after a meeting, or driving someone to errands, all create a chance to chat and laugh and learn. We'll talk more about all that later. Right now let's take a look at February.

If you look at the calendar, February looks pretty tame, but those few events are large and wonderful. Working backwards, let's start with the 24th. Sisterhood will be leading services that Friday. Hopefully, this will inspire more Sisterhood members to lead a service at another time, too.

I am compelled here to briefly mention February 22nd. This is not a Sisterhood event. However, one of Sisterhood's co-presidents is a major part of that event. That is the KICC Fundraiser Concert featuring David Feder and me, Sam Weis. This is an opportunity to hear and see two important composers/quitarists on their home turf. David and I offer you extremely different musical styles, which will make for a lively evening. Be an Angel (of the sponsorship sort) and you will get to attend the pre-concert soirée being putting together. The prosecco and cassis alone is worth it.

We will also have some delightful onegs this month. February 3rd is sponsored by Erica so we can properly celebrate her birthday with her. February 10th is being sponsored by Elaine Solas. And Beth Hayden, our incoming KJCC President, will sponsor February 17th, celebrating her birthday.

The month of Shevat brings us Tu B'Shevat, traditionally a celebration of trees. Does

this give us a clue as to the importance of trees? Ironically, I am writing this column from the farm Renee and I have in Western Washington State, where I am working for two weeks pruning our orchards. The trees in our care are nine apple varieties, five pear varieties, and figs. Cherries, plum, and Asian pear require less work, but do like an admiring eye. Right now, as I look up from my computer, I see towering sixty-foot cedar trees, eighty-foot hemlock trees, ninety-foot fir trees and six-foot-diameter vine maple trees. This really does demand celebration. And all around us in the Keys are the buttonwoods and mangroves, protecting our wee bit of land from the wind and water. But, additionallv. in modern times Tu B'Shevat has also become a celebration of ecology and environmental awareness. This is a perfect time to consider the impact on our environment that each of us has. Maybe using less plastic. Maybe riding a bike to do errands instead of driving the car. Maybe buying an electric car when it's trade-in time. Pick up litter when you see it. Plant a tree, compost your kitchen waste, water your flowers with air-conditioner condensate.

What does this have to do with Sisterhood? Frankly, I'm having a bit of jet lag, and my mind may be wandering a little astray. But, here's the thing. It is to consider that being a member of Sisterhood gives one the opportunity to do something bigger than oneself. You get to help feed your larger family. You get to serve by participating in services to whatever degree you are able. The KICC Sisterhood is mindfulness and compassion in action. Renee and I are so glad to be part of this, and we hope you feel that way.

Have a healthy and happy month. Do good work. Shalom. >

A Siman Tov, A Mazel Tov:

Mitch and Linda Get Married

Il weddings have back-stories. There are prior relationships, engagements, months and sometimes years of planning, reservations to be made, parents - or children - to be assuaged, sampling of venues and dresses and menus, oh mv.

But this one. Mitch and Linda's wedding. was one beyond the bounds of predictability and formality, a match made in heaven, bashert (Yiddish for "meant to be"), heartbreaking and heartwarming, all at the same time, with no time to waste. They spoke to Rabbi Zuck-

er, the Kabbalah teacher totally responsible for their meeting and getting to know one another. With his guidance, they began a ten-day plan of preparation, the minimum required for a traditional lewish wedding. (Linda speaks in a tone of awe when she savs how new and yet how meaningful both the intensely de-

tailed cleansing process and the ritual ceremony itself, including circling the groom seven times. was for her.)

do we do when we hear this? We rejoice - for them, and for the marvelously serendipitous fact that Dave Mason's band bus got stuck in the snow on its way to play their concert in Key West, the concert that had given Mitch Harvey. Linda Perloff and a few close friends.



Sydney! Faye-Davis among them, the idea to drive down to Kev West that day in the first place.

And when your initial reason for being in

Key West is cancelled? You say thank you, Dave Mason, and you get some extra rest before your big moment. Rabbi Zucker takes charge and manifests a cohort of Israeli minvan-makers. An assortment of oldest and dearest friends magically appears. Bring on the chuppa, gold rings, the ketubah (a beautifully calligraphied traditional - and ancient - marriage contract written in Aramaic), a bouquet of white flowers and a wine glass to crush. The "something borrowed"

is a skirt of Linda's dear friend Sherry. The rest is all smiles, wild dancing, hugging and kissing, and of course there is bobka.

KICC friends and well-wishers, know that there will be a party in the near future. In the meantime. let's wish our newlyweds a hearty mazel tov and siman tov! Remember the words we read with Rabbi Agler at the beginning of every one of his Shabbat morning services. Celebrating with bride and groom is one of the mitzvot that you cannot do too much of. May your days and nights, Mitch and Linda, be many and filled with the joy of being together. We love you. >

-Gloria Avner

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"A Moral Need to Reveal the Truth"

From 1948 to 1954, Israel's early years as an independent state, hundreds of babies of families - most of them from Yemen - mysteriously disappeared during the massive wave of immigration at that time. In the majority of cases, the parents were told in the hospital that their children had died. The parents never saw the bodies of their infants, never received any type of official confirmation that the children had died and were never able to locate the graves. For decades, about 1,000 of these immigrant families have lived with doubts and deep distrust of Israeli authorities. They believe that their children were the victims of a systematic scheme to kidnap babies from Israeli hospitals and put them up for adoption to childless couples from elite Ashkenazi families both in Israel and abroad. For the most part, these claims by the parents were dismissed by the authorities. But at the end of December, the Israeli government opened an online database from the state archives of some 200,000 pages of declassified documents - just half of the 400,000 documents generated by three investigative committees - about the missing Yemenite children of the 1950s. The archives opened thousands of case files containing original background materials collected by the committees, among them hospital records, death certificates, photos and personal testimonies. "Today, we right a historic wrong," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on the day of the release of the documents. "For close to 60 years people did not know the fate of their children." Tzachi Hanegbi, Israel's Minister for Regional Cooperation, approved the declassification of the documents after Netanyahu charged him with reexamining the evidence presented in the three previous inquiries. (Which had concluded that there was no systematic abduction of children for adoption

and that most of the children had simply died, but the families did not believe them. This new investigation and public release of documents also overturned a 2001 decision to seal the documents until 2071.) This issue has recently resurfaced because a new generation - including many siblings of the missing children who have grown up in Israel and are better educated than their immigrant parents - are demanding transparency, and Israel's Mizrachi Jews, who come from North Africa and Middle Eastern countries, are demanding a more thorough accounting. (The Mizrachim make up about half the population of Israeli Jews.) According to Hanegbi, the next step is to establish a DNA bank where people who suspect they were unofficially adopted as children can search for matches with the missing children's families. (www.nvtimes.com, 12-28-16)

(www.jpost.com, 12-28-16)

You Can Call Her Ruchie

Brooklyn native Rachel Freier - known to those close to her as Ruchie - is believed to be the first Chasidic woman in the United States to be sworn in as a judge. Freier, 51, was sworn in as the Civil Court judge in Brooklyn's 5th judicial district, which encompasses the heavily Chasidic community of Boro Park, plus Bensonhurst, Conev Island. and many other portions of Kings County. Even in Israel, it's rare for an ultra-Orthodox woman to hold any elected position. (According to a 2013 Pew Research Center study, ultra-Orthodox groups make up only six percent of America's estimated 5.3 million adult Jews.) Freier is a mother of six and a former lawyer who practiced commercial and residential estate law. After she graduated from high school, Freier worked as a legal secretary and paralegal to support her husband while he studied Talmud. She is a graduate of Touro College and completed her studies at Brooklyn Law School in 2005. In 2011, Freier founded Ezras Nashim, a network of Orthodox Jewish female volunteer EMTs serving women in New York's Orthodox community, where she still takes her turn on call. (By law, they will assist anyone who calls for their service regardless of gender and race.) At her swearing-in ceremony Chasidic performer Lipa Schmeltzer sang "God Bless America" in Yiddish. (www.ap.org, 1-2-17)

A Well-Earned Promotion

Rabbi Alvin Kass, a New York Police Department chaplain, was promoted to threestar chief, making him the highest-ranking chaplain ever in NYPD history. He was hired in 1966 as the department's third Jewish chaplain. Kass, 80, received the promotion in honor of his 50 years with the department. He has a deep affection for the NYPD and the men in uniform return those feelings. Kass provided needed comfort after the attacks of 9/11. Currently, he serves as NYPD's chief chaplain, leading a staff of nine clergy of various faiths and serving about 34,000 police officers. In 1981, Kass successfully negotiated with a Jewish man who had taken a woman hostage, convincing him to agree to turn over his guns in exchange for two pastrami sandwiches from the famed Carnegie Deli. (For another Carnegie Deli story, see next entry.) On the day of his son's bar mitzvah, Kass was called away to be with the family of a Jewish police officer who had been shot and killed in the line of duty. During his tenure. Kass has served seven mayors and sixteen police commissioners. He is the rabbi emeritus of the East Midwood Jewish Center in Brooklyn, having served as its spiritual leader for 36 years before his retirement in 2014. (www.tabletmag.com, 12-22-16)

The End of an Era

After 79 years of artery-clogging, oversized and overpriced pastrami sandwiches, knishes, matzah ball soup and cheesecake. Manhattan's famed Carnegie Delicatessen closed its doors for good on December 30th, 2016. (Yes...it served dairy products, making it about as unkosher a deli as you can imagine.) The iconic restaurant, favorite of celebrities, tourists and locals alike - which got a starring role in "Broadway Danny Rose," Woody Allen's 1984 film - had become too much of an operation for Marian Harper-Levine, the deli's president, to handle. Upper East Side restaurateur Sammy Mosovic, who started his career as a dishwasher at the Carnegie Deli in the 1970s, offered Harper-Levine \$10 million to buy the place. She turned down the offer, saying she wanted to retain the Carnegie name and expand wholesale and retail operations. She also wanted to focus on licensed locations such as Madison Square Garden, places in Las Vegas and elsewhere. (www.nvtimes.com, 12-31-16)

In Memoriam

★Vera Rubin. a U.S. astronomer known for her pioneering work on invisible dark matter in the universe, died recently. She was 88. Rubin discovered the first direct evidence of dark matter while studying the rotation of galaxies. At the time, she was working at the Carnegie Institution - no relation to the New York deli in Washington D.C. (Dark matter has not been directly observed but has been inferred through work by Rubin and other astronomers and physicists.) Rubin, along with spectrograph designer Kent Ford, found that material at galaxies' edges rotated at the same rate as material in the center. This discovery contradicted a law of physics saying that the greater mass in the center, such as dust, stars and gas, meant it should move faster than the edge, where there was less mass. (Many of Rubin's colleagues felt that she should have received a Nobel Prize, since the discovery of dark matter had revolutionized astronomy and the understanding of the universe.) Rubin graduated from Vassar College in 1948 with a degree in astronomy. She went on to earn a master's degree from Cornell followed by a doctorate from Georgetown, Rubin received the National Medal of Science from President Bill Clinton in 1993. (www.forward.com, and www.reuters.com, 12-26-16)

* Marion Pritchard, a Dutch social work student who rescued dozens of Jews during the Holocaust, died in late December at the age of 96. Pritchard is said to have brought many Jews to safe houses; hiding others under floorboards; plus feeding, clothing or aiding some 150 people, many of them children. Pritchard - then known as Marion Philippina van Binsbergen - was 19 when Germany invaded the Netherlands in 1940. Her father, a Dutch judge, despised the Nazi ideology and her mother instilled in her a sense of morality and justice. Nazis arrested and jailed her for seven months in 1941 after she was caught at a meeting where students were transcribing Allied radio broadcasts for circulation. In 1942, while bicycling to the University in Amsterdam where she studied social work. Pritchard witnessed the liquidation of a home for Jewish children. She saw two women attempting to stop the soldiers; they ended up in the truck with the children. At that moment she committed herself to fight Nazi persecution in whatever way possible. She worked with ten of her friends to obtain false identity documents and hiding places to help lews dodge arrest. They managed to find extra ration cards and provisions despite severe food shortages. Pritchard herself found host families to take in Jewish children. One time, a Dutch policeman came to search a house where Pritchard was hiding and caring for a lewish man with his three young children. He discovered the hideout and before he could make an arrest, Pritchard fatally shot him with a small revolver. "I would do it again, under the same circumstances," she later said, "but it still bothers me." After the war, Pritchard became a United Nations social worker in Displaced Persons Camps, where she met her husband, a former U.S. Army officer. The Pritchards would later settle in the U.S., where she continued helping refugee families. (The deportation of Jews from the Netherlands began in 1944. Some 107,000 Jews were taken away. All but 5,200 would die. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, less than 25 percent of Dutch Jewry survived the Holocaust.) Pritchard's wartime story was chroni-

cled in "Conscience and Courage: Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust," by Eva Fogelman, a copy of which is in the KJCC library in the Holocaust (HOL) section. "Most of us were brought up to tell [the] truth, to obey the secular law and the Ten Commandments," she once said. "By 1945, I had stolen, cheated, deceived, and even killed." (www.washingtonpost.com, 12-20-16)

* Henry Judah Heimlich, the Jewish doctor who developed the technique credited with saving thousands of choking victims, died in mid-December at the age of 96. A thoracic surgeon, Heimlich came up with the life-saving technique in 1974 after reading about the high rate of deaths in restaurants, at the time attributed to heart attacks but later found to be caused by people choking on food. At the time, common practice was to repeatedly slap a person's back who was choking. However, Heimlich believed that method only forced the blockage deeper. To prove his method, he anesthetized laboratory dogs, blocked their windpipes with large pieces of meat attached to pieces of string in the event of an emergency and developed his technique. The "Heimlich Maneuver" as it came to be known, requires no equipment, no great strength and only minimal training. It took over ten years for the medical establishment to adopt the maneuver. partly because there had been no official human trials. In 1985, C. Everett Koop, then U.S. Surgeon General, said Heimlich's technique should be the "the only method" to use on choking victims. Heimlich damaged his credibility when he claimed that the high fever of malaria stimulated the body's immune system enough to fight AIDS, cancer and Lyme disease, assertions discredited by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He also thought that his technique should be used to clear mucus from the lungs during an asthma attack and that it was better than cardiopulmonary resuscitation for drowning victims; these claims were dismissed by the Red Cross and the American Medical Association. Heimlich is also credited with inventing a valve that is used to prevent air from filling the chest cavity in trauma cases. (www.forward.com, 12-18-16) \$

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

In Honor of

Barrick, Bruce & Marcy Rabbi Agler with appreciation and love

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Steinberg, Richard & Sheila in memory of: Joel S. Cohen, Sara J. Cohen, Mollie Z. Cohen. Saunders G. Cohen, Meyer Z. Cohen, James Nobil, Erik S. Persoff, Peter F. Steinberg, Rose T. Steinberg, Wally Steinberg, Sally Sussman, Erwin (Babe) Wainer, Rose Wainer, Sam Wainer, Samuel Wainer

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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 plagues. Each plague 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.

EYE ON THE ARTS/Joyce Peckman

Living in the Keys seems to energize the creativity in all of us, and beckon creative folks to come on down. Add snowbirds to the mix, and a vibrant February results. Here are some possibilities to enliven your month:

Thursday, February 2: Connections Project Grand Opening.

The Florida Kevs Council of the Arts is launching its fourth annual Connections Project road show with a grand opening reception at the Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center in Key Largo (MM 102), on Tuesday, February 2nd, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The show features a vibrant 24-foot mosaic mural created by local artists and art lovers (some of them KICC members). The reception, with wine and hors d'oeuvres, is open to the public. The mural will remain at the Center for two weeks, then open in Islamorada's Ocean Sotheby's Gallery on February 24th. Money raised will support local art projects.

February 2-4: Marathon Community Theatre presents The Hallejulah Girls.

Tickets for this comedy, from the authors of The Golden Girls, are available for \$25 at their website: www.marathontheatre.ora.

February 3-5 and 9-11: The Key Players present Midlife! The Crisis Musical.

Performances are 7:30 evenings, or 3:00 p.m. Sunday, at the Murray Nelson Center, MM 102. This lively community group has been around for 37 years and is always looking for volunteers. Tickets cost \$20 and are available at the door or online at www.thekeysplayers.org

Saturday and Sunday, February 4 & 5: The 23rd Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival.

There will be over seventy vendors at this iuried event, in addition to local cuisine, period entertainment and an auction by Wyland, the celebrity marine life artist. Held at Mara

thon Community Park, MM49, the event benefits historic Pigeon Key. Admission is \$7 for both days.

Monday and Tuesday, February 6 & 7, 7:30 p.m.: Rising Star Trio.

Monday at Marathon's San Pablo Church, MM 53, and Tuesday at Island Community Church, MM 83.3 bayside. Enjoy classical music performed by three dynamic 17 and 18year-olds - pianist, cellist and violinist. These talented youngsters are at the beginning of exciting careers. Tickets are available for \$25 at the door or at

www.floridakevsconcerts.com. Contact lovce Peckman, Gloria Avner, Mary Lee Singer or Marcia Kreitman for information about the FLKCA series.

Monday and Tuesday, February 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m.: Amernet String Quartet.

Monday at Marathon H.S. and Tuesday at Island Community Church. This group is the ensemble-in-residence at Florida International University. They will play a modern work by F. Kaufman, as well as quartets by Franz Joseph Haydn and Edvard Grieg. Tickets are available for \$25 at the door or at www.floridakevsconcerts.com.

Friday and Saturday, February 17 & 18, 8:00 p.m.: Marathon Theatre presents The Last Train to Nibroc.

Tickets to this Gallery Reading are available for \$12 at the door or www.marathontheatre.org

Monday and Tuesday, February 20 & 21, 7:30 p.m.: Trio Voronezh.

Monday at Marathon's San Pablo Church,

MM 53 and Tuesday at Island Community Church, MM 83.3 bayside. Three young Russian folk artists will perform classical and folk music from around the world, playing Domra, Balalaika and Bayan – Russian folk instruments. Tickets are available for \$25 at the door or at www.floridakeysconcerts.com.

Wednesday, February 22, 8:00 p.m.: KJCC presents 18 Strings & Attitude

This is the one you can't miss! Dave Feder and Sam Weis will bring a mountain of talent and attitude to the sea-level Keys. Three years ago we had a full house when Dave played with friends, and we expect to be even fuller, so get your tickets, \$25.00 each, early. There are still opportunities available to be a sponsor for \$250 or an Angel for \$500, which will entitle you to 2 tickets, a CD and a

rollicking, tasty good time with the artists at a VIP Champagne and *hors d'ouevres* reception before the concert

Sunday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.: Pops in the Park presents *Creature Feature*

Bring your dog for the pet parade, and stay for the spooky music. This fun, family event, held at Islamorada Founders Park, is free. Just bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Monday and Tuesday, February 27 & 28, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Frederick Moyer

Monday at San Pablo Church, MM53 and Tuesday at Island Community Church, MM83.3. At FLKCA's final concert of the series, Fred Moyer will play classical and jazz. Tickets are available for \$25 at the door or at www.floridakevsconcerts.com. >



Photo Gallery







The photo above, of Stella Goldfinger delivering the Goldfinger family Chanukah greetings, seemed like something to share. At immediate right are Gene and

Mort Silverman's daughter Robin, in Los Angeles for Chanukah with daughters Elissa and Michelle. (Gene was there, too. **She took the photo.**)

The three photos at bottom were taken on Tuesday, January 3rd, during a fairly impromptu talk to KJCC by Natalie Sopin-

sky, the daughter of KJCC members Roger and Danna Levy. Natalie was raised in Delaware, but made the decision as an adult to make Aliyah. She not only lives in Israel, she lives in Susya, a settlement just across the Green Line.

But, following KJCC policy, this night wasn't about politics. It was about the amazing and principled life she leads there.





Keys Jewish Community Center

Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7 PM

The story of Jews who fought in the Army Air Corps in WWII



Relive the experiences of Jewish members of the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

Hear the stories of men who came of age and volunteered amid anti-Semitism in the 1930s - while prominent Americans urged the US to stay out of "Europe's war." Meet the men who served in the branch of service with the highest mortality rate of the war.

Documentary Produced and Directed by Alan Feinberg

Mr. Feinberg will be here to screen his film for us and lead a discussion afterwards.

No charge - Guests are welcome



On January 6th, a Friday afternoon, the new officers of KJCC's Sisterhood were sworn in, led by new co-presidents Renee Salant and Sam Weis. Susan Gordon and Erica Lieberman-Garrett are co-vice presidents. Geri Smith is Recording Secretary, and Michele Riley is Corresponding Secretary. (They have to find a new treasurer, because Beth Hayden is about to become president of KICC.)

Sisterhood past president Erica Lieberman-Garrett is awarded her "ahavah" pin, at right, joined by past presidents and recipients Linda Pollack, Joyce Peckman, Nettie Seder and Joan Stark.



On January 13th, Meredith Cline led services and also sponsored the oneg in honor of her birthday. Linda Pollack was there to sample the highly intoxicating (literally and figuratively) chocolate concoction Meredith made and brought.

Keys Jewish Community Center, Inc.

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

To all KJCC members:

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 12th, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the KJCC sanctuary.

The February Board meeting, in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, is scheduled for the same day at 10:00 a.m. All members in good standing are invited to attend both meetings.

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

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

The Nominating Committee has met as required and selected the following slate of 2017-2018 Officers and Board Members. This slate was approved at the January 8th, 2017 Board Meeting:

President - Beth Hayden Executive Vice President - Gloria Avner Vice Presidents – Marc Bloom, Michael Kaufman, Medina Roy *Treasurer* – Linda Kaplan Recording Secretary - Art Itkin Financial Secretary - Donna Bolton Corresponding Secretary - Joyce Peckman Directors: Ken Atlas

> Dave Feder Susan Gordon Steve Hartz Mitch Harvey Beth Kaminstein

Linda Pollack

Skip Rose

Gene Silverman

Stuart Smith

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

Respectfully submitted by the 2017 Nominating Committee: Gene Silverman (chair), Bernie Ginsberg, Medina Roy, Renee Salant 24 Chai-Lights February 2017

Ríghteous Gentíles, A Hídíng Place, and Family Heirlooms

bv Gloria Avner

Everyone in the world knows the story of Anne Frank and how her family hid in special-Iv adapted rooms in their business building. taken care of by their employees and friends, until discovery and capture. The story of Corrie ten Bloom and her family is not so well known, but that may soon change, at least

The ten Blooms were Dutch, like the Franks, but they were not Jewish. They hid

Jews. They said their religion, Christianity, demanded it, and with big hearts, passion, and great sacrifice, they created hiding places for lews. The family took care of Jews right up to the moment when, because of their suspicious use of too many ration books, the search parties came, found the hiding places, and took Corrie ten Bloom and her sister to a Concentration Camp, along with the Jews they had hidden.

Corrie's sister did not survive the brutal atrocities of life in the death camps, but Corrie managed to come out alive. At war's end, she returned to the Netherlands. where she became known as Tante. (the Yiddish word for "aunt") Corrie. After a chilling encounter with her captor, she became even better known as the woman who forgave her torturer. A book was written about her experiences in the 1940s called "The Hiding Place." It later became a movie (which we may soon add to our First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest).

Fast-forward three decades. My sister Rhona leaves America (and her boyfriend) to live in Amsterdam for ten months in the late 1970s. She finds housing with a Dutch wom

an named Romkje Fountain and her growing family. It turns out that Romkje was Tante Corrie's helper after the war, assisting her with writing, speaking engagements and travel. Rhona and Romkie become fast friends. When Rhona became engaged to her state side boyfriend and returned to the States for her wedding, Romkje gave her, as a wedding gift, a beautiful tablecloth that had belonged to Tante Corrie. "Both of these women," she

> tells me, "are very special to me and so is this gift!"

> I've known my sister for 58 years (yes, she is the baby of the family) and I'd never heard this story before, not until New Year's Day, about a month ago. We were looking through my mother's things, the precious pieces of personal history packed up when she left her home to move to assisted living - and which she will never have

a use for in her nursing home.

We were waxing tearful, big sister and little sister. admiring the embroidered tablecloths hand -stitched by

our mother and her mother for Shabbos tables small and large. Out came the story, and a connection to the Holocaust -

in a good way. Now I want to see the movie and learn more about these immensely brave sisters, whom I suddenly see as family friends. Watch e-mails for a day and date. >



The two cross-stitch tablecloths, one held by Rhona, above, that their mother and grandmother made many years ago and that she and Gloria just found.

The Lure of Living in Israel

One American Family's Story

by Shirley Miller Stein

e just returned home from our 29th trip to Israel, our second in eleven months. Why? Five of our ten grand-

children, two of their spouses, a wedding, visits to a

sick friend and memorial services for dear departed classmates were cause enough.

To date, three grandchildren have served in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). Two others, 20-yearold Akiva and 18-year-old Rafi, plan to serve in '17. Only 18-year-old Ariel-

la. now studving in Israel for her gap vear, plans to return to the States. Elana. married mother of two, plans to return to Israel after she completes her nursing degree. What made our grandchildren leave cushv homes and communities in the U.S.

to settle in a small, embattled land so far away? I have no glib answers, but here are some thoughts.

It started, perhaps, with us. I met Ira in 1954, and married him four years later. He. though pleased with the existence of a Jewish state, was hardly Zionistic and had little interest in visiting. A member of young Judea, I had stronger affinities. Still, the demands of schooling and a growing family ruled.

Things changed in 1970. A rabbi in a nearby community organized a tour. My sister, one of his congregants, urged us to give it a try and offered to mind our children. Since Shira, our youngest, was now four, we bit.

The two-week trip was an eveopener. Though organized tours tend to insulate their clients from coarser realities, we



Photos taken by the Steins of Tel Aviv: in the 1970s, left, and today, above

could appreciate how desperately poor and primitive the country was. but also how spirited and imbued with lewish values. Ira, especially, was won over. and we vowed to return.

Fast-forward three years. A real-estate promoter visited our town at the

height of the 1973 Yom Kippur war. Taking a page out of Jeremiah's book, we put a down payment on an apartment in Ashdod, not yet

built. (Ashdod is a major port on the Mediterranean, about due west of Jerusalem. It was one of the main cities of the Philistines, who in ancient times controlled that portion of the coast.) It was 1976 before we could use the apartment, but over the years we returned repeatedly and watched with awe as the country grew and flourished. We also brought the children and traveled the land with them. We were Olim Regalim, devoted visitors, but could never quite reach the level of aliyah, actual emigration. Later on the kids went without us. as members of youth groups.

Retirement provided both time and resources for more frequent visits. Many of our friends had also emigrated. Their celebrations gave us further incentive to go. Two of our children went to Israel for part of their college educations, and, more recently, such studies have become de rigeur with our grandkids. We've sold the apartment in Ashdod and purchased a part-interest in a larger one in Tel Aviv, which is more accessible to all of us

All the kids attended Jewish Day Schools. By graduation they were imbued with a fierce spirit of Zionism and seemed motivated to use their skills, energy and resources to contribute to the good of our unique "start-up" nation. Facing ongoing daily challenges by living in Israel, they amaze us with their resilience, optimism, confidence and survival skills. The kids feel a keen responsibility to help ensure the survival of our beloved Israel. They seem remarkably independent; still, when the going gets tough, they have each other's backs.

While my husband and I struggle with Hebrew and find it stressful to live in Israel. feeling like American outsiders, the kids exude comfort and ease in negotiating the daily ups and downs of Israeli life.

Still, I'm ambivalent about the grandchildren making aliyah. While both proud and worried for their safety, I sometimes worry that they've sold themselves short. As I see it. America's medical, educational and cultural resources outweigh those of any other nation. Many foreigners seek citizenship, risk-

ing life and limb to A typical public commode in the 70s, at left. Above, a children's pub-

lic rest room today.

reach our shores.

I'm not sure of all the reasons for the kids' aliyah, but a primary mover is likely their desire to live fully as Jews in a way that's not possible



lerusalem's Churva synagogue: today, above, and in the 70s after lordanian occupation, left.

elsewhere. Although lewish communities abound through much of the world, nowhere else features Judaism as an integral part of the rhythm of daily life. Shabbat and other holidays are celebrated nationwide. Christmas is hardly a blip on the screen, but Purim, Pesach and Shavuot preparations and celebrations abound with verve, creativity and countrvwide observance.

In the U.S., assimilation seems to be our greatest threat to survival. While no guarantees exist, chances for our grandchildren remaining Jewish and marrying "in" seem much greater in Israel. We'll be delighted to welcome more lewish great-grandchildren into our family. And will be equally delighted to visit them.

It wasn't even on our radar screen, when my husband and I got married almost sixty years ago, to live anywhere but America. Now we can choose which place to call home. For millennia, Jews prayed to return to Jerusalem. Now it's become a precious reality for increasing numbers of our youth. We wish them all good luck (hatzlacha). May they all be blessed with peace, good health and Jewish pride. Am Yisroel Chai! >

Oy Chanukah:

The Dinner, the Song, the Celebration

Text by Gloria Avner

o hear Yiddish. our ancient East European mama-loshen (mother tongue) of at least a century ago - though many of us grew up listening to our parents and grandparents speaking it when they didn't want us to understand - would have been wonderful enough, but to hear it out of the mouths of beautiful children.

serious and sweet, was thrilling. Our past and our future were on stage together, filling the room with a palpable sense of awe and hope.

The Yiddish word "Oy" most often conjures complaint. Combined with the words "vey'z mir," it por-tends great sorrow, as in (the literal translation) "woe is me." But when the word next to Oy is Chanukah, and two handsome young boys in turquoise skullcaps are

singing the words, you know a *simcha* is happening and a rare treat is in store. Seventyfive of us were happy to experience this mu-

A big part of who we are is embodied in the concept of remembrance. The rabbis have taught us to celebrate not the military victory but the one of light and faith and continuity. This year, on the seventh night, in the dark, the candles blazed and together we remembered.



sical treat (with accompaniment by Jules Seder. our talented Music Director and pianist) in the KICC sanctuary a month ago. It was the 7th

See the smiling faces of camaraderie and anticipation filling the tables of both social hall and schoolroom?

The ritual portion of the



night of Chanukah, and avelling (feeling proud and ferk*lempt* - choking up at the same time) was the order of the evening. (There may even have been some teary emotional overflow among the wide grins.) But wait...I'm

getting a little ahead of myself...

The date was December 30th, the eve before New Year's Eve, a true Chag Sameach/

Happy Holiday at KICC. starting with our Annual Chanukah Celebration/ Latka-fest dairy dinner. Our building aently overflowed with nearly 100 guests. Linda Pollack once again, with grace and generosity,

sponsored this splendid feast, and Sisterhood volunteers, both cooks and decorators. outdid themselves preparing delicious dishes and festive rooms. Look at the photos.

evening began with candlelighting. Those who brought their family's personal chanukiahs, about 30 of them displayed beautifully on two central tables. gathered round to light the

lights (eight candles in each, including the helper "shamesh" candle) and everyone joined in singing the two blessings expressing our gratitude for the miracle that happened when the Maccabees' small



KJCC's Adult Education Program

Proudly presents its

First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest

Sponsored in full by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In loving memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez



All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME — There is no charge
REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards
For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com



band of anti-Hellenists. through sheer zeal. were able to recapture and then rededicate - aha. the literal meaning of

Chanukah - the Temple in Ierusalem. Our own temple (meaning KJCC, not capitalized) quickly became a scene of dazzling brilliance as all lit their personal candles in the darkened room. (An extra miracle was that the

smoke alarms did not join the music for more than a few seconds.)

For years we have sung the traditional "Maoz Tzur" right after lighting (and we would do it again later at the beginning of Shabbat services), but this night was differ-

> ent. One of our newest members (and Holocaust survivor). Gunther Karger, had volun-

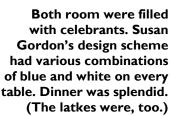
teered to play the sacred tune for us on his harmonica. Illuminated only by the hundreds of blazing Chanukah candles, the sweetness of the melody and the moment took on a new dimension. It was a fitting prelude to the next

event: joining the buffet line for a homecooked delicious meal featuring, of course, a wide variety of latkas.

Starting a half-hour earlier than usual gave us lots of time to schmooze and enjoy each

> other, not to mention sample a wide arrav of creamy and jelly-filled desserts: thanks again to all who provided the treats and donations for their purchase.

When the time came to shift to the sanctuary for the rest of the Chanukah program, we were able, without rushing, to saunter into the sanctuary, more participants than I've ever seen outside of a High Holiday service, and prepare to enjoy the service, beautifully and thoughtfully led by Beth Hayden (who is about to become KJCC's next president).





After the Shabbat and Yom Tov Blessings, the Fink boys, J.B. and Max, stepped up to the bimah, one standing next to their Sunday School teacher, Randy Klein-Gross, the other standing with Education Chair Susan Gordon. Both boys were self-possessed, fidget-free, clear, well-paced, attentive to the "vamp" musical intro and interlude played by Jules, and they sang the old song beautifully.

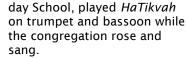
The boys' song was followed by a trio of adults (Yardena, Humberto and me) singing

two more songs, *Maoz Tzur*, accompanied once again by Jules Seder, and a Portuguese (Ladino) celebrational song called *Ocho Kandelikas* (eight candles), with Humberto on guitar.

The service went on, both

meaningful and moving, Beth also delivering a thoughtful "Drash" or Torah talk. At the end of the service, instead of concluding with Adon Olam, the theme of hope for the

future was reinforced as Jonah and Oshi Gross, a past and current student of our Sun-



With the service over, all

were invited to the social hall for a special Kiddush (and, of course, lots more dishes of dessert). We would not be drinking the ordinary libation of Manischewitz by the thim-

bleful, but instead we would bless the fruit of the vine with a lovely flute of



The Chanukah festivities weren't over. Before services began, KJCC Musical Director Jules Seder brought carefully rehearsed J.B. and Max Fink up onto the bemah to sing in, of all languages, Yiddish. (Yes, adult hearts melted.) Gloria and Yardena and Umberto then sang two songs, one in Hebrew and one in Ladino. At service's end, Jonah and Oceana Gross led everyone in Hatikvah.



All the evening's performers captured together at evening's end, including, at right, Gunther and his harmonica.

champagne. On this penultimate evening of 2016, in a toast to a healthy, happy, prosperous, and yiddishkeit-filled New Year, we held thoughts simultaneously of the many KJCC accomplishments of the year side by side with sad personal losses.

May we continue to enjoy many more simchas on eve-

L'Chaim. To Life! >

nings such as this one in the coming year, celebrating in community with our members, our members' families and our friends. We didn't have noisemakers, but we sang with gusto, especially the last lines and final words of our blessing for the New Year:



Keys Jewish Community Center Tikkun Olam Project

How many prescription and vitamin bottles do you discard almost on a daily basis? We have the opportunity to contribute to an ongoing project at Burton Memorial. They are collecting empty medicine bottles and sending them to Haiti. The hospitals and clinics there are in need of these bottles in order to provide prescriptions to their patients.

Simply bring your empty bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. Remove all personal information and medication information first.



Note that this is a request for bottles, not for medications.

A NEW/OLD TRADITION IS (RE)BORN

lews. Christmas Day and Chinese Food at KICC

🔻 ometimes an idea is just an idea, a kind of Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland routine (except it's Sam and Gloria), starting something like "hey, wouldn't it be fun if . . .?" And sometimes the idea grows like topsy and becomes an event that really IS fun. Sam shares the idea from the pulpit, and within 24 hours a generous donor has stepped forward anonymously to pay for the food. Gameplaying and a movie are added to the day's events. Scrabble, Boggle, and decks of cards appear. The RSVPs come pouring in.

of the United States would like to extend our thanks to The Jewish People we do not completely understand your dietary customs. But we are proud and grateful that your GOD insist you eat our food on Christmas

An old tradition is re-born: Jews, Christmas Day and Chinese food. What could be a more lewish ritual than going out for dinner to the only restaurants lews were able to find open on



Harvey, Linda Perloff and Susan Gordon's artistic touches. Many hands made light work. Thanks to Carla and Erica for helping get the

food to the hot table and to the people who brought thoughtful desserts -Mark Lipkus, Elaine Solas. Shirley Stein and Mitch



and Linda (for the Chanukah-inspired jelly donuts). We were wildly abundant. Scrabble

> players stretched brains for good points, a table full of card sharks raked in poker quarters and, just before the movie started (another lewish/Christmas Dav activity tradition), we had a sweet sundown moment. lower-

Christmas Day? Look at this sign posted on the window of an urban Chinese Restaurant saying "thank you"

to the God of the Jewish people.

Instead of going out, we ordered in. Truly a match made in heaven.

We had festive décor, too, thanks to Mitch



had a warm place in her heart for strays of all kinds... neighbors, friends, KJCC mish-pocha, even visi-

ing the lights and singing *Chanukah* blessings over the two candles in our *chanukiot* (a moment of holiday synchronicity that last came 19 years ago).

Medina Roy gave us three movies to pick from. More than a minyan of us stayed to see "Keeping up with the Steins," an over-the-top Scott Marshall comedy with ultimately warm commentary on the excesses that can overwhelm Bar Mitzvah celebrations. (His father, famous director Gary, had the meatiest role, that of hippie granddad.) We

tors of friends: all were welcome for a grand buffet. Many of us fondly remembered Carol and her boisterous warm hospitality as we celebrated, this

time, in our own "home."

Given the attendance, smiles

and laughter, it is highly likely we will be doing this again. Judy and Mickey will be applauding somewhere from the wings.

—Gloria



ate, we played, we watched, we went home.

But this new/old tradition had another dimension, too. For years we'd spent much of Christmas Day at the Steinbock home. This was Carol's special day and she



Chants Populaires #4 and Chanson Kébraique

Ravel's Unique Treatment of Jewish Themes

Though there are hundreds of distinct spoken languages (and untold numbers of dialects) in the world, most of them not easily understood by any other, music is the international language. It manages to convey meaning through the magic of sound, and is understood by those who speak every language because the sensations and emotions conveyed are understood by every human. Conveying that language can, like speech, be done simply or with layers and nuances. Beth describes here the brilliance of one of the world's most revered orchestral music communicators as he sought to convey Judaism through music.

by Beth Hayden

aurice Ravel exhibited a lifelong inter-Cest in folk music, and in 1910 composed five Chants Populaires. Commussioned by Alexandre Olenine, the fourth of the five popular songs was Chanson hébraique. The

text is actually not Hebrew, but Yiddish and is attributed to Rabbi Levi Itschak of Berdichev (1740-1809). The text has five verses, with each verse containing four lines of text. Each verse begins with the same first two lines

The Text of Ravel's Chanson hébraique

ALL VERSES (lines 1 and 2):

- 1. Majerke, main Suhn,
- 2. Majerke, main Suhn, oy Majerke, main Suhn,

Verse 1 (lines 3 and 4):

- 3. Zi weiss tu, var wemen du steihst?
- 4. Lifnei Melech, Malchei haM'lochim, Tatunju.

Verse 2 (lines 3 and 4):

- 3. Wos ze westu bai Ihm bet'n?
- 4. Bonej, chajei, M'sunei, Tatunju.

Verse 3 (lines 3 and 4):

- 3. Oif wos darfs tu bonei?
- 4. Bonim eiskin baTorah, Tatunju.

Verse 4 (lines 3 and 4):

- 3. Oif was darfs tu chajei?
- 4. Kol chai joiducho, Tatunju.

Verse 5 (lines 3 and 4):

- 3. Oif was darfs tu M'sunei?
- 4. W'ochalta, w'ssowotu, w'weirachto, Tatunju.

Meireke, my son,

Meireke, my son, oh Meireke, my son,

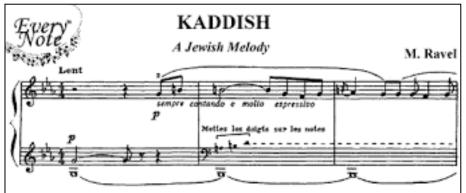
Do you know before whom you stand? Before the King, the King of Kings, my father.

What will you ask of him? Children, life and sustenance, my father.

Why do you need children? Children study the Torah, my father.

Why do you need life? All life shall praise him, my father.

Why do you need bread? You shall eat, and be satisfied and bless the Lord, my father.



A sample of the music sheet for Ravel's take on one of the most familiar elements of Judaism — the Kaddish. You can see the eighths and sixteenths and his innovative use of the left hand.

followed by a question (line three) from the father and then an answer (line four - in italics) from the son. It is interesting to note that the Berdichever Rabbi's oldest son, who died at an early age, was named Maier.

he simplicity and repetition of the text are reflected in the musical setting. which is strophic, meaning the same melody is repeated for each verse. The father questions whether the son knows before whom he stands and what would he ask of him? The verses then proceed to guery each item cited in the son's original response. Why children? Why life? Why bread? The final lines are reminiscent of the "Tsur Mishelo" sung at the end of the first Sabbath meal. Ravel's musical setting is respectful of the simplicity and repetition of the text. The Chanson is set in E minor and uses 4/4 (common) time. The fa ther's questions are set to a repetitive rhythm (something Ravel was fond of using) consist ing of an eighth note, two sixteenths and two eighth notes. The father's questions are in E minor and rather prosaically laid out. However, when the child responds to his father's questions, Ravel sets these responses in a different musical world. The child's responses are sung over rolled chords marked "Piu lento, Quasi recitativo" (more slowly and like a recitative, i.e., rhythmically in the manner of speech). The father's bleak repetitive motifs and world of minor are left behind as the child's response begins on an uplifting C major rolled chord. Arpeggiated chords (chords broken into a series of notes instead of

played all as one) support the child's responses to the end of the verse, where an ascending minor 6th supports the first syllable of Ta-tunju (my father) and mournfully descends, leading the piece back to the father's E minor key and repetitive rhythms. An orchestration of the accompaniment was made by Maurice Delage and published in 1957. It was recorded with Gérard Souzay, baritone, singing in 1958. A sample of that version is available here: http://aallica.bnf.fr/ ark:/12148/bpt6k8805753n (click on plage 1). For Ravel fans this is definitely worth the purchase price. A performance of the Chanson hébraique with the original piano accompaniment sung by Cecilia Bartoli, mezzosoprano, is available on YouTube at https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqFXntNTolc.

(For those who think that composing consists of creating a melody, you can see a little why Ravel so fascinates serious musicians and is still studied for his orchestrations. He found ways to reveal human expression, and its emotions, as no one had before.)

Following the success of the Chanson hébraique, Ravel was commissioned again in 1914 by Madame Alvina-Alvi, a soprano with the St. Petersburg opera company, to set to music Deux melodies hébraique. The first of the two texts is none other than the Kaddish in Aramaic and the second of the two texts is again not Hebrew but Yiddish:

Frägt die Velt die alte Cashe (The Eternal Enigma). The two pieces were premiered in 1914 at a Société Musicale Indépendante (SMI) concert in Paris performed by Madame Alvina-Alvi, soprano, with Maurice Ravel himself at the piano.

he Kaddish (together with the *Amidah* and Shema) holds a unique and central place in Jewish liturgy and, as Jews, we are all familiar with the text. Its primary theme is the sanctification and magnification of G-d's holy name and it appears within the prayer service as a marker or separator for various sections of the service. Ravel's setting of the Kaddish uses the text of the Chatzi Kaddish, but omits the congregational response "Y'hey sh'mey raba m'varach l'olam ul-almey almaya." Set in C minor, Ravel begins the Kaddish with the accompaniment providing a dominant pedal (a repeated pitch that usually moves in and out of concordance with other harmonies) on the pitch of G. Around this repeated pedal, the vocal melody also meanders around G, but introduces feelings of modality with augmented seconds formed by the raised seventh and lowered 6th steps of the C minor scale. As the prayer unfolds. Ravel abandons the bare octave pedals on G, and adds dissonance with the introduction of seconds/sevenths above and below the pedal G. The Kaddish is "throughcomposed" (non-repetitive in structure, having different settings for each verse). The first section of the Kaddish is closed with the word "Amen." The second section maintains the pedal tone of G. but adds in the accompaniment arpeggiated scalar figures that fluctuate between lowered 6th and raised 7th scale degrees. The vocal line again centers on G with a lowered 6th scale degree and a restricted tessitura, which imparts a feeling of insistence and purpose to the musical line. A codetta concludes the Kaddish and is marked by a series of *melismatic* runs (where the singer holds a single syllable yet uses a seguence of different notes) in the vocal line sung to the syllable "ah." The small, repetitive range, which has characterized the vocal line up until this point, is suddenly expanded. While the accompaniment maintains its insistent pedal on G. within four measures the vocal line covers a range of a 12th moving from melisma to melisma until it culminates

in the final "Amen," a descending C minor triad that is a direct quote from the High Holydays musical liturgy. You can hear an excellent performance of this outstanding setting of the Kaddish performed by Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano, here: https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP7O1ypiKqY.

The second piece in this set is based on an anonymous Yiddish text, "Fragt die Velt die alte Casche" (The Eternal Question)." The anonymous text is purposefully vague and ironic.

Fragt die Velt die alte Casche The world asks the old question

Tra la la Tra la la

Entfernt men One answers

Tra la la Tra la la

Un as men will kennen sagen And if one wishes (one) can say

Tra la la Tra la la

The musical setting here, like the text, is simple on the surface yet complex. In the accompaniment, Ravel again uses a repeated motif, two eighth notes and a guarter note in rising fifths in the left hand, set against dissonant fourths descending by step in the right hand. While the piece is set in E minor. Ravel almost totally avoids the feeling of a tonal center with the vocal line, beginning on the raised 4th degree of the E minor scale. The unique quality of the musical setting reflects the uncertainty of the text as the entire effect of the piece is unusual and creates an unsettled feeling.

You can hear all three of Maurice Ravel's "Hebrew" songs sung by Daphna Cohen-Licht. mezzo-soprano, at https://youtube.com/ watch?v=s ISfAxzErvo. ♦



Of Fruit Trees, Self Defense, **Arrogance, and Humility**

(A Movie Review on Tu B'Shvat)

by Gloria Avner

watched a movie called "Lemon Tree" the Lother night. It was in Hebrew with subtitles. The only phrase I consistently understood without translation was "Kol B'seder." It came frequently, in both question and answer form. Is everything ok? Are you ok? It's ok. I'm ok. Everything is in order. Everything is fine.

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

The beautiful lemon tree grove, owned and cared for by generations of one Palestinian family, now managed by the sole surviving and strong-willed widow, Zelma Sidana, sits cheek by jowl on the border of Israel with the Palestinian territories. It happens to abut the Israeli Defense Minister's newly

constructed expansive, high-end home. Despite the immediate building of a high lookout tower and installation of multiple television monitors, the minister and his military associates quickly decide the grove is blocking the view of the Secret Service men (or the Israeli counterpart) protecting him and Israel from potential terrorists. The lemon trees are declared enemies of the state and scheduled for summary execution in the form of uprooting. What ensues escalates into a life-anddeath struggle, and the Israeli powers that be hold the lion's share of influence.

The military necessity to protect a small nation surrounded by enemies weighs heavily on one side of the scale. On the other is a lone dedicated empty-nester, Zelma, who preserves the fruits in beautiful jars and makes

her living selling them, and a community of trees, symbols of life, nourishment, and tradition, values historically held in high esteem by the Jewish people. In an act of chutzpah, the Secret Service men walk through the Arab woman's lemon grove and gather, without asking, lemons for drinks at the minister's

> housewarming party. The effrontery is appalling and the Arab woman's rage is totally appropriate. It is not difficult to guess who will win this war, but it is disturbina.

The new defense minister, a political man professing a hawkish, hard line about the Palestinians. is embarrassed when the press, led by a fe-

male reporter, picks up the reverse (and, of course, intentionally ironic) David-and-Goliath story, and tension escalates dramatically.

The parable in the movie is as much about war between men and women as between cultural and historical enemies. The defense minister's empathetic wife sees the dilemma of the Arab tree tender. She is compassionate as well as strong. Both women can visualize themselves in the other's shoes. The trees are strong too, glossy with health, abundant with round, ripening fruit. (Spoiler alert: The much publicized issue comes to court, and though the power of the Israeli minister far outweighs Zelma's, he does not quite get his wish to uproot the trees. Neither the Palestinian people nor the trees are killed outright.)

Though Biblical Jewish law is never men-



tioned in the movie, the judge in the case decides in favor of radical pruning over outright extermination. (Perhaps she remembers the strictures regarding trees that we celebrate on Tu B'Shvat.) The trees are not killed, but they are reduced to malnourished skeletons, grossly deficient in power to fill their mandate to live, to nourish, to reproduce their species; they suffer. It is painful to

watch the withering of the once lush trees and rotting fruit as the movie proceeds. Whether the debilitating pruning will ultimately destroy the trees or the woman's ability to survive is an open question.

Life is the issue, the key to both movie and our understanding of man's relationship with nature, especially the Jewish relationship to nature. Here we are, on the eve of Tu B'Shvat. about to celebrate the New Year of the Trees.

(Our children will be planting miniature trees this year, saying blessings and singing the song" Mayim" (Water)." Mort Silverman will be adding fruit trees to our orchard as well.)

The defense minister in the movie has to be tough on the Palestinians to de-

fend his nation. Both women see the flaw in this over-reaction. Neither the lewish people nor the Palestinians can be reduced to simple definitions as enemies. All have their own gifts, even if unknown to us, just as the lemon is emblematic of all the gifts of the plant kingdom.

According to the Creation story, seedbearing plants and fruit trees were put on the Earth before any other living thing (Genesis 1:11-12), well before man.

Judaism has always said that man is like a tree. Our roots are key to our survival. Individual men and women, like leaves, will wither and die in season, but there is always hope at the end of winter and the promise of new birth in the spring. We witness the ongoing, dependable cycles of growth and dissolution.

As the holiday Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of the Trees, approaches, it is good to remember that trees and their fruit are the source of our nourishment in more than material ways, wo-

> ven into our history, inextricable from our culture. The Tree of Life, which God placed in the heart of the Garden of Eden, is a symbol of Jewish existence, a core value of continuity in individual and community lives.

"Evtz chaim hee" we chant in our Shabbat morning Torah service: "The Torah shall be as a Tree of Life to those who uphold and cling to it." Metaphors abound, as do stories and prohibitions. We are told it is a mitzvah to plant trees, that even in wartime. fruitbearing trees are not to be destroyed (Deuteronomy 20:19-20). It is clear Halachic Law that we are not allowed to eat the fruit of a tree less than four years old. The fruit is forbidden, non-kosher. In this way, our ancestors protected a tree's chance to grow strong, and

their chance to eat its fruits for years to come.

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

were planted for children born during the previous year: for a boy, a cedar, with the wish that the child would grow to be tall and upright; for a girl, a cypress, which was graceful and fragrant. (Yes, it was a different time.) Later, branches from the cypress and cedar of a bride and groom were used to make the chuppah (canopy) for their wedding ceremony. The planting was associated with two of the most important times in an individual's life, birth and marriage, two occasions when we concentrate on the possibilities for the future. So powerful is this connection that even in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp. children planted a tree. —from an article by Leslie Koppelman Ross in MylewishLearning, by permission.

Planting a tree – a concrete, practical

act - has represented hope since ancient

times. On Tu B'Shvat in Palestine, trees

As the Midrashic tale instructs us: If you are planting a fruit tree and someone tells you the Messiah has come, first finish planting the tree. Then go welcome the Messiah. >

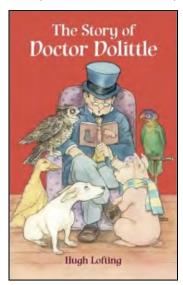
Tu B'Shvat

Dr. Doolittle, Vitamin J, and the Ba'al Shem Tov

by Gloria Avner

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

I was not surprised that it could happen. I certainly understood the desires and dislikes of my own pets over the years. And when I was a child, riding in the back seat of our family car on endless Sunday drives through



the country, I pretended (or knew) that the trees were all lined up on the side of the road to greet me. Egocentric? Oversensitive? I don't know. This is what I do know: All things in nature, all God's creations, take delight in communicating, with us and with God.

In our Shabbat prayer book, every Friday night, we read psalm after psalm in which the oddest things have a voice: Islands rejoice, trees clap hands in gladness, mountains thunder, waters lift up their voices in roaring. (See a wonderful book called Pirkei Shira for a full catalogue of nature speaking.) When we are alone in nature, quiet and content, observant and not caught up in the niggling details of our daily lives, we too have the opportunity to com

municate not just with birds and animals, but with everything that God has created. A joyous heart (joy being a greater vitamin—or pathway to radiant good health—than any capsule bottled in a pharmacy or health food store) is the major prerequisite.

As we move closer to one of our favorite holidays, Tu B'Shvat (the 15th of Shevat), the New Year of the Trees, let's acknowledge that even though it is mostly associated with reclaiming land in Israel by planting thousands of trees, we are actually celebrating something so ancient it goes back to Temple times. As we prepare for our mystical seder and the blessing of the seven kinds of fruits found in Israel. let's look to one of Iudaism's most legendary teachers, wonder workers, and storytellers. The Ba'al Shem Toy, for some insights into the holiday, nature itself, and the ways in which we are taught and absorb lessons, by appreciation of that which surrounds us.

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

carefully to the inner sound that's within the material sound that enters your ears, you'll hear the voice of God, which enlivens and brings into being, each moment, the sound that you hear."

Once, on Tu B'Shvat, the Ba'al Shem Tov was sitting with his closest disciples in Medzibuz. They were eating fruits in honor of the day, drinking *l'chayim* and discussing the importance of joy, simcha. During this conversation, the Baal Shem Tov said: "Joy is so great, because by joy a person can reach an exalted spiritual level so that he sees the Shechinah. After the verse: 'you shall be only joyful' (Deuteronomy 16:15), the Torah continues (v.16): 'Three times a year every man of you shall be seen [in the Temple] before the presence of the Lord your God.' When a lew is happy, he is revealing that he is satisfied with the world that the Holy One, blessed be He, created, and also with the behavior of all the children of Israel, the people close to Him. He has no complaints against Heaven and no demands or grievances against any other lew. Everything is good, upright, acceptable, fitting, and sweet; and this kind of joy, which brings a person to have a good eye, so that he looks on the Creator and His creatures lovingly, causes a revelation of the Shechinah. That is the secret of the teaching of our sages, who said about the person who goes to the Temple to 'be seen' by God: 'Just as he came to be seen, so does he come to see' - that is, to see the Divine Presence."

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

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

are like the halves of a pomegranate.' The palm tree says: 'A righteous person shall flourish like a palm tree.' "

The road entered the forest, and the horses galloped in pleasure, kicking up snow all over. On the two sides of the road an ancient, dense forest stretched out, with trees whose branches leaned out, arching over the road, almost touching in the middle and nearly blocking out the light of the sun. But here and there the sun peeked through the branches, lighting the travelers' path as they sped along in the sleigh. And as they went, they sang another verse from the Book of Song: "Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord. . .!"

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

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

The Four Jewish New Years, in Summary

id you know that Jews celebrate four different New Years? Well, maybe not "Jews," because many of us have never heard of such a thing, and most of us have to look at a secular calendar each year to see when Rosh Hashanah – the one New Years we all know about – will take place. But there really are four talked and written about in the rabbinic literature. Two – and the reasons for their existence and utility – have pretty much been consigned to the dusty attic of our history. (If you don't think Judaism has evolved, ask anyone you know when the last time was that they took a sheep to the Temple in Jerusalem to be slaughtered in honor of God. Or

consider that about a third of the 613 mitzvot pertain to agricultural practices in ancient Judea; though a surprising amount of the ideas still make sense for farmers - crop rotation, for example - Jews have long since become a basically urban people. Or that Hasidism was initially considered a heresy yet has now become thought by virtually everyone to be part of the Orthodox wing of Judaism. Or that the rabbinic writing and laws that we now consider the very core of Judaism would have been utterly alien to, say, the Maccabees, who would have had no idea what you meant if you spoke to them of rabbis.) And the final New Year lay dormant for many years and has only in modern

New Year No. 1: According to rabbinic tradition, the month of Nisan is actually the first month on the Jewish calendar. Why? Because it was in Nisan that the events of Passover took place, and they date the true beginning of the Jewish people to the Exodus led by Moses. Passover, therefore, becomes the first major event of every year, and the beginning of the

religious calendar. Nisan was

also the starting point used to

times come to be celebrated

anew.

count the years each ancient Israeli or Judean king had reigned. The Talmud also says that Nisan begins the year for the purchase of congregational sacrifices and also, interestingly, for the rental of houses.

Near Year No. 2: The first day of Elul, which is the sixth month on the lewish calendar, usually falling in mid-to-late summer, is considered the second New Year. The Mishnah describes it as the date one had to formalize their animal tithe obligations. (In other words, it was sort of like April 15th here. Hey, the Temple priests had no land or harvests of their own; doing priesty things was hard work and they had to eat, too.) Today Elul is mostly thought of as a month of preparation for the main New Year observance.

New Year No. 3: The first of Tishrei is

Rosh Hashanah, the New Year we all know. For us it's the beginning of the religious High Holy Days, a period of deep introspection and prayer. (If you didn't know, the basis for this was the rabbinic interpretation of the Biblical verse indicating that on this day "all the world is judged.") But in ancient Israel and Judea it was also the beginning of the civil calendar. And - unlike the measure for the rule of Jewish kings - it was also the point at which the reigns of foreign kings were set. As the start of the civil year (and perhaps not to conflict with planting and harvesting schedules), it was also the point from which Sabbatical and Jubilee years were measured, when further

planting and harvesting were forbidden.

New Year No. 4: This is the one we're celebrating right now, the New Year for the Trees, in the month of Shevat. The House of Shammai said that the date should be the first of Shevat. But Hillel, whose rulings ended up eclipsing those of Shammai, said it should be the 15th. So the 15th it is. The Talmud says that we celebrate at this time because it's when the majority of the season's rains have already fallen. The Torah clearly states

that fruit may not be eaten from trees less than three years old. So Tu B'Shvat is used to determine the age of trees. (Like racehorses, all of which are given the birthday of January 1st regardless of when they were born, all trees have a birthday on Tu B'Shvat, regardless of when they were planted. The issue of when food was accessible was pretty important to agrarian people who lived off the land.) In recent years, of course, Tu B'Shvat has enjoyed a fairly strong renaissance, as the obvious day to celebrate the earth and nature and strive to protect and assure the livability of the only planet we've been given. For many years now, KJCC religious school students have planted trees and conducted a Tu B'Shvat seder, and they will again this year. Chag Sameach. >

It was in Nisan that the events of Passover took place, and the rabbis date the true beginning of the Jewish people to the Exodus led by Moses.



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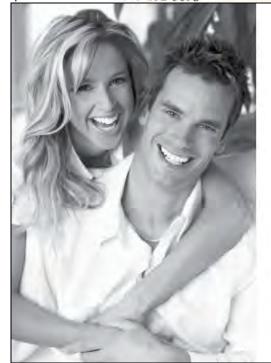


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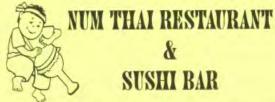
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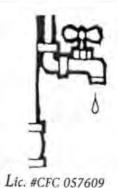


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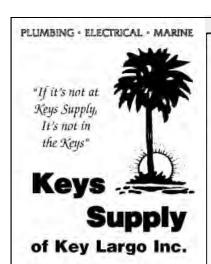


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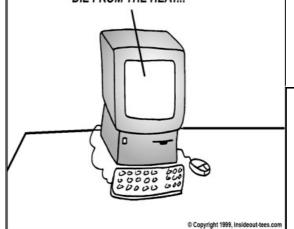
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Chai-Lights



March 2017

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2017

3 Adar - 4 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Steve Steinbock & Steve Hartz Steve Steinbock Lee & Artie Krauer, etc.	4
5 Sister- hood Meeting 10 a.m.	6	7	8	Fast of Esther	Joyce Peckman Elaine Solas	11
12 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Megillah reading 11:30 a.m.	13	14	Caesar Beware	16	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10 a.m.
19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24 Dana Grace Joel & Toby Bofshever Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Beth Hayden Lee Schur Cheryl & Jeff Margulies, Jane Friedman	

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Lisa Richardson Rutherford

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom u'vracha,

Allow me to begin by acknowledging my predecessor and his predecessors for the wonderful service they have provided to the KICC. It is a daunting task to take on the KICC presidency and a great responsibility. A former KICC president remarked that if one wishes to become an anti-Semite, just become president of a Jewish organization. I can counter with, if you want to become an anti-Semite, live in Israel a few vears. I did and survived to reach this ripe, old age without vet becoming an anti-Semite although I confess. there were temptations along the way.

We are fond of saying the KICC is the only Jewish Center between the mainland and Key West; you are a stranger only once. The KJCC is a unique repository of Jewish knowledge, wisdom, customs, history and tradition that is irreplaceable. And ves. it is a social center and we eat - we eat very well. This wonderful, fragile KJCC attests to our history and customs, our stories and our traditions. We Jews are the institutional memory of our heritage. Each one of us carries a story and a history. We honor and preserve our Susice Holocaust Torah. Our family names attest to our passage and survival through history. The words on the



erty were written by a Jew, Emma Laza-

rus, whose forbears were expelled from Spain in 1492. All these stories and histories intertwine to form the wonderful web of lewish history and tradition which is ours to remember and pass on.

The KICC is priceless because it preserves and protects our traditions, our dreams, our joys and our sorrows: it embraces and educates our children, it educates us as adults, it reminds us of our history, our stories, our triumphs and losses. The KJCC belongs to all of us and is irreplaceable. It is our responsibility to ensure the survival and welfare of this very unique and wonderful lewish Center here in the Florida

We are here, you and I, because we had ancestors and family strong enough to resist every reason to assimilate and leave Judaism. They are our heroes, our forebears, our strength. So let us say "L'dor v'dor" - from generation to generation - let us together preserve, nurture and pass on the rich lewish resources harbored in the KICC. May it prosper and continue for you, for me and for future generations. Thank you for your trust and confidence.

B'todah. Beth

Nosh

Second Place Win for "Birds in Nature"

It's rare for a photograph to win a major award in an art exhibit. Photography is often considered a stepchild within the world of the arts and painters. But one of our own has managed the feat with a beautiful, dramatic black-andwhite photo of a perched pelican. The Joe Cella "Birds in Nature" Competition was judged this year by two stellar plein air oil painters, Kathleen Denis and Michelle Held. Both held our Louise Lindsay, whom most of you know as Jan, in high esteem. They awarded her the prestigious honor of 2nd place and a red ribbon. (Louise is Jan's middle name, Lindsay her birth name, and the names she uses for photography.) Congratulate her when you see her. Perhaps we can have it on loan for a temporary exhibit on our own KJCC walls soon.

Rabbi Agler's Torah Learning Service

Saturday morning, March 18th, you will want to be at KJCC promptly at 10:00 a.m. to join us as our Resident Scholar leads the religious service/ Torah learning/conversation. Anyone who attends will leave with a refreshed spirit, and new insights about our history and religion. A light Kiddush will be served afterwards.

Oneg Sponsors for March 2017

March 3rd - Rosemary and Barat Barefoot, Steve Steinbock and Lee and Artie Krauer, all in honor of Steve Steinbock's birthday.

March 10th - Elaine Solas

March 17th - Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis in honor of Aunt Annie Bernstein.

March 24th - Toby and Joel Bofshever in honor of their anniversary. Gary Margolis and Laurie Blum in honor of mom Janet Blum's yahrzeit. March 31st - Lee Schur's birthday; Cheryl and Jeff Margulies in honor of their 49th anniversary; Jane Friedman's birthday.

Shabbat Across America Dinner

On Saturday, March 4th, at 5:30 p.m., we will join hundreds of congregations as we celebrate *Shabbat Across America* with a seudha shlishit chicken dinner at KJCC. The seudah shlishit is the third festive meal that adds special significance to Shabbat. Enlivened with joyous song, it ends with the *Shir Hama'alot* (grace after meals) and the Havdalah service. On our menu will be hot BBQ chicken (from Publix), warm knishes (from Costco), and donated salads and vegetable side dishes. There is no charge to our members, but a \$18 donation is requested from non-members.

For the past dozen years, we have joined with the National lewish Outreach Program and shuls of all denominations across the continent to expand and deepen our Sabbath experience. Often we have a communal Friday night dinner, and sometimes just a havdalah service, but this will be our first seudah shlishit. The meal and short sweet Havdalah service saying goodbye to Shabbat will be followed at 7:00 p.m. by a return speaking engagement by Professor Tudor Parfitt, often called England's Indiana Jones, who is one of the world's pre-eminent scholars on hidden lewish communities. There is no charge for either event, but you MUST RSVP for the dinner by March 2nd so we will know how much to prepare. Please contact Leslie Janowitz at (352)571-8966 or villagejoy@centurylink.net to tell her how many are coming and what vegetable dish or salad you will bring.

Yahrzeit Plaque

lvy Blumenfeld 8/31/1929 — 1/2/2017 Loving wife, mother, grandmother She will be missed.

March Birthdays

	•
lst	Sasha Dutton
3rd	Louis Ulman
	Stephen Steinbock
	Bea Graham
	Hannah Feig
	Toby Goldfinger
	Pearl Jacobs
10th	Kate Horowitz
	Thomas Davis Smith
	Bryan Schur
	Sandy Yankow
	Barbara Herson
	Heath Greenbaum
	Oceana Gross
	Carl Roy
	Ira Stein
I4th	Jenna Lane
	Randi Grant
	Seth Horowitz
	Allan Boruszak
15th	Johanna Willner
	Gunther Karger
	Jeff Margulies
	Steven Nobil
	Andrew Grant
	Daniel Friedman
	Michelle Palacino
	Janet Palacino
20th	Susan Sachs
	Barbara A. Calev
	James Nobil, Jr.
71st	Joseph Palacino
	Ken Atlas
	Joe Gould
25th	Joe Gould
	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th	Sylvia Berman
26th	Anna Verity Greenbaum
27th	Michelle E. Denker
	Suzanne Sigel
	Roger Dieckhaus
	David VanArtsdalen
	Lee Schur
	Jane Friedman
31st	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

March Anniversaries

lst	Jerry & Sheila Olsen	Years
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson	
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs	
8th	Adam & Judy Starr	
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey	
22nd	David & Patti Gross	
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever	49
30th	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies	

Purim, Pizza and Megillat Esther

Bring your masks and wear your costumes to KJCC on Sunday morning, March 12, at 11:30 a.m. Once again we will have the annual opportunity to fulfill a big mitzvah by listening to (and participating in) the community reading of Megillat Esther. We will sing songs, read the Ganssa Megillah (the whole thing, beginning to end) round-robin style, stamp our feet at the mention of you-know-who, rattle our groggers, and take in the miracle of God's hidden handiwork. Then we will eat, drink, and make merry. Purim has so many levels of celebration. We will provide the pizza and libation material.

Last Call for Scholarship Applications

If are a KICC member in good standing and you have a child graduating High School this June who is applying for admission to an institute of higher learning, academic or technical, take a moment to read the eligibility requirements for a KICC Scholarship. Applications may be downloaded from our website www.keysjewishcenter.com.

BOOK PLATE

in memory of Ellen Bloom Beloved wife of Marc Bloom

By Muriel and George Swartz



Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of

Ivy BlumenfeldBy Carol Roaman

KJCC's Annual Community Seder

It's time to start thinking about celebrating our journey to freedom in song, story and matzoh ball soup. Yes, KJCC Community Seder is just over a month away, and it will be both delicious and meaningful. Send your check (it will be your reservation) made out to KJCC Sisterhood or call in your credit card to reserve space for you and your family at the Islamorada Fishing Club on April 12. For further information, call or write Renee Salant, 206-730-8002 or reneesam@mac.com.

The Seder will start shortly after 5:00 p.m. Some of you, we see only at this event, and we are delighted to reconnect. We love when you bring your children and grandchildren, visitors and guests. This year the charge once more will be the same for members and non-members. It will be three times "Chai" ("life," with Hebrew letters numerical value adding up to 18) or \$54.00 per person. Children under 13 are our guests and eat free. Let's dip our matzoh into maror, herbs into saltwater, make Hillel sandwiches and remember bitterness while we do not forget gratitude. With hopeful voices we will count our blessings and join in singing "Dayenu!"

BOOK PLATE

in memory of **Bea Avner**Beloved mother of Gloria Avner

By Muriel and George Swartz

First Night Mishpocha Seder

For many years, most KJCC people had family homes to go to for the first night of Passover. Those without family, the strays as they were called, would usually be happily invited to someone else's home, where the "pater familias" would lead the service and, long or short, family traditions would determine length and character of the seder.

Two years ago, a new tradition, or minchag hamakom, was initiated. Thank Susan Ellner for it. It was her offer to spearhead it that got it started. It was a night when Purim began on a Shabbat evening and Sam didn't want anyone who had to say Kaddish or wanted to come to services to have to drive quickly home for their seder. So he decided to make the KJCC Social Hall available, to have it here in our own home-away-fromhome and see if members liked it. It was so popular that we did it again last year and the Board has now voted to make it an annual event. It will once again be coordinated by Susan Ellner. All food and preparation for this event is by personal donation rather than charge. It's a family. Call 914-907-3993 or write Susan at ellnercd@aol.com to discuss what you can bring to the table.

This event is low-key and haimische (Yiddish for homey). It will begin at 5:30 and will end when we've all safely crossed the river, when a youngster has found the afikomen and when that baby goat my father bought for two zuzim is out of breath. Those who have first seder commitments will of course go to them, but all the strays among us will have our own sweet place to go and tell our story once again.



Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of

Martin Roaman By Carol Roaman

BOOK PLATE

in memory of Robert Coltman

By Barnet Coltman

Women's Seder - Save The Date!

The fourteenth annual KJCC Women's Seder will be held on Sunday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. Join us as we celebrate women's contributions to our history, and honor one of our own. The food will

be incredible! Cost is a \$32 donation (\$18 chai plus \$14). There is limited seating, so RSVP as soon as possible to Erica Lieberman-Garrett at (305) 393-1162 or hippiejap@hotmail.com. Watch weekly announcements for details about clay creation.



Social Hall Chair Plate

In Memory of

Eileen RoamanBy Carol Roaman

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 KICC 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 Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 to arrange your donation.

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

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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 March 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Harvey Roazen Robert Berman Robert Kohlenbrener By Sylvia Berman By Sylvia Berman By Joan Boruszak <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Louis Weinstein Hilda Dorf **Maurice Field** By Dick & Rita Bromwich By Barry Dorf By Carol Field <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Harry Kaplan Maxine Kaplan **Sumner Berenson** By Marsha Garrettson By Marsha Garrettson By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Selma Elson Lillian Melnick Stanley Bush By Andrew & Randi Grant By Mrs. Marty Graham By Mrs. Marty Graham <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lillian Adler Grant Arlene R. Brenner **David Harvey** By Andrew & Randi Grant By Marilyn Greenbaum By Mitchell Harvey <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Anna Horn Harry Phillips Eleanor Sonn By Susan Horn By Patricia Isenberg By Sam & Leslie Janowitz <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rachamim Levy Monroe (Monty) Kaplan Luba Tuchman By Yardena Kamely By Marshall & Myra Kaplan By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

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In Memoriam March 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Marian Rose Klimpl	Samual Lieberman	Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein	
By Michael Klimpl	By Erica Lieberman-Garrett	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	
V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V	V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V V		
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Oscar Margulies	Louis Weinstein	Dorothy Ross	
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies	By Jerry & Sheila Olsen	By Joyce Peckman <>>>>>>>>>>	
L. Marrier Of	L. Marrier Of	L. Marris Of	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Denise Moss	Cissie Rose Lang	Leslie Allen Sachs	
By Linda Pollack	By Skip Rose	By Joseph & Susan Sachs	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Nate Schulberg	Sondra Lundy	Esther Schur	
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Lee Schur	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Isadore Seder	Ida Seder	George B. Sachs	
By Jules & Nettie Seder <>>>>>>>>>	By Jules & Nettie Seder <>>>>>>>>>	By Morton & Gene Silverman	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of		
•	•	In Memory Of	
Alexandra Louise Starr	Theresa Steinbock	Abe M. Reider	
By Adam & Judy Starr <><><><>	By Stephen Steinbock	By George & Muriel Swartz <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Anne Temkin	Alice Weber	Deborah Eichler	
By Robert Temkin	By Judith Weber	By Judith Weber <><><>>>>	

Keys Jewish Community Center

Sunday April 2, 2017 5:00 PM @ KJCC Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

Come celebrate the 14th KJCC Women's Seder Donation: \$18 chai + \$14.00 for 14 years = \$32.00

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

Limited seating - Please RSVP by March 29th Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162



Sisterhood

Sam Weis and Renee Salant



ebruary was another busy month in the Florida Keys. All of our Snow Birds are settled into shorts and flipflops and rum punch. The easy rhythm of a sub-tropical life. A big part of the rhythm of our lives is Friday night services, and, of course, the oneg. February's onegs were really quite special, and Sisterhood is extremely grateful to this past month's hosts; Leslie and Sam Janowitz, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Shelley & Ritch Bloom and Family, Beth Hayden, and Susan Ellner. It is a beautiful thing that

we come together to share our special simchas, our achievements and even our sorrows. Our joys are increased and our burdens diminished when we help each other celebrate, or mourn. These are things that make our unique tiny community so very special.

Speaking of special, March means Purim! Break out your costumes and noisemakers. There are four requirements on Purim. The reading of the Megillah (the story of Esther), giving money to the poor, sharing gifts of food, and

drinking intoxicating beverages. I suspect that the last one is simply instructing us to relax and revel in the knowledge that sometimes good wins and evil takes a dive. The KICC Sisterhood spends a lot of time and energy on food, sustaining our community's physical body. But sometimes food crosses a line and bonds us to our history, our family story. Purim reminds us of the great strength and value of the larger "sisterhood," of familial connections, the close bond of Jewish women, locally and beyond the 18-mile Stretch. We evaluate our roles in the pursuance of justice, the importance of teaching our traditions and history to our children, and how those traditions require us to pursue justice in the world. Purim is one of those

moments when food plays a very elemental role, as we symbolically consume our enemy through Hamentaschen. I hear you laughing, but here's the thing. We've read the Megillah, we know the story, but connecting all of our senses makes it real in ways that nothing else can. We bake Hamantaschen. We bake with our families, our children, our grandmothers, our cousins, our neighbors, our dear friends. The aroma of that baking is almost psyche-

> delic in that the sense of smell (as scientists tell us) is a powerful link to memory. I would wager that even just reading that sentence allows you to conjure the aroma in the kitchen when you were last baking Hamentaschen with your children. And more, you can picture people in the room, items on the countertop, the burn on your thumb when it found the hole in the potholder as you removed the hot baking sheet from the oven. Just what is Sam driving at, you may ask. The point is that when we have action tied to our story it be-

comes solidified, we are melding with history. You are standing at Queen Esther's back, giving her strength, and you are passing it forward, as well.

It is just a little thing to ponder as you enjoy the poppyseed, or prune, or apricot, or cherry, or guava-filled delights we call Hamentaschen. Depending upon where in the world you live, you are eating Haman's hat, or Haman's pocket, or (my fave) Haman's ear. We devour this remnant of our terrible enemy; we literally are taking it in. And it is sweet, it sticks with us, just like the story of Esther, and we are made hopeful and stronger for it.

Have a healthy and happy month. Work for justice. Shalom. >

Sometimes food crosses a line and bonds us to our history, our family story.

KJCC's Adult Education Program

Proudly Presents Its

First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest

Sponsored in full by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In loving memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez



All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME — There is no charge
REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards
For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"The Evidence is Clear"

According to the Bible, soon after Joshua and the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they fought against five kings and their armies that had laid siege to the people of Gibeon, descendants of the Amorites (II Samuel 21:2). Joshua had promised to protect them and led an army defeating the five kings. He prayed to G-d to help the Israelites in their battle by stopping the sun (Joshua 10:12). Now, a multi-disciplinary team of Israeli scientists from Beersheva's Ben-Gurion University says it can prove that this battle coincided with a solar eclipse. Using NASA data, the scientists dated the eclipse and the battle to October 30, 1207 BCE. The researchers noted that there are other ancient stories where a deity stops the sun. But this biblical story is unique because it also mentions the role of the moon (which, in a solar eclipse, moves to perfectly cover the sun). The team found that there was only one total solar eclipse that took place in the region between the years 1500-1000 BCE, when the Israelites are believed to have entered the land. And because science is so exact, they know it happened precisely at 4:28 p.m. on October 30, 1207 BCE. The scientists were also able to pinpoint the exact location of the battle, tracing a 30 kilometer overnight trek that Joshua and his men made to reach Gibeon, north of Jerusalem, from their encampment in Gilgal, on the eastern edge of Jericho. The findings were published in the most recent edition of Beit Mikra: Journal for the Study of the Bible and Its World. (www.virtualierusalem.com, 1-17-17)

The 2017 Genesis Prize

Anish Kapoor, an influential and innovative artist and a champion of Syrian refugee rights, is the recipient of the 2017 Genesis

Prize. dubbed by Time magazine as the "Jewish Nobel Prize." Son of a Baghdadi lewish mother who immigrated to India from Iraq as a child and a Punjabi Indian father, Kapoor has been a longtime social activist, proponent of social justice and an outspoken advocate for displaced persons and refugees around the globe. A native of Bombay (now Mumbai). Kapoor's lewish identity and commitment to Jewish values can be attributed to his *aliya* - along with a younger brother - to Israel when he was sixteen. living there from 1971 to 1973. He then moved to London to study art but often returned to Israel. Kapoor's works include "Cloud Gate" at Chicago's Millennium Park. (It can easily be viewed online for those who are interested.) He also created the Holocaust Memorial for the Liberal Jewish Synogogue in London and the 70 candles for Holocaust Memorial Day in Britain in 2015, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The Genesis Prize recognizes individuals who "have attained excellence and international renown in their fields and whose actions and achievements express a commitment to Jewish values, the Jewish community and the State of Israel."

It has become a tradition for Genesis Prize laureates to use the money (\$1 million along with matching funds) for causes they feel passionate about. Kapoor said he will use his award to help alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis and try to expand the Jewish community's global effort to support refugees. (Over 12.5 million Syrians have been displaced during the current conflict. Some 2.5 million of them are children.) He recently visited a group of Syrian refugees as part of UNICEF's art therapy program, which works to help children who have witnessed atrocities to

express themselves through art. "Jewish identity and history have witnessed recurring conditions of indifference, persecution and Holocaust," Kapoor said. "As inheritors and carriers of Jewish values it is unseemly...for us to ignore the plight of people who are persecuted, who have lost everything...I appeal to people of good conscience in the global Jewish community, and those outside it who... cannot remain passive and silent, to join the call of the Genesis Prize, help save lives and give refugees an opportunity to return to normal life." Kapoor joins Itzhak Perlman, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and actor-director Michael Douglas as recipients of the prize. In 2013 Kapoor was honored with knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-5-17 and www.ipost.com. 2-6-17)

Another Winner

Adi Shamir, an Israeli computer scientist and professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science, was among three winners of the 2017 Japan Prize, an award honoring achievement in science and technology. He won the award for his contribution to information security in the field of cryptography. Shamir, 64, is the second Israeli to win the prize. Ephraim Katzir, a biophysicist and former Israeli president, won the prize in 1985. the inaugural year of the award. In 2002 Shamir, along with two other individuals, won the Turing Award, widely considered to be the world's most prestigious computer science prize. (Named after the pioneering British computer genius.) The Japan Prize Foundation selected Shamir (and the two other winners) from 13,000 nominations. They will be honored in Tokvo in mid-April and will each receive approximately \$443,000. (www.jta.org, 2-2-17)

"The Life Blood of the Jewish People"

Sefaria, a Jewish nonprofit start-up, has just released into the public domain a free interactive digital version of the Babylonian Talmud with parallel translations into English and modern Hebrew. This digital version is linked to major commentaries, biblical citations, Midrash, Kabbalah, Halachah and a growing library of Jewish texts. Since it is part of the public domain, anyone can use it and re -use it as long as one doesn't make money from it. The project was years in the making. Started in 2011 by author Joshua Foer and Google alum Brett Lockspeiser, the initial goal of Sefaria was to place the 24 books that make up the Tanach (the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings) online. The name Sefaria is a play on the Hebrew sifria, the word for "library." Foer and Lockspeiser were childhood friends who reconnected after many years. They shared a frustration that the Talmud and other important Jewish texts were not available online. They collaborated and soon assembled almost 1.600 lewish texts and commentaries that are all available online. After years of negotiations, Sefaria - with a grant from the William Davidson Foundation - bought the rights to Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's English translation of the *Talmud*, one of only three English translations in the world. (Steinsaltz, a rabbi from Israel, spent 45 years translating the Talmud from Ancient Aramaic into modern Hebrew and English. He began the project when he was only 27 years old, finishing in 2010.) At the time of this writing, Sefaria has published 22 tractates in English online (Berachot to Bava Batra). The modern Hebrew translations will appear online later this year. The remaining English tractates will follow as soon as they are finished. (www.forward.com, 2-8-17)

42,500 and Counting...

Back in 2000, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), in Washington. D.C., began a project asking researchers to create a comprehensive, single-source record to accurately document the thousands of persecution sites established by the Nazis. The museum estimated that about 5,000 sites which would include forced labor camps, ghettos, military brothels. POW camps and concentration camps - would be uncovered by the team. Just one year later, the number doubled

and a few years after that, the researchers had discovered 20,000 sites. Fast forward to today: the "Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945" now lists more than 42,000 sites used by the Nazis to persecute, exploit and murder their victims. (When completed, the encyclopedia will consist of a series of seven books. The final book will be published in 2025.) For the researchers to include a site in the series there had to be multiple witness testimonies corroborated by official documents. A gap of more than 50 years exists between the time the last camp was liberated and when the project began, leading to the belief that many sites will never be recorded and that much will remain unknown because records were lost or destroyed during and after the war. Still, the number of persecution sites discovered was more than eight times that which experts at the USHMM, none of them cheerful optimists, had predicted. (www.timesofisrael.com, 1-25-17)

Super Bowl 51's Jewish Connection

For the first time since 2012, last month's Super Bowl featured two teams with Jewish owners - Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and Arthur Blank, owner of the Atlanta Falcons. Kraft, 75, bought the Patriots in 1994. He is a major supporter of American football in Israel, including the Kraft Family Stadium in Jerusalem and the Kraft Family Israel Football League. The Kraft fami-Iv has donated more than \$100 million to a variety of causes which include, among others, health care, education, the Jewish community and Christian organizations. Arthur Blank, founder of Home Depot, bought the Falcons 15 years ago. Blank, 74, is the chairman of the Arthur Blank Family Foundation. He is a signatory of The Giving Pledge, an idea started by Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates asking billionaires to commit to give away at least 50 percent of their wealth to charitable causes. The Giving Pledge is an effort to help address society's most pressing problems. (By the way, this was the Patriots' 7th time at the Super Bowl since 2000, making a record nine total appearances. It was the Falcons' second Super Bowl.) (www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-24-17)

In Memoriam

* Rose Evansky, who is responsible for the world-wide use of the hand-held blow dryer. replacing those domed hood dryers used in women's hairdresser salons in the 1950s and 60s, has died. She was 94. Born Rose Lerner in Worms, Germany, Evansky's father was imprisoned at Dachau in 1938. Speaking only German and Yiddish, she escaped Nazi Germany by way of the Kindertransport. She introduced the revolutionary blow-dry style from her shop in Mayfair, London. (www.thejewniverse.com, 12-22-16)

Did You Know...

★ It's pretty much common knowledge that during the Nazi occupation of Holland during World War II, legendary film actress Audrey Hepburn, a teenager at the time, actively helped the Resistance. The British-born actress moved to Holland because her Dutch mother, Baroness Ella van Heemstra, believed thev would be safe in a country that had pledged to stay neutral. But the Nazis invaded anyway. Hepburn donated the money she earned from her recitals to the Resistance. She slipped through the streets as a courier, delivering documents and money between groups of resistance fighters. But what isn't common knowledge is that her parents - British and Dutch semi-royalty and members of the British *Union of Fascists* - were Nazi sympathizers. Her father, Joseph Ruston, was investigated in 1938 by the British House of Commons for receiving money from Germans tied to Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels to start a newspaper. He was later jailed as an enemy of the state for the remainder of the war. Hepburn's mother attended the famous pre-war Nuremberg rally, detailing her account for "The Blackshirt," a Fascist paper: "We...have heard the call of Fascism and have followed the light on the upward road to victory." Although Hepburn denounced her parents' ideology, she maintained contact with them until their deaths. (www.thejewniverse.com, 1-25-17) ♦

Contributions to KJCC

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

Chai Lights

Moss. Elaine

General Fund In Honor of

Williams, Jim & Rita

Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller, Linda Pollack

In Memory of

Leydig, Ann lvy Blumenfeld Plutzer, Arthur Al Roller, Joel Pollack Pollack, Linda Bea Avner, Ellen Bloom Singer, Mary Lee Bea Avner, Ellen Bloom

Wohl, Joan P. Bea Avner, Ellen Bloom

Sisterhood General Fund

Benami, Reuben Harris, Harriet Savar, Sheree

Sisterhood Onegs

Ellner, Susan lanowitz, Sam & Leslie Kamely, Yardena

Social Hall Chair Plates In Memory of

Roaman, Carol Vy Blumenfeld, Martin Roaman,

Eileen Roaman

Yahrzeit Plaques

Blumenfeld, Marvin Ivy Blumenfeld

Yahrzeits

Steinbock, Stephen Karen Hayhurst Tallent, Lillian Morris I. Estrin Taramona, Hermine Norma Robinson Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy Morris Feinberg, Samuel Wolfe

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

Yahrzeit Plaques: KICC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plagues. Each plague 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.

Eye on the Arts Joyce Peckman



arch winds may be blowing up north, but here we get warm breezes and open-air concerts. Here are some cultural activities you may enjoy in the Upper and Middle Keys.

Every Thursday from 9 p.m. until ??: Open mike and jam session with Dave Feder. oo -tray Restaurant, 80939 Overseas Hwy in Islamorada, is casual, under cover, but openair. You never know who will be playing. There is no cover charge, but the food and drinks are noteworthy. http://keysice.com Call 305-922-2027

Friday & Saturday, March 3rd and 4th at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 5th at 2 p.m.: Coral Shores H.S. Drama Club presents The Phantom of the Opera. The dedicated students have been working on this for almost two years, and the result is almost professional. Support our talented kids. Tickets are \$10 at the door, \$5 in advance.

Thursday, March 9th - through March 26th, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: The Art Guild of the Purple Isles 51st Annual Judged Members Art Show, held at the Florida Keys History & Discovery Center, on the grounds of the Islander Resort, MM 82.1, ocean-side, Islamorada. This is a unique and limited opportunity for the public to visit the exceptional Florida Keys History and Discovery Center free of charge. View the outstanding work of local artists (including some KJCC members). See offerings in oil, watercolor, pen, pencil & ink. acrylic, sculpture, collage and other media. many of which may be purchased. For further information & directions go to the website: agpi.us

March 9th - April 6th: Cabaret at Marathon Theater. Community theatre at its best. Thursday though Saturday nights at 8 p.m., plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee on March 26th. For information, call 305-743-0994 or buy tickets on the website www.marathontheater.org.

Monday, March 13th: Pierre Bensusan at the Murray Nelson Center, MM 102.5, Key Largo. Pierre Bensusan has been called "one of the most unique and brilliant acoustic guitar veterans in the world music scene today." He's a favorite of our own Dave Feder. For further information, go to Keysice.com.

Sunday, March 19th from 2-5 p.m.: Open mike coffee house at the Key Largo Civic Club. A mixed bag of locals and tourists appear to play anything from folk to bluegrass to classical. It is an easy, down-home way to spend the afternoon.

Saturday, March 25th, 4-5 p.m.: Tropical Tunes with the Florida Keys Community Concert Band. Bring a chair or blanket and snacks (and pets and friends) to this free concert at beautiful Founders' Park, MM 87. Try to count the number of KJCC members in the band. Keyscommunityconcertband.org

Sunday, March 26th, from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Bay Jam 23: This lively outdoor music festival. held at Founders' Park (MM87) benefits student art and music scholarships. Admission is \$15. There will plenty of vendors, with lots of food and drink to enjoy while you groove to the music. Keysice.com. >



KJCC PRESENTS A VERY SPECIAL EVENT SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA AND CANADA DINNER AND SPEAKER DR. TUDOR PARFITT SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH @ 5:30 PM



Join us along with hundreds of congregations as we celebrate Shabbat Across America with a seudah shlishit chicken dinner at KJCC. The seudah shlishit is the third festive meal that adds special significance to Shabbat. Enlivened with Joyous song, it ends with a short sweet Havdalah service. On our menu will be hot BBQ chicken, warm knishes, and donated salads and vegetable side dishes. There is no charge to our members but an \$18 donation is requested from non-members.



THE MEAL AND SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT 7:00 P.M. BY DR.

TUDOR PARFITT, SCHOLAR, ADVENTURER, AND ANTHROPOLOGIST, WHO
WILL SPEAK ON THE EXCITEMENT CAUSED AMONG ENLIGHTENMENT
SCHOLARS BY THE DISCOVERY OF A MYSTERIOUS BLACK JEWISH TRIBE
IN WEST AFRICA.

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK JEWS OF LOANGO

TO RSVP AND TO COORDINATE FOOD PLEASE CONTACT

LESLIE JANOWITZ (352) 571-8966 / VILLAGEJOY@GENTURYLINK.NET

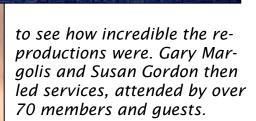
BY MARCH 2ND, 2017

The Annual KJCC Advertiser's Dinner

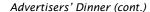
In what has now become an anticipated annual ritual, all the advertisers who support KJCC through Chai-Lights and our Membership Directory were warmly invited to join us for dinner on Ianuary 20th. All of them, members as well as non-members. were acknowledged and thanked. (This was before dinner, of course, when it was still possible to get everyone's attention for a moment.) Unbeknownst to any of

us. Lorena Kaufman had contracted a specialty baker to make a special cake for the evening, topped off by a perfect — and edible! — clone of Chai-Lights. (Take a close look at the

photos on this page and the next.







Chai-Lights



that evening was to light

the candles and in unison declare our gratitude for the blessings of wine and bread. (Some of our non-member advertisers have been coming so long that they can now join in the prayers, too.)



KJCC Religious School News

by Morah Reba (Randy) Klein Gross

9o celebrate 2017's *Tu Bishvat*, the kids and families of the KJCC Religious School Led a beautiful seder filled with fruits. nuts and growing goodies from around the world.

The morning started with the kids decorating clay pots and planting purple basil,

strawberries, mint or red peppers. These beautiful creations celebrate the first year of planting for these small edible/fruitbearing plants.

During the seder, we read about the different fruits and nuts and how they relate to Israel. If a participant had not had that particular fruit so far this year, we said the Shehechiyanu, appreciat-

ing the idea that we made it to this time and place in order to celebrate together.

The KICC Religious School has been working on learning the prayers and songs used in the Friday night

services and during Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. As a teacher, it is important to me that these kids feel connected to the music and songs. They take pride in their religion with the growing familiarity to the common prayers.

The families have also been assigned Jewishthemed movies to watch and report on. This week, one family watched "Above and Beyond," while another watched a movie about the murder



Over the next few months, the Religious School will be attending Friday night services one evening per month. >





Tikkun Olam Project

Keys Jewish Community Center

How many prescription and vitamin bottles do you discard almost on a daily basis? We have the opportunity to contribute to an ongoing project at Burton Memorial. They are collecting empty medicine bottles and sending them to Haiti. The hospitals and clinics there are in need of these bottles in order to provide prescriptions to their patients.

Simply bring your empty bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. Remove all personal information and medication information first.



Note that this is a request for bottles, not for medications.

Photo Gallery



The three photos at top were taken at Rabbi Richard Agler's monthly Saturday morning service on January 21st. As always, the service was warm and the discussion revealing.

At the end of a busy and significant weekend, we gathered on the following evening, Sunday the 22nd, to watch "The Disputation," a recreation of the 13th century Jewish/Christian debate in Spain featuring none other than

Nachmanides. The

film had been recommended by Rabbi Agler, who led a discussion afterwards about it and the timeless issues it raises.





The photo at top was taken at the Tuesday, January 25th string quartet concert sponsored by the Florida Keys Concert Association. The young Israeli violinist was happy to pose alongside our Pauline Roller.

The other photos on this page were taken at the Friday oneg on January 27th. The two co-sponsors that night were Art Itkin and Yardena Kamely, both celebrating birthdays. In addition to the strawberry shortcake, there were two (yes, two) of the gingerbread cakes shown below left. None of the cakes survived the oneg. And, yes, the sharp-eyed among you will notice that Yardena and Art are differently clad in the photo at bottom. They realized that there

hadn't been a photo of just the two of them that night, so we resolved that a few days later. (Hey. The famous voiceover ending in "Casablanca" was added in months later. Aren't you glad it was?)





Some out-and-about sightings of the active KJCC community this high season. The three photos at top were taken during the annual seasonal party on January

28th thrown by David and Toby Goldfinger at their bayside Keys home. It seems they know absolutely everyone who comes to the Keys from Cleveland each winter.





That same day, January 28th, was the actual birthday for Art and Yardena. So they celebrated again, inviting a whole group of KJCC friends to join them at Num Thai for dinner.



The oneg that same evening was co-sponsored by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Leslie Janowitz in joint celebration of their birthdays, shown in the three photos at right.

Gloria is always offering encouragement and support for new service leaders to step forward. The February 3rd service was a tour-de-force debut for Dana Grace, center in the photo at left.



The photo at left was taken during post-movie coffee after the Saturday, February 4th showing of "The Band's Visit," that week's entry in the First Annual KJCC Memorial Moms Winter Film Fest sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman in loving memory of their mothers.

The full complement of new Sisterhood Officers gathered at their February 5th meeting:
Left to Right: Renee Salant, copres.; Sam Weis, co-pres.; Susan Gordon, co-vice pres.; Michele Riley, Corresponding Sec'y; Laura Wolf, Treasurer; Geri Felder Smith, Recording Sec'y; Erica Lieberman-Garrett, co-vice pres.)



The three photos at left were taken after the February 7th concert in Islamorada of the Flori-



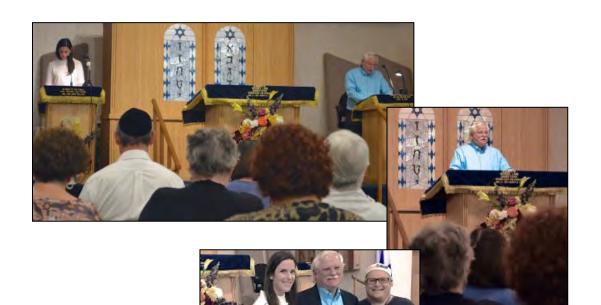
da Keys Concert Association. Seen with the brilliant young trio are Mary Lee Singer, a long -time FLKCA volunteer, at top left, and Joyce Peckman, this year's FLKCA president, bottom left. For some reason the musicians all want to be near and be recorded for posterity with

KJCC's Pauline Roller. All concerts take place at the Island Community Church, which in its early years was a movie theater.

A few months ago we offered you a photo of Elizabeth Giddens, a close friend of KJCC member Roy Pollack's, in front of an African orphanage she was on an international tour to raise funds for. The project included a sponsored climb of fabled Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa on the border between Kenya and Tanzania. Well, here's the photo of Elizabeth, at right, celebrating the completion of her quest. (Imagine how cold it must have been almost 20,000 feet above sea level.)







Friday, February 10th was a very special night at

KJCC. Steve Hartz led services, ably assisted by visiting niece Sydney Fields. As he does when his busy schedule allows, Rick Wolfe provided tympanic accompaniment. The oneg was then sponsored by the entire Bloom family, in memory of Ellen. Old friend Stuart Schlossman led off with warm remembrances of Ellen, at left. Please see the next page for additional

photos of the evening.



More views of the February 10th oneg. In

the center photo are (I-r) Ritch Bloom (Marc's brother), Shelley Bloom, Marc and Molly. Rachael's daughter Maddie is in the photo below.





In the large photo at bottom, some of the friends and family who gathered

that evening in support of Marc, Rachael and Molly and in loving memory of Ellen.





Saturday, February
I I th saw that month's
Torah Learning service
by Rabbi Richard Agler.
What did we talk about?
Only Moses and Pharaoh
and where the Bible says
Mt. Sinai is and how the
kvetching to Moses in

the desert sounds an awful lot

like Borsht Belt comedy shtick.







Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact Renee Salant

reneesam@mac.com (206) 730-8002 Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after April 1.

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



Donations: Adults \$54; Children 12 and under are our guests.

Refugees 101: A Reprise

Sometimes a KJCC event placed somewhat randomly on our calendar arrives with such synchronous timina, it is hard to believe it wasn't pre-ordained. How else to explain Linda Kaplan's program, "Refugees 101 with a Religious Perspective," coming within 48 hours of executive orders issued on January 27th suspending U.S. entry to refugees from seven mostly Muslim countries for 180 days, and indefinitely banning refugees from Syria. As Linda Kaplan began her program, sharing the history of HIAS, the earliest Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, chaos and consternation were boiling over in legal circles and families were being affected across the globe. People who had been given permission to enter the U.S. when they boarded their planes, or cruise ships, found themselves facing removal (deportation) upon landing. Even legal residents who had no home other than the U.S. found themselves facing a ban on entry. We are grateful to Linda, an attorney with over 30 years of experience practicing immigration law, for helping us not only to see the big picture, but also to separate fact from fiction. Here are some of the salient facts from her presentation, along with Rabbi Agler's perspective. (Linda's whole PowerPoint is viewable at www.lindakaplan.com/resource-links)



here are more than 65 million internally displaced people, asylum seekers and refugees worldwide. Of these, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees identified 19.5 million refugees as of June 2015. Of that number, less than one percent are resettled each year. Fifty-one percent of the refugees are children. There are three possible solutions: repatriation (when and if homeland circumstances change enough to make it safe). local integration if

refugees can safely rebuild their lives in the country to which they fled, or, for the most vulnerable of the refugees, permanent resettlement in a third country. The immensity of the numbers make our resettlement figures seem paltry. During the last year, the U.S. resettled 85,000 refugees. President Obama (the U.S. president is in charge of setting the limits) had set the ceiling at 110,000 for 2017. The number was reduced to 50,000 by President Trump.

The presentation clarifying "Myths and Facts about Refugee Resettlement" the full document can be found on the HIAS website came as new and fascinating material to many in the audience. "We

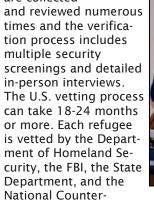
The opposition of some in the U.S. to refugee resettlement was shown to be in sharp contrast to the cities and towns who see not just the moral argument for welcoming refugees but an economic one. Cities that see a declining, graying population are welcoming

have no idea who these Syrian refuges are," and "Refugees who come to the U.S. from Syria can't be screened for security," were the most common misperceptions. The facts are that refugees are subjected to far more scrutiny than any other group entering the

the mostly younger refugees to revitalize and boost their economic activity. Cities seeina the economic

U.S. Biometric data such as fingerprints and IRIS scans and biographic data (place of birth, information about family members, schools attended and work history) are collected

benefit of refugee resettlement include Rutland, Vermont, and cities in the Rust Belt, like Pittsburgh and Dayton, Ohio, to name a few. Cities welcom-



ing refugees have also noted a decline in the crime rates reflecting what has been known for some time - immigrants have lower crime rates than that of native-born Americans.

Terrorism Center. It is important to note the differences between the orderly, thorough U.S. process and the current situation in Europe where refugees have not been vetted at all prior to their arrival.

The evening concluded with a presentation by Rabbi Richard Agler, KJCC Resident Scholar, on the Jewish perspective of welcoming the stranger: "The Torah and prophets were especially concerned about the treatment of the powerless: the poor, the widow the orphan, the stranger. 'Stranger' is the Bible's word for immigrant. Thirty-six times, more than any other commandment, the Torah reminds us to be compassionate, to welcome the stranger. 'For you know the heart of the stranger, having been strangers in the land of Egypt.' We bless too, the Jewish-American poetess Emma Lazarus who wrote in this spirit: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the tempest-tossed, to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.' What is the religious perspective? Always and ultimately, it is the moral imperative. Forty major Jewish organizations have passed resolutions encouraging American Jews to follow the To-

rah's commandment and welcome the stranger today. If we can be faithful to our religious roots, to who we are, we will continue to give and receive blessing."

As of the writing of this article, a Federal District Judge ap-

pointed by President Bush issued a temporary ban on enforcement of these executive orders, which has now been upheld by the U.S Court of Appeals. Vetted refugees from all nations can now continue to enter the country. Future action is uncertain. Rabbi Agler quoted Elie Wiesel, our modern prophet, "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be

a time when we fail to protest."

One of the most moving moments of the evening came when Rabbi Agler asked for a show of hands, first of people who were immigrants themselves, then of those

whose parents were immigrants, followed by grand-parents, and finally those whose great-grandparents had come here as immigrants. A look around the sanctuary revealed a sea of hands in the air: The image provided a fitting punctuation point to this informative evening. The talking part of the presentation

over, participants adjourned to the social hall for a delicious array of foods originally brought here by ancestors who braved the great waters, persecution, poverty, and discrimination to add to the diversity of culture in these United States. Many thanks to the people who cooked and especially to Linda's team who worked so hard, along with Linda and Rabbi Agler, to make this an unforgetta-

ble evening, one that probably had the highest attendance ever of people from the community. Big thanks (todah rabah) to Mindy Agler, Laurie Blum, Art Itkin, Georgia Landau, Dave Mont and Gary Margolis, Rabbi Agler and Linda Kaplan. \$



room. (This is one of the main reasons, other than the Jews/food thing, why we always have coffee and conversation after every event.) Linda poses above with daughter Sara and extended family from Miami at the end of a long day.









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

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

UNEXPECTED KLEZMER:

OUR DOCTOR/MEMBER/TRUMPETER PLAYS ST. PETERSBURG (YES. THAT ONE. IN RUSSIA.)

by Dr. Steve Smith

n the ever-expanding land of KICC members with multiple talents, there are alwavs hidden nuagets with no predictable path to discovery except for happenstance. Dr. Steve Smith called Pauline one Saturday in January and asked her to come to the park behind Murray Nelson Government Center for

the Keys Community Band Concert. Linda Pollack volunteered to drive her. Steve would be in the band. plaving trumpet. Trumpet? Who knew? A few questions later, after the concert, and here, in Dr. Steve's words, is the story that unfolded...

started playing trumpet at age 8. I played for 16 years, until my third year of medical school, Dur-

ing college and onward I played in college bands, orchestras, big bands, a community band, and pit orchestras for musical theater. Being on call for clinical rotations, though, would not allow me to continue to plan engagements. That's when the 42-year hiatus began.

In January 2016, I started playing again: trumpet, cornet, flugelhorn, flumpet, and bass trumpet. I also started collecting these instruments. My oldest horn is an 1883 Wurlitzer cornet. This past summer I played in three community bands in Massachusetts, one in Yarmouth/Dennis, one in Falmouth, and one in Duxbury. This Fall I joined the Keys Community Band in Key Largo.

In December I saw a post on a trumpet discussion site where a member of the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra (Vienna, Austria), was looking for a trumpet player to join them in

> July for a series of concerts at the European Jewish Music and Choir Festival 2017, in St. Petersburg, Russia. I emailed him and volunteered to join. I thought it would be a very neat experience to go back to a country that my grandparents left due to religious persecution and play the music that represents their religious culture to an audience in that country. I received a piece of music

from the person who is the principal trumpet player via e-mail. We played the music together over Skype. Both he and the conductor then accepted me into the orchestra, and I received an invitation to play at the festival. I will be flying to Vienna on July 1st and the day after my arrival I will play in the dress rehearsal. We then leave for St. Petersburg the following day. We will perform four concerts and a Grand Gala Concert on Saturday night because we will be the largest group there.

The Orchestra has 60 pieces and will be joined by a choir. Most of the members are



Austrians from the Vienna area; others are foreigners, including Americans, Israelis and some who live in Vienna. The arranger's name is Roman Grinzberg. Sasha Danilov is the conductor and Principal Trumpet is Elmar Eggerer. According to Elmar, about 50 percent of the orchestra is non-lewish. Elmar himself

is Catholic and married to a wellknown Austrian lewish opera singer, Regina Schorg. About 45 members of the orchestra will make the trip in addition to choir members. There is a YouTube video of high-



lights from the orchestra as well as the official invitation to play at the festival. Elmar concludes his letter of invitation with an anecdote from the group's last rehearsal: "Weather is really wintry and cold at the moment, with lots of snow. Roman - the man behind it all - came to rehearsal wearing a horrible knitted woolly hat just covering the top of the skull. Daniel, the tuba player, asked him what THAT was, and got the reply, 'That's my winter kippa.'" \(\)

At left, Steve Smith is joined by fellow band (and KJCC) member Rick Wolfe (who also plays in mul-

tiple community bands). Familiar visitors to this concert are captured with Steve and Rick at left: Linda Pollack, Gloria Avner and Pauline Roller. At top, Rick shows Pauline (and the camera) his official band shirt.



The stars seem to have aligned for Steve. Somehow he even managed to book a reservation to St. Petersburg on the same flight as the rest of the orchestra. We can't wait to hear stories of Dr. Smith and the Klezmer group in Russia. Steve will surely have a followup adventure or two with photos and a sound track to share with us in the September issue of Chai-Lights. We're already looking forward to it. Bon Voyage.



PURIM

Once again we come to the one Jewish holiday whose sacred text, one of the last included in the Hebrew Bible, does not once mention the name of God. When sober and serious rabbis say to get drunk. When mockery and japery and fun are standard fare. But, as always with Jewish rituals, there is seriousness of purpose beneath the surface.



PURIM UNMASKED: BEHIND AND BENEATH THE STORY OF PURIM

by Gloria Avner

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

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

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

The themes of hiding and exposure permeate not just the story but the very title

"Megillat Esther." Each word has two meanings. "Megillah," besides referring to a document rolled up as a scroll, means "to expose." "Esther." in addition to being a woman's name. means "concealment." The whole document's meaning then is "revelation of that which is hidden.'

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

To recap: Seventy years have passed since the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews are in exile in Persia, under the hand of King Ahashverosh, the ruler of the Middle East. The king throws a large banguet for all his subjects (actually, in honor of the captivity of the lews). He summons his beautiful wife, Queen Vashti, to appear before him (some say to dance naked). When she rudely refuses, he has her killed. After that, Esther (we must take note of her name, so similar to that of Astarte, the local goddess of fertility, but we'll explore that another day), a Jewish exile, is taken to the palace as the King's new wife. If the degradation of a lewish girl abducted to the palace of a wicked despot is not enough, her uncle and protector, Mordechai, one of the leaders of that generation (some interpretations say he may have been her husband rather than her uncle), abandons his place among the sages to sit day and night in front of the King's gate in his concern over her.

The King's vizier, the wicked Haman, is promoted. A personal vendetta against Mordechai



develops (Mordechai refuses to bow down to a mere mortal), and Haman decides to visit his anger upon the entire Jewish people. A death sentence is issued against all the Jews in the King's provinc-

es, the date is set by the casting of lots (purim), and Haman builds a special gallows upon which to hang Mordechai. Things go from bad to worse.

However, on one fateful night, the King awakes from his sleep and learns that Mordechai had once saved his life. He grants him royal honors. Haman is killed. The decree is rescinded. The lews defeat their enemies.

Everything in this story is a paradox. Each event that seems bad for the lews proves to be for their good. The royal banquet in celebration of Israel's exile vacates the queenly throne and provides the means for Esther to enter the King's palace. The fact that Esther is abducted allows her to bring about Haman's demise. The fact that Mordechai sits idly by the palace gate allows him to overhear a conspiracy and save the King's life. Haman's rise to power is the very thing that produces his conflict with the Jews and brings about his downfall. In the height of ironic twists, worthy of the finest melodrama or quality soap opera, Haman is hung on the very gallows he built for Mordechai, and all Haman's wealth is given to Esther. The day appointed for the annihilation of the Jews becomes the day of their greatest victory over their enemies - the day on which we celebrate Purim.

As we read the ganssa megillah (word by word, the entire scroll), we see that everything that seemed to obscure God's presence, everything we could call ill-fate, the worst of human intentions, actually provides the means by which God manipulates history to bring about the redemption of the Jews. Everything begins to change on "that night the King awoke from his sleep" (Esther 6:1). "The King," says the Talmud, actually refers to God, the King of kings. On that night, God awoke from the sleep of concealment, and began to reveal His presence in the world

below.

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

Those who focus on hidden meanings say that the hand of God is evident everywhere in this Megillah, even though the name is not. For every crisis encountered. God already had a solution in place. Purim teaches us how to relate to God in a time when seas don't split. when bushes don't burn, when plagues don't befall our enemies, when the workings of God are concealed beneath the surface appearance of things. In Purim, we celebrate a miraculous reversal of fortune. From assured mass destruction, the tables are turned and in the space of 24 hours the Jews in Iraq (then Persia) are suddenly routing every anti-Semite in the world's most vast and powerful empire. Ever since that day, Jews celebrate its message: no matter how bleak, how dark and how hopeless a situation can appear, the Almighty has guaranteed our survival and an answer has already been prepared for every difficulty.

Our mode of celebration is one of the most uncharacteristic in the annals of lewish tradition: the sober, intellectual People of the Book turn to the bottle and are commanded to get drunk! Perhaps we are supposed to attain a state of mind other than the normal. a consciousness more attuned to the illogic of the day. And in our intoxicated state of joy, we clothe ourselves in colorful masks and costumes, deliver gifts of money to the poor, listen intently to the reading, give treats to our neighbors and celebrate in community with a iovous feast.

The costumes and masks are vivid reminders that, as in the Purim story, things are not

always what they seem. Below the visible surface, a mysterious, hidden plan is unfolding every moment, silently steering world history and our selves. If we are alert, aware, and appreciative of all that comes to us, we can play our parts well. None of us ever knows how the story will end. Chaq Sameach. ♦

THE RITUALS OF PURIM

by Joyce Peckman

urim is not a Biblical holiday, and yet the sages declared that when the Messiah comes, all holidays will be superfluous except for Purim. What makes Purim so unique?

All the other holidays find their roots in the miracles of the Exodus from Egypt. The Purim redemption, in contrast, took place through non-miraculous, naturally unfolding events of personal and political maneuverings. It is easier to see the presence of the Divine through the supernatural than in the occurrences of history and actions of people. This may be the reason for wearing masks on Purim. God hid Himself in the mundane, so we hide ourselves in costumes and masks. Recognizing all the hidden miracles that surround us on a daily basis is the greater theme of Purim.

There are four commandments associated with the Purim holiday. The first and most important commandment (Mitzvah) is to listen. We are to hear every word of the ganssa meaillah (the whole scroll) even while we are spinning our *groggers* (noisemakers), drowning out the hated name of Haman. The Purim story is a five-star drama, with plot twists worthy of the highest quality soap opera. It has court intrigue, romance, an innocent beauty turned heroine, near annihilation for an entire people. and final ironic come-uppance for the egocentric power-hungry villain due to the brilliance. bravery and commitment of the lovely young lewish gueen. Of course we will listen.

The second mitzvah is to be charitable. It is a very specific kind of charity. We are to give to two different people enough for them to have a good dinner. Perhaps the purpose is to

assure that every Jew, of every social class, with or without deep pockets, or any pockets, gets to be physically sated, assured of the next day's survival, on this special day. The third command is to distribute mishloach manot, bags or baskets filled with at least two different foods. a piece of fruit, a drink, a cookie, delivering them to Jewish friends and neighbors - surely this act must be affirmation of the fact that the Jewish people know the importance of community, of belonging to something greater than oneself. It simply yet profoundly expresses the value of acknowledging and caring for one another. We are, now and forever, (l'olam va'ed), connected.

The last *mitzvah* is to participate in a festive meal, where according to Jewish law, adults should get so drunk that they can't tell the difference between the statements of Mordechai and those of Haman (recovering alcoholics and people with health problems are exempt. I would also exempt all designated drivers). Does this lack of discrimination brought on by alcohol mean that it is easy to mistake good for evil and the other way around when not in full control of our faculties, or is it an admission that. even in jest, we must be vigilant. Still, the day of Purim is for celebration, for making fun of everyone and everything, even rabbis.

We have no silly, satiric or musical purimspiel this year, but let's commit to doing one next year. Party on. You will have the opportunity to fulfill all four mitzvot at KICC on Purim day, Sunday March 12th at 11:30 AM. Immediately following the KJCC Board meeting. We will strengthen our link to the generations before us, stretching back to Persia and the early days of diaspora. As a united, dedicated Jewish community, we will

- 1) read the entire Megillat Esther in English, round-robin style.
- 2) collect money for charity, to be given to the food bank at Burton Memorial.
- 3) have the opportunity to bring food to share. (Think salads, desserts and drinks to enjoy with pizza.)
- 4) Enjoy a pizza party! Come in costume if you can. If not we will dress you up and give you a mask. It is a powerful experience, being someone other than yourself. Lift your glass: I'Chaim. >



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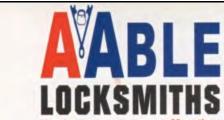
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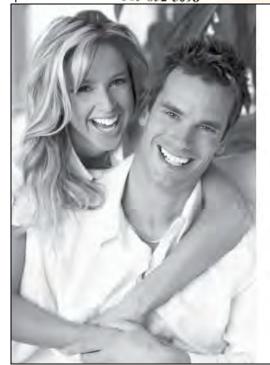


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April 2017 5 Nisan - 4 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m. Women's Seder 5 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock Gene & Mort Silverman Geri & Stuart Smith	8 Rabbi Agler Service 10:00 a.m. Film 7 p.m.
9 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	Erev Pesach KJCC First Seder 6:30	11 1st Day of Pesach 2nd Seder 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Beth Hayden Nettie Seder Toby Bofshever	15
16	17	18 Eighth Day of Pesach	19	20	Holocaust Committee (Yizkor service) Sisterhood	Film 7 p.m.
23 30 Film 7:00	Yom HaShoah	Rosh Chodesh Iyar	26	27	28 Erica Lieberman- Garrett & Art Itkin Gene & Mort Silverman	29

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

know it will be no shock to hear that once again the KJCC has had a full calendar, with an even busier month to come. February had a dynamic (pun intended) ending with a wonderful concert provided by Dave Feder and Sam Weis. The KICC was packed and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks to Linda Kaplan and her team, who made this event such a resounding success. We began March with a very well attended Shabbat Across America and Canada dinner followed by a lecture from Tudor Parfitt on The Mystery of the Black Jews of Loango. Medina also kept us entertained with her choice of movies for the First Annual Moms' Memorial Film Fest. which will continue through the month of April. And in March, of course, we celebrated *Purim* (Be happy! It's Adar!). The Board meeting was truncated to allow a festive reading of the Megillah in celebration of Purim. We made cacophonous noise. spun groggers and obliterated the name of that guy (you know the one)! A great time was had by all. If you missed it, plan to come next year. It is truly a joyous holiday.

In April our attention turns to more somber events as we prepare for *Pesach* and KICC's first and second night seders. As Rabbi Lord Jona



than Sacks so aptly remarks: Ours is a religion of memory. As we read the scroll of Esther (Megillat Esther) and remember the story of Purim, so too we read we read the Haggadah at Pesach and remember how our ancestors experienced the Yitziat Mitzrayim (going out from Eavpt). And what a haggadah (the telling) this -- replete with a heroic leader (who is never mentioned by name), a cruel Pharaoh, miracles, plagues, escape from slavery to freedom, parting of the seas, and food falling from the skies. Move over lames Cameron - have we got a plot for you! Of all the holidays we celebrate, Passover, with its wonderful story, its order (seder) of celebration and profound symbolism, is one of the most important and meaningful for all Jews. And just think how it will end as we begin the counting of the *Omer* from the second Seder through Shavuot and the giving of *Torah*. We will tell the story as we are commanded, a story that has been passed from generation to generation, father to son, mother to daughter, and say: Next year in Jerusalem. Wishing for all of you a *Pesach* kasher um'vorach (kosher and blessed).

--B'shalom. Beth

Nosh

Women's Seder

With laughter, storytelling, poetry, and musical instruments, the women of KJCC and their friends from throughout the Keys Community will gather for the 14th annual KJCC Women's Seder. Join us on Sunday, April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate women's contributions to our history, present a different perspective on the story of the Exodus, and honor one of our own. The food will be incredible! Cost is a \$32 donation (\$18 chai plus a dollar for each year the seder has been in existence. The money raised from admissions is donated to charities that benefit women and children in our Keys community, the KJCC and the world at large, as far away as Africa.) There is limited seating, so contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett now at (305) 393-1162 or hippiejap@hotmail.com and reserve your seat.

Rabbi Agler's Torah Learning Service

Saturday morning, April 8th, will be our next opportunity to experience the phenomenon of a Rabbi Agler Torah Service. This will be a particularly special service. Be at KJCC promptly at 10:00 a.m. to join us as Rabbi Richard Agler, our Resident Scholar, leads the religious service/ Torah learning/conversation/exegesis. It is Shabbat HaGadol, the Sabbath immediately prior to Pesach. Come with questions, and leave with a refreshed spirit and new insights about our history and religion. A light Kiddush will be served afterwards.

First Night KJCC Haimische Seder

For the third year in a row, KJCC will spread a table for its own first night family-style seder. Call Susan Ellner, co-ordinator extraordinaire, to tell her what you will bring for food or what kind of donation you would like to make. (E-mail ellnercd@aol.com, phone 914-907-3993.) It will be a delightful pot-luck seder in the Social Hall strictly for our mishpocha and their guests. For details see the ad on page 16.

Community Seder

On April 11th, the second night of Passover, at 6:30 p.m., we will again host our Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club, 104 Madeira Road, in Islamorada. The cost is \$54 per adult, and because this is a catered event and space is limited, your check is your reservation. Last minute stragglers, please mail or give your reservation as soon as possible to Renee Salant. If you have out-of-town guests, they are welcome, too, but please let us know ASAP. One of the special features of this seder is the announcement of the winner of this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award, KJCC's highest honor. Please send checks to KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070. (See the ad on page 30.)

Oneg Sponsors for April 2017

April 7th - Gene & Mort Silverman to celebrate their wedding anniversary and Gene's Birthday. Geri & Stuart Smith to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

April 14th - Nettie Seder to celebrate her and Jules' wedding anniversary. Toby Bofshever to celebrate birthday.

April 21st - Sisterhood will sponsor.

April 28th - Gene & Mort Silverman to mark their wedding anniversary.

Israel Independence Day -Yom Ha'atzma'ut

On Sunday, April 30th at 7 p.m. we will celebrate Israel's Independence Day (its actual date is May 2nd) with a special film, The Prime Ministers, followed by Israeli salads and snacks. Please see this month's movie ad on page 10.

Have You Enjoyed Our Film Fest?

Please contact our head of Adult Education, Medina Roy (hiitsmedee@gmail.com, phone 305-394-1702) to say whether you'd enjoyed this year's KJCC film festival and whether you'd like it to continue next season. (Or even to keep it going when the snowbirds leave.)

April Birthdays

1.4	Bennett Beinfest
	Harvey Kay
	Justin L. Lebofsky
	Larry Weber
	Lauren Lane
	Thomas Brodie
	Jon Tainow
	David Feder
	Gene Silverman
	Abigail Everson
	.Addison Greene-Barnett
	William Pomenti
	Richard Knowles
	Eve Knowles
	Samantha Lebofsky
I4th	Herman Katzenell
15th	Toby Bofshever
l6th	Adam Starr
l6th	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
	Shirley Stein
26th	Maryann Boruszak
27th	Elinor Grossman
28th	Joni Sages Dandrea
	David Goldfinger
	Linda Pollack
	Jason Sherman
30th	Rachel Barrett

April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder	51
I0th	Stuart & Geri Smith	52
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew	36
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder	21
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz	10
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman	62

Field Trip Alert

On April 22, we will watch the film, "Denial," depicting the legal battle between Professor Deborah Lipstadt and a Holocaust denier, who sued her for libel. On the following day, a group of KICC members will travel to the Aventura Turnberry lewish Center to meet and listen in person to the woman whose real life story was the basis for the film. Read Medina's piece about her old neighborhood playmate and friend, who is now an internationally recognized scholar and lecturer on the Holocaust. Let Medina know if you would like to drive or be part of a carpool. The article begins on page 23.

How to Sponsor a Friday Oneg

It's easy! Contact Sisterhood President Renee Salant at reneesam@mac.com, and send a check for only \$60 to KICC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier FL 33070. (Be sure to indicate the requested oneg date on your check.) We will provide wine and challah for blessing, and coffee and cookies (and sometimes fruit) for refreshment. You are welcome to bring an additional celebratory cake or special nosh; just coordinate with Jane Friedman (twisterjill 1@yahoo.com) or Renee.

Where Should We Send Your Chai-Lights?

Please let us know if, as will many, you'll be heading north sometime in April. We want to send your next copy of Chai-Lights to the address where you'll, you know, actually be.

How Does our Garden Grow?

No silver bells, just lots of hard work, joyous digging, planting and watering of healthy seedlings by Jane Friedman and friends, continuing the tradition started by her generous son, Harry Friedman, for his Eagle Scout project. Stop to admire and watch the progress of broccoli, herbs, eggplant, and tomatoes. At harvest time, families in need will come to Burton Memorial Food Bank and reap the benefits. (There may even be a garden salad or two in KJCC's near future. Thank you, Jane and Harry.



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 Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 to arrange your donation.

KICC 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 April 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Helen Berman	Clara Bloom	Nat Feldblum	
By Sylvia Berman <>><><> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <	By Marc Bloom	By Marc Bloom <><><><>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Jean Blumenfeld	Audrey Pearlman	Baruch Epstein	
By Marvin A. Blumenfeld	By William & Donna Bolton	By Joan Boruszak	
In Memory Of Joseph T. Cline	In Memory Of Ellen Coltman	In Memory Of Mark Hitzig	
•		· ·	
By Meredith A. Cline <><><><> <	By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin <><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Vivian Faye	Frances Wolfe	Bill Gordon	
By Sydney! Faye-Davis <><><>><> <	By Michael & Suzanne Gilson	By Susan Gordon <>><><>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Marty Graham	Stella Hartz	Michael Janowitz	
By Mrs. Marty Graham	By Steven & Jan Hartz	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Gertrude F. Kaplan	Nathan Klein	Fred Klimpl	
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	By Harvey & Judith Klein	By Michael Klimpl	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Marilyn Janet Barr	Janet Blum	George Nobil	
	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	By Lynn Nobil	

In Memoriam April 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Zelda Pearl **Erwin Moss** Dr. Joel Pollack By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl By Linda Pollack By Linda Pollack <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rabbi Milton Greenwald Louise Folks Baker Sam Sax By Paul & Susan Roberts By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Stuart & Lauren Sax <><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Dolores Feldman** Richard Schulberg Sally Shabathai By Jeffrey Schocket By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai <><><><><><><><><><</p> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Louis S. Smith **Morris Smith Ginger Lewis** By Robert Silk By Steven & Barbara Smith By Stuart & Geri Smith <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Claire Smith Cantor Alex Chapin Ida Tallent By Stuart & Geri Smith By Steven & Barbara Smith By Lillian Tallent <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Hilda Mazur Dr. Milton A. Wohl Charles Kram By Joan P. Wohl By Sanford & Nancy Yankow By Sanford & Nancy Yankow <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Zelda Pearl **Irwin Cutler** David Wernicoff By Donald Zinner By Donald Zinner By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl <><><><><><>

Sisterhood Sam Weis and Renee Salant



et's talk about change. Some changes are seasonal. Some move slowly. as in geologic time. Some changes come about in a wink of an eye, like slipping on a banana peel. When 2017 began, Renee and I started out as Sisterhood Co-Presidents. It was exciting, but it quickly became evident that any group needs one strong, intelligent, caring, and organized leader. That is Renee. I admit that I gave in to flattery, being quite honored at being asked to participate in such a role. However, the truth is, I completely lack organizational skills and am incapable of linear thinking and planning ahead (I am even writing this column at the last possible moment). Therefore, we have made changes. Renee is the official President of KICC Sisterhood. and I am the official Renee assistant. I will be writing the Chai-Lights Sis-

terhood column, with Renee's input.

I will also be creating the oneg host card, washing dishes, cleaning up,

locking up, putting out the cat and

bringing in the dog. Honestly, if you relied on me to arrange an event, there is a strong possibility I would wander off into the mangroves only to remember it about a month too late. The point is, we all pitch in, doing what we can with the particular and peculiar skills that we bring. If you want to be more involved with KJCC Sisterhood, you only have to call Renee. Come to Sisterhood's monthly meeting; bring your ideas and your energy. Additionally, anyone can sponsor an oneg. It is a lovely gesture, a fun way to celebrate, sharing with your KJCC family. We do enjoy each other's company, and we sure do like cake.

April brings us to Pesach. The KJCC Sisterhood hopes you will come to Second Seder, 6:30 pm on April 11th at the Islamorada Fish -ing Club, to celebrate The Exodus together,

before the exodus of the snow-bird variety begins. This is my favorite Seder because I get to enjoy the retelling of the Pesach story and enjoy the company of my KJCC family without worrying whether anyone is eating the covered dish I brought, or thinking about the mountain of dishes awaiting me after four cups of wine. When I was in my 20s I thought the perfect way to observe Pesach would be

to hit the McDonald's drive-thru. order a burger with no bun, and with only the clothes one was wearing, drive to Southwest Utah to begin wandering in the desert: Sudden, emergent, vital, and also, no dishes. The Islamorada Fishing Club is definitely better. We shall celebrate our release from slavery, and perhaps engage in discussion of all the other kinds of enslavement we allow into our lives.

Many thanks to everyone who is hosting an oneg in April: Mort and Gene Silverman, Stuart and Geri

Smith. Nettie Seder, and Toby Bofshever. At this moment April 21st is still available. It can be vours.

Thanks to Renee Salant for stepping up and taking the bull by the horns. (Hey, I grew up on a farm, it's one of those phrases.) Thanks to Erica Lieberman-Garrett for helping light the path. And gratitude to each member of Sisterhood for doing the work of making a vibrant community.

Lastly, congratulations to Laura Wolf for stepping into the role of Sisterhood Treasurer. You've got a strong safety net; we know you will do well.

On behalf of Sisterhood President Renee Salant, this is Sam Weis wishing a good and healthy and joyous month to all. Keep working for justice. >

KJCC's Adult Education Program

Proudly Presents Its

First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest

Sponsored in full by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In loving memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez



All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME — There is no charge
REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards
For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"lust Doing the Right Thing..."

In mid-February, Jared Nied received the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Stand Up New Yorker Award, which recognizes city residents for "taking immediate action to help those being singled out for bigotry, or initiating efforts to denounce hate." Nied. 37. was on a Manhattan subway where he noticed swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti in several places. The other commuters seemed uncomfortable and not sure what to do. Nied said aloud, "Hand sanitizer gets rid of Sharpie. We need alcohol." He took some tissues and proceeded to clean away the graffiti. Several of the commuters joined Nied and all of the offensive symbols were removed. Nied's actions went viral after one of the commuters described the scene on Facebook, Nied, who works as a sous chef in New York, was surprised at all the attention he received. "I'm honestly not sure what to say other than that I was just doing the right thing, the thing that needed to be done."

(www.forward.com, 2-14-17)

"For All Who Want to Enter"

On March 1st, a special meeting of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) approved a resolution to allow individual congregations to decide whether to extend membership to non-lews. The vote was held over the Internet and the measure passed overwhelmingly, 94 to 8 with one abstention. (Fifteen members did not vote.) "USCI supports every affiliated kehillah (the Hebrew word for "congregation") in developing its own criteria for membership," the resolution read. "...We call on all of our kehillot to open their doors wide to all who want to enter." The resolution grew out of a commission set up in March of 2016 to explore ways to engage intermarried couples. The Conservative movement prohibits its leaders from performing marriages or attending the wed-

ding ceremonies of interfaith couples. (Some Conservative synagogues celebrate intermarriages before they occur and/or welcome the couples afterward, a classically Jewish way to follow the rules without actually following the rules.) Many Conservative leaders have protested the intermarriage prohibition. In recent vears, membership in the Conservative Movement has been rapidly declining while more Jews are affiliated with the Orthodox Movement. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-6-17)

75 Years Later...

In a ceremony at the end of February, the headstone of an American soldier killed in World War II was recently replaced with one bearing a Star of David. The replacement ceremony for Staff Sqt. Jack Weiner, a navigator for the 345th Bombardment Group, was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. Weiner was killed during a bombing mission on August 10. 1945, just days before Japan surrendered. He was the only son of a Jewish immigrant mother from Russia. Weiner enlisted even though he was excused from the draft. He was originally buried at Yokohama Cemetery in Japan. but his remains were moved to the *National* Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in March 1949. An error was made during the transition, and Weiner ended up with a cross on his headstone. First Lt. Rabbi Levy Pekar, who serves at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, heard about the mix-up from one of Weiner's cousins. After looking into the matter for some time. Pekar found information confirming Sgt. Weiner's wishes to have the Star of David on his headstone. "...[Sqt. Weiner's] story affected me on a spiritual level and as my duty as chaplain I knew we had to correct

this mistake," Pekar said. Over 30 members of the Honolulu Jewish community, both military and civilian, attended the ceremony installing Sqt. Weiner's new headstone and together recited the Kaddish prayer for him. (www.jta.org, 3-6-17)

Get Relief in Just Minutes

If you are the one of four individuals who gets gueasy on a boat, a plane or even when riding in a bus or car, a new Israeli device worn around the neck just might be the answer. Developed by Sidis Labs. MotionCure could provide relief in minutes. The neck collar uses tingling pulses to relieve the dizziness, nausea and vomiting that occurs when the sense of balance is disturbed by constant motion. Founded in 2014, Sidis Labs came up with the idea for a motion sickness device after Ohad Raz, one of the founders of the lab, completed his military service in the Israeli Navv. MotionCure is built on groundbreaking NASA research. The device creates customized pulses that are transmitted to the area of the nerve at the back of the neck. These pulses help to reduce the signals sent from the brain to calm down the stomach. The device, similar to a travel pillow and a neck collar, uses two AAA batteries. Motion-Cure has also been used by people undergoing chemotherapy, the side effects of which often include nausea and vomiting. The device is available on Amazon for \$150 and on the company's website, sidislabs.com. (World Jewry Digest, January 2017)

Someone to Stand Guard? Count on Me.

Following the recent surge of bomb threats against Jewish community centers and the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues, groups of Muslims are offering to help guard Jewish sites. This show of solidarity came after an online fundraising campaign started by two Muslims - and promoted by "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling - raised over \$150,000 to repair a vandalized Jewish cemetery outside of St. Louis recently where some 170 gravestones were toppled. In a somewhat similar story, a Muslim man who

started an online fundraising campaign for a Tampa, Florida mosque damaged in an attempted arson attack said that many of his donors were lewish. "I couldn't understand why people were donating in what seemed like weird amounts...18 or 72 dollars. Then... after clicking on the names, Avi. Cohen, Goldstein, Rubin, Fisher...Jews donate in multiples of 18 as a form of what is called 'chai.' It wishes the recipient long life...The Jewish faith has shown up in force to support our New Tampa Islamic community. I'm floored." (As of 3-12-17, there have been some 120 bomb threats called in to 80 Jewish institutions in approximately 30 states and one Canadian province.) (www.huffingtonpost.com, 3-1-17)

"The Situation is Serious"

The Sea of Galilee - the Kinneret in Hebrew - has reached the lowest water level in the last 100 years. According to Amir Givati of Israel's Water Authority, the lake has suffered from four consecutive years of rain shortages. The level is 20 centimeters (about eight inches) below the so-called "red line" what experts consider acceptable. The shortage of rainfall is affecting agriculture, the environment and animal life in the surrounding area. The rest of the country is spared from shortages thanks to five seawater desalination plants - supplying three-guarters of the drinking water consumed by Israeli households - which are built along the Mediterranean coast. Drinking water to homes in northern Israel is normally supplied by the Sea of Galilee. (Which is actually a freshwater lake and the lowest such lake on earth. It sits in the depression of the Jordan River, 656 feet below sea level, covering roughly 62 square miles.) (www.dailymail.co.uk, 3-7-17)

Roadkill Prevention Via Technology

WAZE, the traffic navigation app that was developed in Israel, is popular because, among other things, it saves drivers' time. The app already has a "roadkill" button, with which users can report dead animals at the side of the road. Now data from that app is

being used by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) to determine which intersections pose the most danger to animals. WAZE users reported 1.416 roadkill sightings in Israel last year. The data collected will help SPNI create a road atlas for wildlife. Safe crossing signs and zones for animals will be posted. The program was released on March 17th, UN World Wildlife Day. (www.forward.com, 3-13-17)

TAU Ranked #8 in the World

A new study has ranked Tel Aviv University among the top schools that produce billion -dollar start-ups. The study was conducted by the cloud accounting software firm Sage. Topping the list, with 51 alumni responsible for founding start-up firms worth more than \$1 billion, was Stanford University. Harvard followed with 37. Ranking 8th in the world. Tel Aviv University had seven and was ahead of Cornell and the University of Southern California, which had six apiece. (www.jta.org, 2-6-17)

In Memoriam

* Joseph A. Wapner, a real-life judge but better known as the judge presiding on the legally binding (for civil cases only) popular TV show "The People's Court," died recently. He was 97. It was on television where Wapner made his mark on the legal profession. The son of Jewish immigrants from Romania and Russia, Wapner was a decorated World War II veteran. He briefly dated Hollywood film actress Lana Turner (before she was famous) while they both attended Hollywood High School. Wapner was the first lew to be elected presiding judge of Los Angeles's Superior Court system, where he supervised more than 200 colleagues. To those who watched his show every afternoon (including Dustin Hoffman's character in the film "Rain Man"). Wapner was known to listen to reason, to be firm but fair and compassionate in applying the law. (www.tabletmag.com, 2-28-17)

* Rabbi Zecharia Barashi, reportedly the world's oldest Jew and who leaves behind 125 descendants, died of natural causes in Ierusalem in early March. He was 117. He was born into a rabbinic family in Iragi Kurdistan, the youngest of ten children (seven of whom died in infancy). Married at eighteen, he. along with his wife and three young children, immigrated to pre-state Israel in 1936. He was among the founders of a national organization of Kurdish Jews and worked as an educator in Jerusalem. He was later recognized as the unofficial leader of Kurdish Jews in Israel. (www.israelnationalnews.com. 3-6-17)

* David Rubinger, the Israeli photographer who took the iconic photo of the Israeli paratroopers standing in front of the kotel (Western Wall) just minutes after its capture from Jordan on June 7, 1967 in the Six-Day-War, has died. He was 92. Many of Rubinger's photos chronicled the history of the lewish state. In 1997, he was awarded the Israel Prize - the country's highest honor - for his body of work, the first photographer to receive the award. It's been said that during his career, he shot some 500,000 photos of Israeli people and events. Rubinger was born in Vienna. As a teenager, he was active in Hashomer Hatzair, the Zionist socialist youth movement, and in 1939 when he was fifteen he was chosen under a youth quota system to immigrate to what was then British-controlled Palestine, where he joined a kibbutz. Rubinger fought in 1944 with the Jewish Brigade, a military division of the British army, which was led by lewish officers in Europe. He fought in the 1948 War of Independence, later joining the Israeli army's maps and photography services unit, which helped provide intelligence. He began his career as a photojournalist in 1955 and was Time-Life's main photographer in Israel for 50 years. He also served as the Knesset's official photographer for 30 years. (www.nytimes.com, 3-2-17)

Did You Know...

* At the end of March, the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis, MO, inducted four new members. All four are Jewish. The 2017 inductees were Paula Kalmar-Wolf. Alla Kushnir. Viktor Korchnoi and Edward Lasker. These four now join the Hall's existing 27 members. (www.tabletmag.com, 2-28-17) >

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.

G eneral Fund	In Honor Of	Yahrzeit	
Schur, Lee	birth of Charley	Emkey, Ge	
Kaufman, Michael	Shabbat Across America	Emkey, Ge	

Horowitz, Seth

Steinbock, Stephen

Shabbat Across America Shabbat Across America Shabbat Across America Emkey, Gerri & Frank Emkey, Gerri & Frank Olson, Gerald Harris, Stephen

Margolis, Gary/Blum, Laurie

Lee M. Harris Annie Kleinfeldt

Nathan Weisberg

Louis Weinstein

Robert Kinney

Bernstein

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 plagues. Each plague 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 plague included in the price.

EYE ON THE ARTS Joyce Peckman



Spring is here, bringing balmy weather, bright colors, and a gradual end to high season activity. Although many events pop up last minute, here are some I found that you may enjoy.

Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: The 26th Annual Florida Kevs Island Fest.

This is held at Founders' Park, MM 87. There will be live music of every genre, paintings, sculpture and crafts from more than 100 local and national artists. You can also feast your eyes on sand sculptures, antique and vintage cars, trucks and motorcycles. Did I just use the word "feast?" Sunday will feature the Taste of Islamorada, with local restaurants competing and bringing their best for you to purchase. Admission is free.

April 1st and 8th: Cabaret.

Community theatre at its best, at Marathon Community Theatre, 5101 O/S Highway, Marathon, 8 p.m. For information, call 305-743-0994 or buy tickets on the website www.marathontheater.org. Carpool, anyone?

Wednesday, April 5th, 9:30a.m. - Noon: Art Guild of the Purple Isles.

If you want to engage in the creative process and interact with local artists, this might be a good time to check out this dynamic group. Their meeting, at Elk Lodge, MM92.6, is open to the public.

Saturday, April 8th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Watercolor Society Judged Exhibition,

This takes place at Marathon Community Theatre, 5101 O/S Highway, Marathon. This

is a highly professional theater group and, get

this, the opportunity to see brilliant Keys watercolorists on exhibit with one trip to Marathon. Grab your favorite theater- and artloving friends. For information contact Julie Joyce 305-731-3046.

Thursday, April 20, 6-9 p.m: Morada Way Art Walk.

There is a lively arts district at MM. 81.6 Oceanside. On the third Thursday, the street is closed off, and national and local artisans set up booths. There is live music and "culinary art." Take a lovely evening stroll; you never know whom you will see there.

Saturday, April 22nd, 4 p.m.: Young Musicians Pops in the Park.

Bring a cushion or chair and perhaps a picnic basket to Founders' Park, MM 87, where you can enjoy the breeze while listening to our talented Keys' kids.

Sundays in April 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.: Dave Feder at Morada Bav.

If you enjoyed our 18 Strings and Attitude concert and decided that you want to hear more of Dave's fabulous guitar, you can catch him at Morada Bay, MM 81.6 bayside in Islamorada. Finish your weekend listening to KICC's own master quitarist before he leaves on his latest international tour.

If you learn of an upcoming Keys cultural event that might not be on my somewhat limited radar, please let me know by the tenth of the month prior to the event. I will be happy to include it. Thanks. joycepeckman@amail.com



KJCC Religious School News

By Morah Reba (Randy) Klein-Gross

 \mathfrak{D} his month at the KJCC religious school, we worked on understanding Purim so \perp that when the *Megillah* was read by the congregation, on March 12th, the kids would understand how bad Haman and his plans were for the Jews.

Max painted a watercolor on rice paper of Haman and his friends being hung from the top of Queen Esther's castle. JB drew and painted the King and Queen having a dinner party where Queen Esther isn't eating so the King will ask her why. When asked, she reveals Haman's plan. Oceana, AKA Galia, painted a beautiful watercolor around the word "PURIM."

The kids and parents (both named Randy) created hamentaschen masterpieces before Purim to share with the congregation. We hope everyone liked the Nutella. gummy bears, coconut. chocolate and Twix bar hamentaschen.

Purim was a hoot with the kids and adults dressed up in costumes. Even four-year-old Ruby, as Queen Esther, paraded in front of the crowd with "Haman," inciting "boos" and groggers. For all congregants that were present, thanks for making it special -- and for sharing in the celebration of Oshi's 13th birthday! ♦



Photo Gallery

Sherry Zwerdling Remembered

Our Social Hall gets used in many ways, mostly to bring us pleasure in the form of oneas, dinners, and simchas. On this day, there was sorrow as well as celebration. KJCC member Sherry Zwerdling was being remembered by her friends. Renee Salant organized this heartfelt gathering; Rabbi Zucker came from

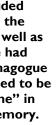
Key West to share memories.

Rabbi Yaakov Zucker, above, chanted Eyl Malei HaRachaminm and led the group in saying Kaddish. Sherry's longtime friend Van (right) played a prayerful song on guitar.



Dr. Robert Foley (above) gave a touching talk on his years of friendship with Sherry. So did Diane Saleeby-Gardener, at left.

Sherry's friends included people of all ages from the greater community as well as KICC members. Some had never been inside a synagogue before. We were pleased to be able to share our "home" in Sherry's honor and memory.



For those who don't know, KJCC's Susan Gordon has a regular band gig, playing with the Mangrove Swamp Band. They offered a concert for locals on

February 18th, and a number of fellow KJCC members went to listen and enjoy. It would appear that Terry Willner-Tainow's

grandson also managed to publicly express his

inner pirate. Aaargh.

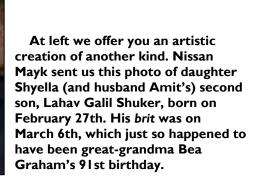


The service on February 24th was led by Sisterhood. A full dozen women participated. They gather for the Shabbat candle-lighting, above, and on the bemah after the service.

Two KJCC artists submitted work to this year's judged annual Purple Isles Art Guild show at the Islander History Museum in Islamorada. Both won high honors in their categories. Brava. Geri Felder Smith won a 2nd Place Ribbon in the Oil Painting division with an evocative nude (right), and Jan Hartz, in her first year as an art guild member, took first place and a blue ribbon for Photography. We are extremely proud of both of them and hope you had a chance to see them live at the show.

The third picture is another photograph,

printed on metal, by Jan Hartz, and shown directly below. It flew away with the second place ribbon last month at the Joe Cella "Birds in Nature" Exhibition. Mazel tov to both women.



One of the brightest smiles at KJCC events this year has been Shirley Karger's. She and husband Gus (Gunther, our Holocaust survivor, saved from death in Germany by the kindertransport program) live in Homestead and enjoy our Jewish community here so much that they regularly drive the stretch to join us at services and events. We did not see them on Purim weekend because they were having their own community celebration, the Homestead Carnival (Mardi Gras)

Festival. Shirley, originally from New Orleans, rode through the parade (with Gus driving their convertible), reliving the days when she actually was Mardi Gras Princess, in 1954. (Note the sash.) Brava. (Shirley, next year we'll have our Purim party in the evening; you can come as Esther and graduate from Princess to Queen.)

On February 21st, Linda Kaplan and Yardena Kamely met in Miami to attend a luncheon sponsored by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a nationwide NGO comprised of business, faith-based, academic, military and community leaders engaged

in building international democracy and trade (below). Among the coalition members and sponsors is the American Jewish Committee (AJC), founded in 1906.



Joyce Peckman sent us this photo of youngest son

Keith with he. Rebecca and the kids all togged out for Purim.



On March 15th, KJCC Board Member Beth Kaminstein curated a significant art show for the Keys, featuring the work of

> two important modern Abstract Expressionists, Jules Olitski (born in the Ukraine but raised in New York) and Larry Poons (born in Tokyo but who also came of age in New York). It all took place at **Moorings Photog**raphy and Art Gallery in Islamorada.



The Importance of Dr. Deborah Lipstadt

A childhood friend becomes a famed scholar of the Holocaust

by Medina Roy

Okay....this is a true story....really....

It was some 20 years ago. I was in a Barnes & Noble bookstore. I was browsing in the *ludaica* section when suddenly, about ten feet past me, a book just spontaneously fell off a shelf, landing title-side-up. I was the only one in the aisle and, being a book-lover (and librarian), I had to go over, pick it up and return it to its place on the shelf. I noticed the title. "Denving the Holocaust: The

Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.' I found the title intriguing, of course, but then I noticed the author's name: Deborah Lipstadt. Deborah Lipstadt?? Could it be?? I lifted the book and turned to the back cover. Nope. No photograph. Then I opened the book to the back cover flap and there she was....flaming red hair and freckles. iust as I remembered her from my childhood.

Deborah - I knew her as "Debbie" and her family lived directly across the street from me while growing up in Far Rockaway, Queens,

New York. At the time, our street consisted of mostly Modern-Orthodox Jewish families, with about a dozen children. (Total, not

each.) Most of us attended the nearby yeshiva HILI (Hebrew Institute of Long Island). We would come home from school, change into our play clothes and rush into the street to play stoop ball, jump rope, stick ball or even just quiet games like pick-up sticks or jacks. Once we even built a go-cart with lumber we found on a vacant lot down the street.

Naturally, we all went our separate ways once we graduated high school and went off

to college. I had not stayed in touch with Debbie, and so when her book fell off the shelf at the bookstore. I was quite surprised to see that she was now an author. Of course I bought the book. and when I got home did a little research. She was not only an author but a prominent and distinguished historian and Holocaust scholar, too. It turns out that the Debbie Lipstadt book I now owned was the winner of the 1994 National **Iewish Book Honor** Award and the first full-length study of those who attempt



to deny the Holocaust. And that Dr. Lipstadt (I really should start referring to her commensurate with her national stature now) was the

first to call attention to the rapidly expanding movement of Holocaust denial.

learned that he was preparing to sue her and

her British publisher for calling him a Holo-

caust denier. A year later, she realized the

In the book, Dr. Lipstadt discusses,

among others, David Irving. In 1995, she

dark significance of Irving's intentions, the level of damage he intended to wreak on both her and her work, and decided to fight. In the United States, a public figure like Irving would have to show that Lipstadt had acted "in reckless disregard" of the truth. But under British libel law, the burden of proof lay on Dr. Lipstadt, the defendant, "to demonstrate the accuracy of what she had written." Lipstadt's attorneys submitted some three thousand pages of testimony during the course of the legal battle. which went on for five years. The case was regarded as so significant that, to assist Dr. Lipstadt, the Israeli government released Adolf Eichmann's journals, which it had kept under lock and key for twenty-eight years, and delivered a copy to Professor Lipstadt's legal defense team.

In February of 2005, Deborah Lipstadt published another book, History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving, describing her experiences. The book itself ignited another firestorm in the Lipstadt-Irving conflict. C-Span intended to broadcast a speech by Lipstadt - in March at Harvard University - about her new book and announced that it would also feature a talk by Irving to "balance" their coverage of the story. Dr. Lipstadt, who has maintained a consistent policy against appearing with or debating Holocaust deniers, insisted that C-Span either reverse their decision or cancel the broadcast of her lecture. When C-Span's plans became known, 500 eminent historians signed a petition in support of Dr. Lipstadt's ultimatum, stating, "Falsifiers of history cannot 'balance' histories. Falsehoods cannot 'balance' the truth." C-Span refused to cancel their planned coverage of Irving, and Lipstadt then refused to appear on their Book-TV program. The controversy sparked renewed analysis of the original court case and focused attention once more on Lipstadt's battle against Holocaust denial.

Currently, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. At Emory she helped establish and direct an Institute for Jewish Studies. In 1994 President Bill Clinton appointed her an historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: she served two terms and was then reappointed by President Barack Obama. She helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to The American Response to the Holocaust. Dr. Lipstadt has been called

> upon by members of the United States Congress to consult on political responses to Holocaust denial. In 2006 she was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research, the oldest organization of Judaic scholars in North America. Fellows are nominated and elected by their peers, so she is now among the most distinquished scholars teaching ludaic studies at American universities.

So why am I telling this story? (Yes, I'm very proud of her. Wouldn't you be?) On Saturday

evening, April 22nd, to commemorate this vear's Yom HaShoah, and as part of KJCC's annual Holocaust program, we will be screening "Denial" in the KJCC sanctuary. The film, which did well in commercial release, dramatizes Dr. Lipstadt's court battle to challenge David Irving's distortions of the truth. It will be good for all of us, together, to experience the full impact and purpose of professional Holocaust denial, and the brave scholar who stands resolutely against them.

Some of us are planning a trip the following morning to Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in North Miami Beach, where Dr. Deborah Lipstadt will be speaking in person. If you would like to join our "field trip," please contact me by April 14th to arrange carpooling. You can reach me at hiitsmedee@gmail.com or (305)394-1702. \$

Dave and Sam Raise the Roof

Every year our Officers and **Board of Directors** do their best to come up with a fundraiser that's about more than money. Yes, we are the stewards of the shul. making sure we have what is needed to

daylong communitv enrichment project that was months in the making. That event became one of our most successful fundraisers ever. thanks to a multitude of gener-

culminating in a

take care of all contingencies, whether that means dealing with simultaneous failure of multiple air-conditioning systems (as happened some months ago) or the tackling of a new expansion project when we're bursting at the seams. Last year we had a profound spiritual experience during the repair of our Holocaust Torah,

ous members who embraced the task and then, as they participated, came to deeply feel its meaning. This year, angels from within our community and music lovers from throughout the Kevs joined forces to support another fundraising project. It was clothed as a concert and it raised way more than our bank balance.

or weeks the colorful, cheery caricatures of Sam Weis and Dave Feder peered out from posters on bank, restaurant and gallery front windows. "18 Strings & Attitude" it promised. Two unique and wellrespected guitarists were to play at KJCC!

Concert-chair Linda Kaplan and her committee worked diligently, recruiting Angels and Sponsors, distributing posters and tastetesting dark chocolate-covered strawberries, Kir, Proseco, sushi and triple-crème-brie for

the VIP pre-concert cocktail-party. (Somebody had to do it: thank you, Donna Bolton, premier organizer, plus devoted crew. Susan Ellner, Joyce Peckman, and me.) Thank you Angels, Sponsors, ticket-seller-extraordinaire Renee Salant, and ticket buvers.

The real VIPs, of course, were our artists. Sam Weis and David Feder were busy for weeks preparing, writing and honing new material. How lucky we are to have two highly gifted musicians among us who are also KJCC



Angels and Sponsors (well, many of them) gather for a pre-concert photo in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, nibbling on brie and sushi, enjoying Royal Kirs and building anticipation for the gala concert to come.

members with generous souls. The music was rich, original,

experimental, spiritual, complex, and moving. Sam and Dave, each unique, are artists at the top of their game, unafraid to follow their muse no matter where the inspiration leads. One particular piece, performed and written

by Sam Weis, was 17 minutes long. Not a cough or a whisper or a shuffle of feet was heard in the sanctuary (where 130 people were seated). The bell-like music of Sam's 12 strings mesmerized us, took us on a journey through the great Northwest. over ocean and orchard and let us down gently when it

was over. David added his six strings to the mix at mid-show, and

a whole new concert began. This was not David Feder playing background music for diners. This was song after original song of dynamic rhythmic complexity, joyful noise and then some. We were privileged to hear two

complete concerts and then one fabulous song shared by the two of them that capped off the night. We enioved their delightful patter and magnetic personalities throughout. Both received standing ovations from the audience of KICC members and other lovers of unique artistry.





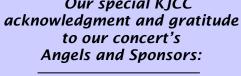
If you missed this, we are sorry. If you loved it and supported KJCC with a ticket purchase or helping hand or extra contribution, we say thank you and hope you loved both the music and all the great refreshments afterwards. One more ovation for Sam and Dave, please! (There

may be a recorded CD in the offing. As each guitar said to the other that night: Stay tuned.)

—Gloria







Angels: Donna Bolton, Susan Ellner, David & Toby Goldfinger, David & Patti Gross, Stan & Jenny Margulies, Linda Pollack, Steve & Barbara Smith, and Anonymous.

Sponsors: Bernard Ginsberg. Joseph & Katherine Shabathai. Steve & Jan Hartz, Joyce Peckman, Roger & Danna Levy.









Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact Renee Salant

reneesam@mac.com (206) 730-8002

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,

Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after April 1. Vegetarian options are available - please request when

making your reservation.



Donations: Adults \$54; Children 12 and under are our guests.

BAGELS OVER BERLIN

good movie that documents an important part of our history (told by the people who lived it, Jewish boys who joined the Army Air Corps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor) makes for a riveting evening. It gets even better when the man who conceived the idea, filmed the interviews and produced the film comes to visit and talk with vou (us) about it. The movie recently won 2nd prize at the Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival. Next stop, Chicago. Alan Feinberg was a delightful and engaging speaker. Kudos to Medina and her Committee and continuing thanks to Michael and Lorena Kaufman for their sponsorship of this year's film festival.



Alan Feinberg (left and below) answers questions from the large, fascinated KJCC crowd gathered for post-movie Q&A. We were amazed when he told us that each of the pilots interviewed was still alive and none was younger than 90 years old. Their stories elicited laughter and also brought us to tears.

ook at these fascinated faces. Many had questions but even more had their own stories and prime source material to share. Alan Feinberg was generous with his answers, entertaining in his delivery and appreciative of the input. We wish him well in Chicago and all his other entries in film festival competitions.

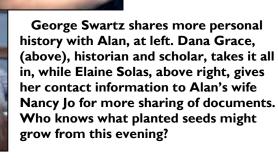


Gunther Karger (below) must be thinking about his own WWII experiences and his escape from Germany via the last train of Jewish children to leave Germany.



New members Jeff and Cheryl

Margulies, above center, and KJCC Financial Secretary Donna Bolton, just above, during Alan's post-film O & A session.



Shabbat Across America

(And then off to Africa with Professor Tudor Parfitt)

by Gloria Avner

In the Rodgers and Hammerstein (both lewish) musical "Sound of Music," the Do Re Me song uses a classic truism for its initial lyrics: "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start." For nearly a decade, KJCC has been celebrating Shabbat Across America at Shabbat's beginning. We invited our ever-larger and more diverse mishpocha to our homeaway-from-home/Social Hall for a big Shabbat dinner with lots of homemade food beautifully displayed on artisti-

cally set tables. We lit candles, sand blessings over wine. said hamotzi over challah, and enjoyed ourselves. When we went into services after singing grace, being thankful for our food (Birkat HaMazon), a good feeling lin-

gered in the air. It's a fact. Under the influence of the National lewish Outreach Program, congregations full of people like us shared the same experience of observance across this continent on the same day, together as one.

This year we did something different. We started near the end. Shabbat is a 25-hour holiday, after all, and we wanted to enjoy it to the



verv last moment. The third iovous meal of Shabbat, Seudah Shlishit, and the day of rest's last hours were to be our focus. We would celebrate our time with our second souls, the very special gift of Shabbat.

knowing that soon we would transition from the sacred back to the secular. In a moving moment, after an extremely delicious and probably most healthy meal we've ever served, we broke into song - let's break into this sentence for a heartfelt thank you to the people who made those wonderful salads (Natalie, Erica, Nettie, and Kathy), roasted vegetables (Jeff), tasty curries (Jane and Glo-



ria), olives (Jim), dishes with rice and craisins, spinach, exotic names, and cauliflower soufflé (Medina, Toby and Yardena) to the best ladyfingers ever (Beth) and cobblers and fruit and knishes oh my, and to all that I've forgotten, so many thanks.

We chanted with vigor the prayer of Grace After Meals, and when that

was over we did not want to stop. We burst into Daveed Melech *Israel*, then morphed into Shalom Chaverim, Hava Na Gila, Tzena, tzena, tzena, and carried on banging rhythm with our hands on tables until breathless, nearly out of oxygen. we accepted the invitation to move on and observe Havdalah

in the darkened sanctuary with Rabbi Agler. It was tender, our leave-taking.

The chanted blessinas over wine and spices and the braided candle symbolic of our connection to

Eating the traditional seudah shlishi, we gathered in both Social Hall and classroom to honor Shabbat Across America before we adjourned to the sanctuary to begin the second part of the full evening: a talk by

> **Professor** Tudor Parfitt on his latest research about emerging Jewish connections to Africa.



Shabbat was over but the evening promised another chapter. Dr. Tudor Parfitt, famed anthropologist, explorer, scholar and preeminent expert on the historical presence of Black Jews in Africa, was about to give us an



inside view on his latest and most surprising current research, the discovery of one more tribal connection between Judaism and Black Africa, a people in the West African State of Luango that he had never heard of, but whom

A special sweetness was added to the evening when Rabbi Agler performed the Havdalah ceremony, We sing, we bless wine, we sniff spices, light our many-wicked candle and say goodbye to Shabbat. Dousing the light in a shissel full of wine, we sing again, wishing each other a good week, a

week, a blessed week, as we re-enter the secular world of the workaday.

had been recognized as important by scholars going all the way back to the Enlightenment. After his talk Dr. Parfitt made the fascinating comment during Q & A that there really

is no such thing as race. Processina that startling statement, we adjourned and walked back to the Social Hall for more eating and drinking, grateful that so

many had turned out to share this unique Shabbat experience with us, sixty for the dinner and nearly eighty for the talk.

It was a wonderful Shabbat. The combination of secular learning with the warm glow of Shabbat still hovering, we re-entered our weekday lives feeling enriched. \$



Africa.

connections to luda-

on March 4th about

ism — speaks at KICC

his ongoing work with

the Luango of western

There was some Q & A for Professor Parfitt in the sanctuary at the end of his talk. (Among his anthropological nuggets, when asked about race, and the irony of Jews so often being referred to as a "race,"

that, scientifically, there really is no such thing as "race.") The questions and discussion continued in the Social Hall afterward over cof-



fee and nosh, as they always do at KJCC. Then again, isn't that what social halls and coffee are for?



At evening's end, Professor Parfitt poses with KJCC Executive Vice President and Ritual Director Gloria Avner, left, and President Beth Hayden, at right.



BBS

PURIM AND PIZZA AND MIZZYOT, OH MY

hen 48 people, including eight children, shout and spin their noisy *groggers* in unison time after time, there is no escaping the fact that something profound is happening in KJCC's Social Hall. (It's also extremely funny when five-year-old Ruby Fink runs from right to left across the "stage" every time Haman's name is mentioned with a sign saying "Boo! Hiss!" while her older brother, an enthusiastically furious Haman, stomps across with her.)

We performed the four mitzvahs asked of us for Purim.

After we greeted and bedecked our members with masks and assorted flowing robes for costumes, Jules Seder led our welldressed children in a rousing rendition of "Oh Once There Was a Wicked, Wicked Man" (with Oshi Gross playing Esther on the very day of her 13th birthday). Beth Hayden, our new pres-

ident. introduced the actual reading with inspiring words from Rabbi Lord Ionathan Sacks. We then took a quick peek at our own

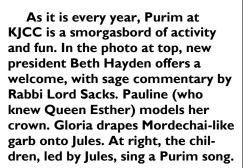
parchment Megillat Esther with the lovely calligraphic crowns over the letters spelling

out the word melech, or king. At last, in our round robin way, we began, after Steve Hartz led us in initial prayers, to take turns reading, and



for the first mitzvah listening - to the gansa (Yiddish for complete) megillah.

We completed the other three mitzvahs required of us as well. We gave tzedakah (charity) by stuffing our blue collection boxes with money, we distributed *mishloach manot* by giving away to lucky winner Lee Schur (who said the day really lifted her spirits) a beautiful basket filled with wine, cheese, fruit, crackers and chocolate, graciously donat-



ed by Renee Salant, and, finally, we celebrated our people's escape from extermination by sharing a joyous meal. Purim and pizza has a nice ring to it. And Maria's homemade vegetable soup with rice could not have been more satisfying.

made hamantaschen (created at KICC the night before see pics), and interspersed them with Nettie Seder's sophisticated. creative ones filled with Brie cheese and pecans or mango jam and coconut. I did not

We ate the children's home-

It's a little hard to see faces, but Medina had taken fun-house-type photos of everyone (on purpose...you know, Purim) and mounted them on display boards. Sam Weis' mask, below, was actually hand-crafted in Vienna. (Austria, not Virginia.)

keep track of liquor consumption, but I trust that at least a few of us drank enough to be a little farshimult (Yiddish for confused) in telling the difference between Haman's words

and Mordechai's. Next year we'll have an evening costume party for adults (with prizes) and a *purimspiel* for everyone, and we'll have a great time all over again. In Mishnah circles. the word is that Purim will be the only holiday we'll celebrate after the Messiah comes.

-Gloria



Purim Continues...

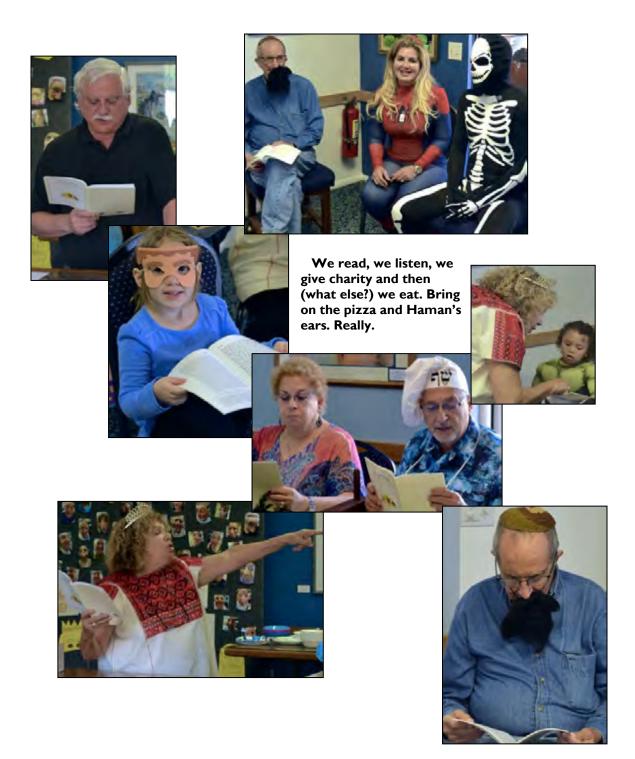




seeding the crowd with cue cards to boo each mention of the evil Haman's name. She did her job

> well, and so did we. (If Bloom's hat was green instead of blue, wouldn't he make a great leprechaun?)





Passover

It's that time of year again. The time when the most Jews celebrate a holiday. The time when the Jewish story gets told to the most people. We have two articles on Pesach for you, one on esoteric info, the other on details of understanding the traditional kosher rules. Chag Sameach.

Passover: Things Your Rabbi Never Told You

by Gloria Avner

Tt's almost time to take out our haggadahs and tell that same old story. It's a wonder-full story, the most important story we have to tell, the story of our freedom and survival against the greatest of odds, including our own intransigence. The acceptance of the Commandments at Mt. Sinai is the Jews' most important defining event. It is also the event by which God self-defines. God does not say "I am the God who created everything that is." God says "I am the Lord that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God."

Still, though we know the story, we love new learning. You might want to share some of the following little-known facts, side stories, and metaphysical insights about Passover at your own seder table. (Much of the American information was gathered from the Tobias Geffen papers of the American Jewish Historical Society, the rest from Talmud Tractate "Pesachim" and discussions with a learned friend.

"The daughters you shall let live" (Exodus 1:16)

When the Egyptians decided to kill the Jewish male babies, women played a huge role in God's plan for Jewish redemption, setting the stage by saving Moses, by keeping our names, our customs, and our family strengths and beliefs intact. It should not be surprising that the most popular haggadah in the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century was arranged, edited and trans lated by a woman. Before feminism, before Maxwell House, there was Lillie Goldsmith Cowen.

Mrs. Philip Cowen, as she preferred to be called, was the wife of the first publisher of the Jewish weekly newspaper "American Hebrew." She worked side by side with him, editing and typesetting until his retirement in 1906. In 1904, she published the Cowen Haggadah, the first mass-produced adaptation of the haggadah in modern American vernacular. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold all over the world and were distributed to American Jewish servicemen in both World Wars.

The grape debate

"I will free you from the hard labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their bondage, I will redeem you with an outstretched arm...I will gather you in to be my people" (Exodus 6:6-7). Wine at the Passover seder is associated with freedom. Slaves, after all, were not permitted to drink wine. In fact, the four cups of wine are associated with four expressions of freedom and redemption.

Ironically, when the Constitution's 18th Amendment went into effect in January 1920, Prohibition threatened to eliminate this important symbol of religious freedom from Jewish ritual life. Jews found themselves embroiled in a battle both with the U.S. government and with each other.

While wine would be permitted for Jews during Passover, the new law required obtaining special government permits to make and,

in some cases. import wine. These permits became a major target for organized crime. Conareaations that existed only on paper applied for permits, a practice that received negative press and became a source of concern for the lewish community.

Reform and Conservative rabbis volunteered to give up their winemaking permits, saying that grape juice could be substituted without violating Jewish

law, making Orthodox rabbis irate. With the end of Prohibition and the rise of Nazism in the 1930s, American Jews once again banded together to face a common enemy.

Passover in the (New Mexican) desert

"Therefore it is our duty to thank, praise, pay tribute, glorify, exalt, honor, extol, bless and acclaim the one who has performed all these miracles for our ancestors and for us."

In February 1918, 25-year-old Jacob "Jack" Yellen found himself far from his New York City home in the high desert of southern New Mexico. Born in Poland and brought to America as a boy, Yellen's aspirations as a Vaudeville producer and lyricist were cut short by World

Prohibition: Good for Sacramental Wine Business

The Volstead Act, which was passed in the year before Prohibition began, granted federal agents permission to investigate and prosecute anyone who violated Prohibition liquor laws. But wines used for sacramental purposes were exempt, which meant that a limited amount of wine could be made at home and in wineries.

To acquire sacramental wine, some people went as far as to pose as priests and rabbis. In 1925, a study found that the demand for sacramental wine in the US increased by 3 million liters (800,000 gal) in a two-year period.



War I. He became a field representative of the lewish Welfare Board for Work and was part of a group of dedicated young men and women around the country providing for the religious and personal needs of tens of thousands of Jewish men being trained to fight the Kaiser's army.

When possible. Yellen held Friday evening services, produced and sang in camp shows, and generally acted as chaplain, counselor and older

brother. His devotion and enthusiasm earned him the respect of the camp's non-lewish officer corps.

When Passover arrived on March 28th, Yellen organized and led a seder for the camp's Jewish soldiers. About 60 enlisted men were present, along with many distinguished guests. Yellen managed to procure candlesticks, mat-



zah. bitter herbs and paschal lamb, all served in a mess hall decorated in blue and white. Grape juice was

substituted for wine.

Officers called upon to speak not only praised the contribution of the Jews to America. but also wished the lewish people well as they worked toward creating a Jewish state. The seder ended with Yellen singing "Hatikvah" and the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Yellen, in collaboration with longtime partner Morton Ager, went on to write such American classics as "Ain't She Sweet" and "Happy Days Are Here Again." His Jewish classic "Yiddishe Mama" sold more than 1 million copies in 1925.

"Those Jews, they take care of their own"

"It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went out of Egypt (Exodus 13:8). For me but not for him - had he been there, he would not have been redeemed."

When the wicked son asks: "What is the purpose of this work to you?" it is clear that he excludes himself from the community.

Involvement in the needs of the community is one of the most powerful defining ideas of what it means to be a good Jew. A century ago, the non-lewish world was in awe of Jewish philanthropic organizations as well as wealthy families and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of impoverished and uneducated Jews. This spirit of giving was best exemplified by the Baron and Baroness de Hirsch.

In 1888, the German Jewish industrialist gave a gift of \$10 million to aid in the education of poor Russian Jews. The world was amazed. Headlines all over America reported the Baron's gift, which was deposited for safekeeping in a London bank. It was called "the second-largest private act of charity in the history of the world."

After the Baron died, his wife Clara continued his legacy. In 1896, she came to another place of dire poverty and gave an equally generous gift of \$10 million to help another group of desperate Jews. That place was New York's Lower East Side.

It's the Real Thing"

The Wise Son, what does he say? According to the famous medieval scholar Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (commonly known as Rashi), the

wise son is wise because he is one who knows how to ask wisely. In the spirit of the wise son. Rabbi Tobias Geffen of Atlanta was a man who knew how to ask wisely.



The formula for Coca-Cola ranks up

there among such great American secrets as Area 51 and the Manhattan Project. Geffen, an Orthodox rabbi who served Atlanta Jewry from 1910 until his death in 1970 at the age of 99, is responsible for Coke being kosher.

Born in Kovno, Lithuania, in 1870 he immigrated to America and became rabbi of a congregation in Canton, Ohio, in 1903. Seven years later he became rabbi of congregation Shearith Israel in Atlanta.

Being a respected rabbi in Atlanta, headquarters of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., he was asked by rabbis from around the country whether or not Coca-Cola was kosher. In the 1930s, it seems, tastes among Jewish youth were changing. The seltzer that pleased the parents no longer satisfied the children. The

rabbi contacted the company to ask for a list of Coke's ingredients.

The year was 1935. At that time, Geffen did not know that Coca-Cola's formula was such a closely guarded secret. Only a few highly placed individuals in the company knew the list of ingredients. After learning more about Geffen, Coca-Cola made a corporate decision to allow him access to the list. He was required to give them his word to never reveal the secret to anyone else. The rabbi agreed.

After investigating a list of ingredients, Geffen determined that one, glycerin, made from animal tallow, was not kosher. Eventually, the company found a vegetable-based substitute.

The formula, however still included traces of grain alcohol. Since anything derived from grains is potentially *chametz*, Coca-Cola could not be certified kosher for Passover even after the formula was changed to include vegetable glycerin. Eventually, Coke's chemists experimented and found that, during the Passover season, they could substitute sweeteners produced from beet and cane sugar without compromising Coke's taste. They agreed to start manufacturing Coke with the new sugars several weeks before Passover each year. This comes to us as Coke in bottles with yellow caps.

Going deeper – Another New Year for the Jews In the mystical realm, there are also a few things our rabbis never told us, things that all Jews may have taken for granted hundreds of years ago, but which may well have been diluted in the Americanization and Reformation



of 20th century Judaism.

Our calendar is unique, the only one to combine both lunar and solar elements as well as incorporating a "leap" factor. It is a spiral, calculated so that each year the same energies are manifested at the same time. Pesach, it is written, has to be in spring. We make sure by adjusting through leap years. Pesach is the time in which the energy of growth, change, and freedom is manifest. If we can tune into that energy of freedom, it is available to us just as it was in the time of the Exodus.

Pesach, this time for reinforcing access to the energy of freedom, has been described in a *midrash* from the *Talmud Pesachim* as "a night of watching for all the children of Israel." Watching. Paying attention. Imagine that you are in a forest in the middle of the night. It is so dark you cannot see your hand in front of your face. You have no way of finding your way out of the forest. And yet, if you are paying attention the whole first night of Pesach, there may be one moment in which the whole sky will be illuminated in a flash of lightning and you could see just enough landmarks to find your way.

Metaphysically speaking, *chametz* – leavening – is analogous to ego. Like leaven it is puffy, it inflates, an artificial thing. We don't want to destroy our egos. They help us to function. Still, while cleaning leaven out of your house, think of putting your ego on the shelf for eight days so you can look within.

Pesach is the perfect time for us to make inner or behavioral change. Each of us has an impediment, some obstacle to our spiritual development. If we can take advantage of the divine energy available to us in the universe. we will be able to free ourselves from that which is holding us back, imprisoning us. If you can identify that something which is standing in your way, this is the time to access help from the universe. It would be an excellent time to start a diet, break an old destructive habit, begin an exercise regime, a time to free yourself of any behavior that does not serve your highest good and that of your familv. community, and the world. Working to liberate ourselves, we work for freedom for all and "tikkun olam." 💠

Kosher for Passover?

by lovce Peckman

To eat or not to eat it - that is the guestion. Matzah - ves. Chametz - no. Chametz is any food product made of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their by-products, which has leavened (risen) or fermented. Ashkenazi tradition has determined that flour from any of these five grains that comes in contact with water or moisture will rise unless fully baked within eighteen minutes. Any food or drink containing these grains - whether bread, cookies, pasta, beer or whiskey - is chametz. The exception is matzah, which is supervised, carefully timed and punctured with tiny holes that prevent trapped air from causing it to rise. Why 18 minutes? Just as water has a boiling point, flour has a fermentation point -



There are a number of icons printed on edibles to signify that they're kosher.

18 minutes. After 18 minutes, the dough created by the mixture of flour and water begins to ferment and rise, creating leavened bread.

Some foods, like fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, fresh fish, fresh meat and poultry, can be eaten with no concern about their chametz content. Some foods, such as pure tea, pure unflavored coffee, sugar,

honey, milk, pure cottage cheese and cream cheese from unopened packages are also fine.

Keep in mind that anyone keeping strictly kosher will look for a Kosher for Passover hechsher (symbol of supervision) on any and all packaged food products used during Passover, including dairy products, sauces, nuts, broths, spices, and even matzah products (not all of them are labeled Kosher for Passover). So look for the OU-P.

Then there is guinoa, which first arrived in

the U.S. from Chile in the 1980s. Quinoa, although it can be used like rice. is not a grass. but rather the seeds of a leafy green plant in the amaranth family, similar to chard or spinach. Thus guinoa is



kosher for Passover. Gluten-free, loaded with protein, calcium and iron, quinoa has become a staple in many kosher homes. Another bonus is that unlike rice and matzah, quinoa is not binding on the digestive tract.

Kitnivot, which translates into "small things." includes rice, corn, millet, dried beans and lentils, peas, green beans, soybeans, peanuts, sesame seeds, poppy seeds and mustard seeds. These have been banned for centuries by Ashkenazi Jews. The origin of the ban is unclear; it's thought that perhaps kitniyot were considered too similar to grains. In Europe they often shared the same storage bags, so it's possible there was concern that chametz might accidentally be mixed in with the kitniyot. Another theory is that *kitniyot* expand when immersed in water, which may have been perceived by the early rabbis as a form of rising or leavening. Whatever the reason, most Ashkenazi lews today stick to the traditional ban on kitniyot, even though the prohibition does not technically appear in the Torah. Most vegetable oils have kitniyot. Only cottonseed, grape seed and olive oil are okay. I didn't realize that corn syrup is used in almost everything until I walked down the supermarket aisles looking for the little OU-P on containers. Coca Cola distributes special soda for Passover, using sugar instead of corn syrup. Try it if you can find it, and you will taste the difference.

Sephardic Jews do eat kitniyot during Passover. Their first course is often vegetable soup or chicken soup with rice rather than matzah ball soup. Since it is tough to be a vegetarian without eating beans and legumes, many vegetarians become Sephardic during Passover. >



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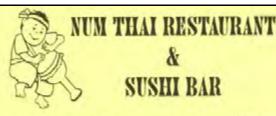
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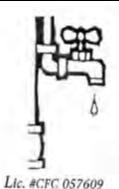


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May 2017

5 lyar - 6 Sivan 5777

Our Sanctuary is Renamed - page 17 Seder Season Report - page 27 Shavuot Section - page 43

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May 2017

5 Iyar - 6 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Yom Hazikaron	2 Yom HaAtzma'ut	3	4	5 Dana Grace Sisterhood	6 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00 a.m.
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting 11	8	9	10	11	12 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg Roy Pollack	13
14 Lag B'Omer Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	Joyce Peckman Medina & Carl Roy	20
21	22	23	Yom Yerushalayim "Six Days in June" film 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Medina Roy Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Nisan	27
28	JFK's 100th birthday	30	31 First Day of Shavuot	June 1st	June 2nd Tikkun Leil Shavuot dinner 6 p.m. Bernie Ginsberg Yizkor	

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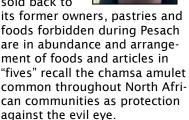
CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the **Keys lewish Community Center** P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha,

Nisan is Pesach time. And what wonderful activities the Kevs lewish Community celebrated during Pesach: the Women's Seder on April 2nd; the First Night Seder at the KICC on April 10th; and the Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on April 11th. All three events were well attended and very successful. The Women's Seder was organized by Erica Lieberman-Garrett, First Night Seder had more than 60 in attendance: KICC's talented cooks provided food that was both bountiful and delicious. Thanks to Susan Ellner and all who assisted in making this such a memorable occasion. The Community Seder on April 11th, managed and coordinated by Sisterhood, also had the largest attendance in years with more than 80 participants. Thanks to Renee Salant and Sam Weis. All Seders presented awards to deserving recipients (see Passover Section). Synergy is the creation of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. KICC's Seders are an apt demonstration of that phenomenon.

In Israel, the end of Pesach is marked by the wonderful Moroccan celebration of Mimouna which has become a popular annual celebration with outdoor parties, picnics and barbeques. Mimouna begins after night fall on the last day of Pesach, chametz is sold back to



On the second night of Pesach Jews enter a period of "counting the omer". We count for 49 days until the festival of Shavuot. This is a period of semi-mourning, however each day counted is an opportunity to prepare spiritually in anticipation of Shavuot - when we celebrate Israel's covenant with HaShem; the giving and acceptance of Torah. lewish mystical tradition holds that not only did Israelites physically present at Mount Sinai at that time agree to receive Torah, but all the souls of all Jews ever to be were present to receive and accept that immense responsibility and commitment.

During the counting of the Omer, the 33rd day for Ashkenazi Jews is Lag B'Omer (for Sephardi Jews, the 34th day is LaD BaOmer). In Israel, Lag B'Omer is celebrated with bonfires and song. For Ashkenazi lews the restrictions imposed throughout the counting of the Omer are lifted on this one day (for Sephardi Jews, the next day) weddings and parties are commonly scheduled for Lag B'Omer. Wishing you good counting and a wonderful Shavuot. Chai-Lights May 2017 **3**



Nosh

A Last Hurrah for Learning

Relax. We're only talking about this season. Rabbi Richard Agler's fall and winter 5777 series of Torah Learning Shabbat morning services will conclude on Saturday morning, May 6th. The service will begin at precisely 10:00 a.m., and will delight, instruct and engage all who attend. Let's make it as big a crowd as we can to show our appreciation for the Jewish enrichment we've received thanks to Rabbi Agler's generosity from Rosh HaShanah onward. We are a very blessed congregation to have a Resident Scholar among us who, month after month, offers us the benefits of his warm and stimulating teaching style, plus insights all regulars say have greatly expanded their understanding of the sacred texts. May we all come together again in the fall to continue our studies.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot - Friday, June 2

Our ancestors nearly slept through the giving of the Torah, after 49 days of walking towards Sinai. It isn't often that we have a chance to correct a mistake made millennia ago. That's why we observe the practice begun by Kabbalists from Safed in the 16th century. We have a study night to keep us awake on the first night of Shavuot. It is called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* and we will celebrate it on Friday night, June 2nd, with a dairy dinner sponsored by Sisterhood, a *Yizkor* service of remembrance along with our regular service and an evening of discussion in an attempt to correct our ancestors' failings.

Tikkun means "repair" or "improve" or "period of study." Leil Shavuot means Night of Shavuot. (Yes, we're a few days off because Shavuot actually begins on May 30th, but it is our KJCC minhag, or custom, to celebrate our holidays on the closest Shabbat, so that the most people possible can participate. For more details, please see the ad on page 10.

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May 5th - Sisterhood

May 12th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg in honor of their shared birthday. Roy Pollack in honor of Maddie's birthday.

May 19th - Medina and Carl Roy in honor of Bianka Kirschenbaum's 102nd birthday.

May 26th - Sisterhood

Jane and Harry's Garden

Take a moment to look in awe at the creation in action happening along our driveway. Bordered by a white picket fence, the burgeoning tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, broccoli and herbs are saying thank you for their tender care in a big way. They are growing huge. And Burton Memorial's Food Pantry patrons will soon have lots of fresh produce to be thankful for. I suspect that KJCC may be the beneficiary of some marvelous salads as well. Thank you for your continued dedication, Jane and Harry Friedman.

BOOK PLATE

in memory of

Ellen L. Coltman

By Barnet Coltman

Six Days in June: the Movie at KJCC

The full title of the film we'll be showing on Wednesday, May 24th, at 7 p.m. in honor of Yom Yerushalayim, Israel's Jerusalem Day, is "Six Days in June: the War that Redefined the Middle East." It's a 2007 documentary that is said to present possibly the most clear and concise account of 1967's Six-Day War. It was shot on location in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Moscow and Washington. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge.

May Birthdays

,	au/s
l st	
2nd	
4th	Laura Leigh Tallent
4th	
5th	Richard Palacino
7th	
7th	
7th	
8th	Kelley Greenman
8th	
9th	
9th	
th	Richard Agler
th	
12th	
12th	
12th	
13th	Rose Marie Gordon
14th	
14th	
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15th	
18th	
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19th	
19th	
21st	Jerry Herson
22nd	
22nd	
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25th	
27th	
27th	
27th	
29th	
29th	
29th	
3 lst	Judy Starr
31st	
31st	
31st	Wes Conklin

May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest	27
I4th	Alan & Chely Markowitz	26
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan	45
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl	58
28th	George & Lori Richardson	6

New Work on Walls

Take time to admire the two new additions to the KJCC "B'reishit" art exhibit. One is in the social hall, a photograph on metal, titled "Pelican

Connection." It won second place in this year's Joe Cella "Bird's in Nature" Art Exhibit. The other is a magnificent por-



trait of sunset, across from the doors of the sanctuary, also a photograph on metal, called "Sunset Awe." Both are on loan from creator Jan Hartz, a photographer whose sensibility has as much of the poet and the painter in it as the photogra-



pher. She's a filmmaker, too, and we are indebted to her as well for our permanent record of the day last year – using short videos but mostly the beautiful photographs taken by Eve Knowles we celebrated our restored Holocaust Torah.

TREE OF LIFE

TREE OF LIFE

in honor of

Dr. David Ehrenreich

By Linda Pollack

in honor of

Estelle Incociati

By Linda Pollack

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 KICC 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 Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 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.

⊗n Memoriam May 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rose Roazen Neil H. Tomor Charles S. Cohn By Sylvia Berman By Barbara A. Calev By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Becky Kanowsky** Sam Hitzig **Emanuel Schafer** By Wes & Rita Conklin By Wes & Rita Conklin By Natalie Dorf <><><> <><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Gertrude Weisberg** Alex Perl Carmel Catanese By Gerri & Frank Emkey By Gerri & Frank Emkey By Jane Friedman <><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Barbara Gould Belle Kirschenbaum** Julie Gorson-Marrow By Janice Gorson By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson By Marilyn Greenbaum <><><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Amalia Kahn Morris Moshe Grossman Yolanda Haviv By Franklin & Judy Greenman By Stuart Grossman By Leo Haviv <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rose Herson **Esther Jacobs** Leo Grossman By Jerry & Barbara Herson By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs By Sam & Leslie Janowitz <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Max Tuchman Cele Rosen Morris Kornbloom By Marshall & Myra Kaplan By Harvey & Joan Kay By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

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In Memoriam May 2017

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Rene Rose

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

By Skip Rose

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Robert Schur

Elaine Beth Silverman

By Lee Schur <><><>>>>

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Rose Wainer

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Ida S. Reider

Phillip Temkin

By George & Muriel Swartz <>>>>>>>>>>

By Robert Temkin <><><><>

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Norma Cutler

Susan Cimkowski

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

By Stephen Steinbock

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Robert W. Singer

Lilyan Sax

By Mary Lee Singer <><><>>>>

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

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Benjamin Weber

Esther Jacobs

By Judith Weber <>><><>>>>

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs

Mishebeyrach List

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

Sisterhood Renee Salant

written by Sam Weis



s I sit at my computer diligently writing the Sisterhood column (punctuated by long periods of staring out at the ocean), it is impossible to ignore a certain uptick in the level of activity in the house. We, like you, are in full-tilt Pesach mode. Of course, by the time this publication is in your hands we will have had many wonderful Passover experiences. Many of us will have shared the sumptuous meal, the copious amounts of wine and the retelling of the Exodus story with our families, with friends and with our KICC family.

Sisterhood began gearing up for Pesach with the 14th Annual Women's Seder. Sisterhood is very grateful to Erica Lieberman-Garrett for chairing the event, and to Gloria Avner, Suzi Feder, Jane Friedman, Susan Gordon, Beth Kaminstein, Marcia Kreitman, Joyce Peckman, Lee Schur and Joan Stark for their exuberance and their efforts. Thank you to all the women of Sisterhood who brought delicious dishes to the Seder. Your talents are a culinary apex, a gastronomer's delight.

A special thank you to Donna Bolton, who braved the grinding of the root to create a powerful and delicious horseradish. The making of Donna's horseradish is important because it allowed us to partake in something one may regard as simple, yet is difficult to locate. When you see it in a jar at the grocery, please read the label and you will find the words "high fructose corn syrup." I think you will agree, this is something none of us care to eat. So, thank you, again, Donna, for bringing us a healthy alternative. The real thing.

Thanks to all of the participants for having an open mind, and a spoon in hand, to try the Sephardic charoset brought by Seattle transplant Sam Weis (yes, me). It's OK to expand our traditions.

One of the highlights of the Women's Seder is when we honor one of our members. We certainly made an excellent choice this

year with Erica Lieberman-Garrett. Does she ever run out of energy? Susan Gor-

don introduced Erica as our Honoree, admitting that she just couldn't say enough about her, so she'd let Erica say it herself. We were then treated to a delightful and tender speech from Erica. I would be hard pressed to think of anyone who has done so much for our organization. Erica has courage, and ruach, and I feel that her speech let us get to know her a lot bet-

The Sisterhood of the KICC takes its tikkun olam responsibilities seriously. The money we raised from the seder and the raffle will be divided equally between The Talia Agler Girls Shelter, The Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of the Florida Kevs, and The KICC Scholarship Fund. We did have a lot of fun with the raffle, too, with several items created by our own members; a beautiful painting by Geri Felder Smith, a Judaica bowl donated by the KJCC Sisterhood Gift Shop, a "Tea Basket" with herbal teas and a tea pot and tea cup from Susan Gordon, a collection of four of her CDs and her novel donated by Sam Weis (yes, me), and a truly lovely painting from Gloria Avner. Our raffle winners were very happy. It was a deeply meaningful seder, enlightening and heartfelt. I am hopeful and confident that all of our seders will be this powerful.

Our Shavuot Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Friday. June 2nd at 6 p.m., but check with President Beth Hayden's weekly announcements. It will certainly be another delightful gathering, with delicious food from Sisterhood.

Remember, you can always sponsor an oneg, even if your special date already has a donor. It is utterly impossible to have too much simchas

Have a beautiful month, in the beautiful Florida Keys. Be well, and keep working for iustice. >

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 at the KJCC on FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017, 6:00 PA

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE

SERVICES at 7:30 with DISCUSSION to follow delicious





hippie.jap@hotmail.com - (305) 393-1162 to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

- No Charge -

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



A Sweet Celebration

Goldenberg's Peanut Chews, the candy bar filled with roasted peanuts wrapped in molasses and coated with dark chocolate, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Mostly distributed in Philadelphia and surrounding states, the snack was introduced by the Goldenberg Candy Company in 1917 as a ration for soldiers in World War I. The company was founded by David Goldenberg, a Romanian immigrant. The Philadelphia-based company was run by the family until 2003, when it was sold to Just Born, the company that makes Peeps. Hot Tamales and Mike and Ikes. (www.forward.com, 3-22-17)

Bulgarian Church Nominated for Nobel

Moshe Aloni, a Bulgarian-Israeli lawyer and head of the Bulgarian-Israeli Cultural Institute, is hoping to find support for the Bulgarian Independent Orthodox Church to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The Bulgarian Church protected the country's Jewish minority during the Holocaust; Aloni nominated it this past January for its bravery and acts of heroism. Even though the Bulgarian government was allied with Nazi Germany, the church voted unanimously to condemn anti-Semitic laws during World War II and resisted the planned deportation of the country's 48,000 Jews to Nazi death camps in Europe. Aloni's nomination of the Church for the Peace Prize specifically mentions two Independent Orthodox clergymen: Metropolitan (Bishop) Stephan, head of the Sofian Church (and the highest ranking Bulgarian Church official during the time of the Holocaust) and Metropolitan Kiril, the head of the Church in Plovdiv (located in south-central Bulgaria). In 2001, the two men were recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem for their opposition to the anti-lewish policies of the Bulgarian regime and for taking active steps against the government's policy of deporting Bulgaria's Jews and/or turning them over to the Germans. According to Yad Vashem, Kiril is said to have saved the 1,500 Jews of Ploydiv by sending a personal telegram to the king pleading for mercy toward them. There is testimony claiming that he threatened to lie across the railway tracks in order to stop the deportation. Moshe Aloni, his contemporary champion, was born in Sofia. He and his family are among those saved by the heroic actions of the Bulgarian Church. (www.ipost.com, 3-13-17)

"A Priority for Germany"

At the end of April, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) bestowed the Elie Wiesel Award, the museum's highest honor, to German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her work "advancing Holocaust awareness." Merkel was noted for her "unwavering commitment to making the preservation of Holocaust memory a priority for Germany." In 2011, Merkel was instrumental in seeing to it that the International Tracing Service, the Germany-based documentation center of Nazi atrocities, opened their archives in spite of the reluctance to do so by the eleven nations that run the service. (You'll remember that this is the international organization run for several years by history professor Rebecca Boehling, Holocaust scholar and KICC member along with husband Mark Lipkus. Rebecca, too, was instrumental in the opening of those archives.) Merkel accepted the award via video from Germany - during the museum's National Tribute Dinner, which took place in Washington, D.C. on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. (www.jta.org, 3 -23-17)

Those Crazy, Inflatable "FlyGuys"

You know those tube-shaped inflatable "dancing guys," waving their arms frantically, designed to catch our attention as we pass shopping plazas and car dealerships? They were designed (well, sort of) by Doron Gazit, a Los Angeles-based Israeli artist. It seems that the origin of these "air dancers" traces back to Caribbean artist Peter Minshall, who conceived of these larger-than-life puppets for the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Minshall's idea was to have their movements resemble Calypso dancers from his native country of Trinidad & Tobago, and hired Gazit to carry out his vision. Apparently in 2001, Gazit applied for a patent and began licensing the use of the "flyguys" (as he calls them) through his company Air Dimensional Desians. Minshall of course was not happy. Gazit claims he tried to contact Minshall several times to no avail, already having put a lot of work into developing the "guys" and claimed several other people were "starting to rip him off." It seems it's a case of "he said. he said."

(www.thejewniverse.com, 1-31-17)

Just a Misunderstanding?

An Amsterdam couple who filed a lawsuit to remove the postcard-sized Holocaust memorial *Stolpersteine* (German for "stumbling stone") in front of their home withdrew their suit after a storm of criticism on social media. The stumbling stones are the creation of German artist Gunter Demnig. He's been traveling across Europe for many years placing these plagues in front of homes where Jews lived before being deported by the Nazis. The stones have brass plagues engraved with the name, dates of birth and death and the name of the camp of the Jewish victim where he/ she was murdered. The purpose of the proiect is to commemorate the victims at the homes from which they were taken. The couple felt that being "confronted" by the stone every day is an "emotional burden," because they themselves have lost a child and that their privacy is affected by people passing by who "intrusively" look at their home. They felt their lawsuit was misunderstood, as they did

not intend to offend anyone. "We are stopping the lawsuit because we are shocked at the way this has been publicized and the misunderstandings that arose...," they said. Amsterdam currently has some 400 of these Stolpersteine stones - part of over 50,000 artifacts (in 18 countries across Europe) installed since 1996, when Demnig began his project. Some 75 percent of the 140,000 Jews who lived in the Netherlands were killed in the Holocaust, the highest death rate in Nazioccupied Western Europe.

(www.dutchnews.nl. 4-3-17)

Is This Fire-Hydrant Free?

The municipal government of Tel Aviv recently launched Digi-Dog, an app for the city's 25,000 dogs (and their human companions). The program was inspired by Tel Aviv's successful 2013 resident card program called "Digi-Tel," a program designed to change the way citizens interact with the city's municipal departments by putting all of the services provided by the municipality in a single place. (Citizens can pay water and municipal tax bills, order parking permits and send photos of potholes or broken park benches to the municipal complaint line. They can locate nearby bike lanes, parking lots, restaurants, etc.) The new app provides lists of nearby veterinarians and dog-walkers, discounts at local businesses, vaccination reminders, and directions to the nearest dog park. (Tel Aviv currently has 70 open to the public and four dog beaches.) The city also started a festival called Kelaviv ("kelev" is the Hebrew word for dog) where one can find a canine massage parlor, an adoption booth and a dog-friendly screening of the movie "The Secret Life of Pets." (By the way....Tel Aviv's dog-to-human ratio is 1 to 17.)

(www.theiewniverse.com, 3-28-17)

The Findings Are a Warning

According to a report recently published in the journal Earth and Planetary Science Letters, scientists have discovered evidence of severe droughts deep below the bed of the Dead Sea dating back more than 100,000 vears. The researchers believe that these findings are a warning of what might happen in the region if climate change predictions come true. The report is based on research by scientists in six countries, including Israel. The study involved the extraction - which took place about six years ago - of sediment cores and long salt cores from a depth of about 1476 feet under the Dead Sea bed (which is almost 3,772 feet from the lake's surface). "The cores were sent to Germany for testing, and using radioactive measures we were able to date the period of each section of the core." said Professor Mordechai Stein of the Geological Survey of Israel and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Stein said that these cores are like time capsules, allowing scientists to study the changes that have taken place in the sea. "The observations show that this region is one of the most influenced by climate changes today," stated Dr. Yael Kiro, one of the authors of the report. The level of the Dead Sea has declined in recent years as a result of human activity, but it is expected to decline even more sharply due to climate change. (www.haaretz.com, 3-31-17)

In Memoriam

* Yevgeny Yevtushenko, acclaimed Russian dissident poet best known for his 1961 poem commemorating the Nazi massacre at Babi Yar, the Ukrainian ravine near Kiev, died on April 1st. He was 84. He died in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he had been a faculty member at the University of Tulsa since the mid-1990s. Yevtushenko grew up in Moscow. Both of his grandfathers died in Stalin's purges of the 1930s. He studied at Moscow's Gorky Institute of World Literature. His poetry was critical of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who ruled the country for 30 years. Yevtushenko published more than 150 collections of poems: he was officially recognized in 1953. after Stalin's death. "Babi Yar" told of the 1941 massacre that killed some 34,000 Jews and exposed the anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Russian authorities had refused to recognize the lewish victims of the Nazis. Yevtushenko wrote the poem after he visited the site of the mass killings and found nothing memorializing the tragedy. (An official

memorial to Soviet citizens shot at Babi Yar was erected in 1976.) "Babi Yar" was set to music by Dmitri Shostakovich in his Symphony No. 13. He later became a member of the Soviet Union's first freely elected parliament. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 4-3-17)

* Don Rickles, actor and comedian famous for the art of insult comedy, earning him the nickname "Mr. Warmth," died in early April. He was 90. In his nightclub act and on late-night TV. Rickles would find "victims" in the audience to harass over their weight. dress or ethnicity, mostly without causing any real offense. (To an Asian man sitting in the front row of one of his shows he said, "There are 40 million Jews here in Los Angeles; how did you get such a good seat?") Rickles was also a serious actor, having studied at the famed American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He had roles in several memorable films -"Kelly's Heroes," "Run Silent, Run Deep," and "Casino," to name a few. Don Rickles was born in Jackson Heights (Borough of Queens), New York. His father had immigrated to the United States as a child from Kaunas in Lithuania. His mother, born in New York, was the daughter of lewish immigrants. Rickles served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Frank Sinatra spotted him at a Miami club in the 50s and helped to make him a headliner in Las Vegas. (Frank and entourage walked in. Rickles saw him and said "make yourself comfortable, Frank; hit somebody." The entourage gasped. Frank burst out laughing. A career was born.) Rickles first appeared on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" in 1965 and would return as a quest some 100 times. He continued performing till the end of his life. (www.ita.ora, 4-6-17)

★ Ingeborg Syllm-Rapoport, German neonatologist who passed her doctoral exam in May, 2015 – almost 80 years after she was denied the opportunity by the Nazis – died at the end of March. She was 104. (Her story was reported in an earlier issue of *Chai-Lights*. She had completed her thesis on diphtheria in 1938 but was refused entrance to the oral exam by the Nazi authorities because her mother was Jewish.) (www.jta.org, 3-27-17) ◆

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	In Honor of	Horn, Dorothy	Anna Horn
Begam, Delores	pray for us, please	Tallent, Lillian D.	Ida Tallent
Grobman, Marc	holiday open door		
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Beth Hayden	Blum, Laurie	Janet Blum
	becoming president	Boruszak, Joan	Baruch Epstein
Steinberg, Lei Lane	Joel Cohen's	Sheinker, Miltra	Warren J. Sheinker
	granddaughter	Smith, Stuart & Geri	Morris Smith
		Smith, Stuart & Geri	Claire Smith
Meditation Garden	In Memory of	Temkin, Robert	Anne Temkin
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Bea Avner	Wohl, Joan P.	Dr. Milton A. Wohl
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Ellen Bloom		
		Book Plate	In Memory of
Sunshine Committee		Coltman, Barnet	Ellen L. Coltman
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Get Well wishes		
	-Lee Schur	Leaf on the Tree of Life	In Honor of
Yahrzeits		Pollack, Linda	Dr. David Ehrenreich
Horn, Dorothy	Ida Ratchik	Pollack, Linda	Estelle Incociati

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 plagues. Each plague is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both vahrzeit 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.

KJCC Religious School News

by Morah Reba (Randy) Klein-Gross



around a beautifully set table, saying the blessings, asking the four questions, telling our story, singing the songs and talking about freedom and all that makes a seder most meaningful. The food was delicious.

savta Jules and Nettie Seder sitting

the children joyfully rambunctious, and good memories were stored away for the future. >

filled with creativity and teachings from our elders. One Sunday, we invited Jules Seder and

Bernie Ginsberg to teach the kids about Torah and trope. Trope is not easy to master, even as adults. We practiced some of the basic tropes, discussed their roots and read the Torah. We also practiced the prayers for Aliyahs. All of these little lessons help create the future of Bar Mitzvah training into a reality.

The kids also created *seder* plates for the KJCC School Family Seder. They will

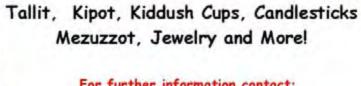


be used and cherished. On the night of the School Seder, we had all the family members of our school children, Principal Susan Gordon, and our wonderful substitute grandparents. *saba* and









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

The Naming of Our KJCC Sanctuary

The Margulies Family Sanctuary

Stanley and Jenny

by Gloria Avner

special announcement was made at the Community Seder this year and eighty seder participants broke into spontaneous applause. We want to share this

announcement with all who were not with us that night as well.

Our synagogue has with a generous gift that will help en-

been honored

sure the financial health and stability of the Keys Jewish Community Center for years to come. In the very near future, when you come to services or a dinner, look up as you enter through the double sanctuary doors. There will be a plaque there and a second above the Aron Kodesh.

Stan's philanthropy and generosity to Jewish causes is not something new. Nor is his commitment to KICC. Stan's whole life, from his college days onwards, has continuously stressed the theme of giving back. His deep. lifelong commitment to the State of Israel began while he was still in college, working for pro-Israel politicians. Later, in 1967, Stan took a tour of the Middle East: Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Stan was arrested in Damascus. Syria for visiting the Great Synagogue. He was interrogated for five hours. His lewish commitment never wavered. During the tour, the last country visited was Israel. The day after Stan left Israel, the Six-Day War broke out. For Stan this was an epiphany - it wasn't the Arabs against the Israelis or the Arabs against the Jews; it was the world against the lews.

Nor is Stan's philanthropy limited to lewish causes. He established an Innovation Endowment Fund some years ago at his alma mater. Johns Hopkins Medical School, in Baltimore. As he explained: "Much of what I've done and can do is a result of what I acquired at Hopkins. I feel responsible to give back,

and this

comes from

the heart is a

my heart." Giving from

thread wo-

ven through

Stanley and

In addition

Jenny's lives.

Named in Honor of their Support and Generosity To Help Assure the Future of the KJCC. January 2017

to their aift to KJCC, Stan has also set up endowments to benefit two other Jewish organizations dear to his heart: AIPAC and the lewish Federation of Broward County. Nor will this be the first

important gift from Stan to the to KICC. Every important fundraiser includes the name Margulies among its donors. Stan and Ienny were particularly supportive when we undertook the complex project last year to rededicate our Holocaust Torah from



Stan Margulies enjoying this store and re- year's KJCC Community Seder on the second night of Passover, in a photo taken by Richard Knowles.

Susice, Czechoslovakia, ending up as the largest donor.

Stan and Jenny have been with world leaders such as Ronald Reagan and Hillary Clinton. President Reagan offered him a membership role for the then-upcoming Holocaust Council in Washington, D.C. Also, Stan had counted Elie Wiesel as a long-time friend; sometimes they even traveled together.

As we sat together in the KICC office one Shabbat eve. I asked Stan to tell me what was in his mind. what was his intention, when he decided to make this lifesustaining gift to us, to this little KICC mishpocha in the tiny town of Tavernier.

Florida, where there had never been a Jewish house of worship before KJCC was founded in the early 80s. This is what Stan said as he looked me in the eye: "I thank God for all the great things He has done for Judaism and for all of us; I see the Keys JCC as being important for all Jews in the Keys, and when there is anything Jenny and I can do to support it, we will. I want to thank you and all those who have been working for the Keys JCC, for the wonderful things you have done. Keep up our survival. Keep up Judaism. Keep up our belief in God." And then Stan said, "thank you."

When I asked Stan about his first experi-



In the photo above, Stan and Jenny sit at dinner with author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel (far left) and his wife Marion (far right.) In the photo below, from this year's KJCC Community Seder, Stan and Jenny were joined at their table by Adam and Judy Starr (standing beside Jenny) plus Stan's daughter Robin Juenger and his two granddaughters, Emmy (at left) and Lila.

ence with the KJCC, he described a visit in the late 1980s with his cousin, then Israel's Deputy Minister of Defense, who gave a 15-minute talk to our congregation on the importance of Israel to American Jews. I also asked Jenny about her first experience at the KJCC. She remembered a warm and smiling welcome by Joan Boruszak – a welcome that made them feel part of the KJCC *mishpocha*.

Dear Stan and Jenny: we are the ones who want to say "thank you," and like you, our gratitude comes straight from the heart. We promise to be good stewards of your gift. Generations to come will see your names and gratefully offer thanks to you as well. \

Doing Good Under Water

Rabbí Ed and His Scubi Jew Dive Club Visit KICC

t's been far too long, but our old friends from Eckerd College Hillel's Scubi Jew Dive Club joined us again after an absence of almost a year. Since 2011, 12 groups of Scubi Jew students have come to Kev Largo to volunteer with the Coral Restoration Foundation and called the KICC their home away from home. This year, seven students and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal came back, but for a different type of dive experience.

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

This year's group of Hillel college students volunteered with an organization called "Diveheart," which teaches and facilitates scu-

ba diving for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Diveheart's mission is "to build confidence, independence and selfesteem in the lives of children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba diving, scuba therapy and related activities." They focus on abilities, not disabilities, to instill the "can do" spirit in their participants. It is Diveheart's hope to inspire participants to take on challenges that

before might have seemed impossible to them. This was the first time that Scubi Jew has worked with Diveheart, but we are certain it will not be the last. While so many college students come to Florida for spring break to party, these student came to Key Largo to do some serious good.

In total, the students each underwent 54 hours of training to receive their adaptive

buddy certification before the trip. They learned the skills necessary to be safe and effective dive buddies to adaptive divers, but the preparation also included extensive empathy training. The students had to actually experience what it is like to dive "blind" and as a paraplegic, amputee and quadriplegic. The training was intense and sometimes scary, but always rewarding.

Our group arrived at the KICC just in time for Havdalah at sundown on Saturday and then joined the congregation to watch the movie "No Place on Earth." After that, however, it was nothing but work. After another full day of open-water dives to complete their adaptive buddy certification, the students

met their adaptive buddies and the rest of the Diveheart staff. There were five adaptive divers from Orlando, Deerfield Beach, Chicago and Denver. Under ordinary circumstances, scuba diving is a very bonding experience. Experiencing the wonders of the underwater world, and knowing that your buddy's life is in your hands when vou're underwater. brings people closer together. The Di-



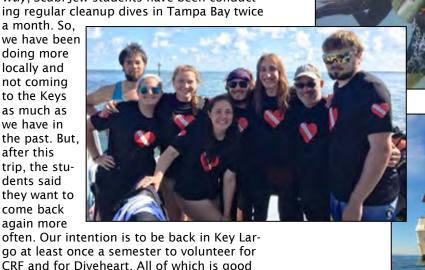
One Scubi Jew helps his (or her) adaptive dive buddy experience the awe of diving.

veheart is that same experience . . . on steroids. It was intense. It was terrifying. It was beautiful. It was life changing.

Scubi Jew Update: Sorry we haven't been down to the KICC since last year, but a lot has happened for Scubi Jew. This year we received the donation of a boat. Her name is Ally's Way and she is dedicated to the memory of an amazing Eckerd College student named Ally Willen who was tragically killed in a hiking accident in New Zealand two years ago. Ally was a passionate environmentalist and received her scuba certification through Scubi Jew. With the addition of Ally's Way. Scubi Jew students have been conduct-

news, because we love staying at the KJCC. >

a month. So, we have been doing more locally and not coming to the Kevs as much as we have in the past. But, after this trip, the students said they want to come back again more



Rabbi Ed's Scubi Jew Pre-Havdalah D'var

A rabbi named Avraham Twersky was sitting in his dentist's office when a nature magazine caught his eye. It had an article about lobsters and how they grow.

Human skeletons are inside our bodies, supporting us. They grow as we grow. A lobster's is outside - a hard exoskeleton designed to protect the soft body while it grows. That hard outer shell cannot expand. When the lobster within gets too big to be contained by that shell, he or she swims to a sheltered place. The pressure of his/her body on the exoskeleton cracks it open. Once it breaks fully, the lobster slips out and moves to a protective, narrow, hidden spot. He (or she) stays there until a new (though softer) shell forms, which will soon become hard and which the lobster will eventually outgrow and crack open again. And again. Now comes the "aha" moment. In his report on the article about lobsters, Rabbi Twersky makes a metaphorical connection between lobsters and soft-skinned humans. When we are uncomfortable and under pressure, we may long for the stress to go away. We don't want to crack open and be unprotected, but it is exactly this moment of discomfort and pressure that allows us to grow from within. Without pressure and discomfort we would never expand beyond old limitations.

So here's Rabbi Twersky's lobster lesson: Be grateful for everything that comes to you. especially stress, pressure and difficult challenges. As our parents used to say in unwanted moments: "it's for your own good."

Photo Gallery

Once again this year, KJCC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal (far right, above) and his Eckerd College Hillel Scubi Jews visited the Keys to do important marine work and stayed at KJCC.

They arrived on Saturday, March 25th just in time for Havdalah, which Rabbi Ed then led, shown in the three photos at top. (Please see the article about Rabbi Ed and his students on pg. 19.)





April 01, 2017 - Captain's Table Captain Kostantinos Nestoroudis

The three photos at bottom are from a late March cruise taken by KJCC members Gunther and Shirley Karger. Most of you will recognize the familiar Captain's table photo plus a shot of Shirley shopping ashore.

On the last day of March, a special service was held, led by the students in Yardena's Shabbat class (where they focus on learning to read Hebrew by studying the prayers in the Siddur). They were proud and enthusiastic about what they had learned and appreciative about their teacher.



Lee Schur, Susan Ellner, Donna Bolton, Art Itkin, Steve Steinbock and Jane Friedman all played their parts well. In the top photo they are leading Aleinu with oneg sponsors Nettie and Jules Seder, at right, Toby and Joel Bofshever, below right, and

Cheryl and Jeff Margulies, next to the Torahs in the top photo.



After the service, happy students and anniversary celebrants joined forces for cake cutting, catching up with old friends and schmoozing. This may have been our largest

erev Shabbat service of the winter (without a dinner). The Social Hall was full of friends and family members. We were, as usual, grateful for all of Jane's wonderful cooking (and Maria's as well - shown above right with son Binyamin).

After their service, the prayers continued as Steve Steinbock and Yardena Kamely (at right) led the happy crowd in the Kiddush. Jane's son Harry Friedman, in Ramen shirt below right, led HaMotzi, and on we went towards food sampling.



Lee Schur, at right, free of her neck brace at last, celebrated her birthday with cocelebrant Jane Friedman. Blow out the candles. Make good wishes. Long life, good life.



It's always a pleasure to see this happy couple, Muriel and George Swartz, at right, at any KJCC event.







In the photo at left, Nyan Feder, soon to graduate from Florida State, plays at this year's Bay Jam, whose impresario just happens to be his father Dave. (Yes, that really is Nyan, if you haven't seen him for a while.)

The oneg on April 7th had two cosponsors: Stuart and Geri Smith, at right,

celebrating their 52nd anniversary, and Gene and Mort Silverman, celebrating Gene's birthday. (It was an ice cream cake, hence the need for the big knife.)



Saturday morning, April 8th, was Shabbat Gadol, the important Shabbat before Pesach. It was also that month's Torah Learning service

offered to KJCC by Rabbi Richard Agler.

Jules and Nettie Win 2017 Joel Cohen Award

Every year a special award is presented to the person (or people) who most embody the values of our Keys Jewish Community Center, people who volunteer, who are present when things need doing, who have shown their commitment over a number of years, who take initiative, support various projects, donate their skills and talents, and enrich us all with both their contributions and presence. This year's winners were Jules and Nettie Seder, safta and saba

Cinda Pollack

to our schoolchildren and so much more, quietly, behind the scenes. Mazel tov!! They were surprised. They cried. They were the unanimous choice of the voters, previous loel Cohen award winners.



We abound with winners this month. Below are the justcompleted, customdesigned banners with our 2016 and

2017 Women's Seder honorees, Jane Friedman and Erica Lieberman-Garrett. The banners were created and handmade by Marcia Kreitman and Gloria Avner.

Linda Pollack was surprised at the **Second Seder with** a plaque honoring her twenty years of

service to KJCC as our treasurer and so much more. Gerry Emkey, at far right, brought home an award, too. Her team, Save Our Sisters, won a major Dragon Boat race — all competitors are breast cancer survivors — in Miami.





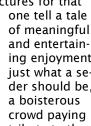
KJCC'S SEASON OF SEDERS



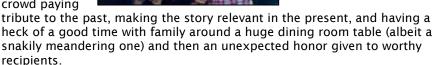
he magic number this year was four. We're not talking about the four questions here, the core preamble to our annual telling of what possibly is the greatest story ever told. This particular four is about the number of seders held under KICC auspices this year. First came the Women's Seder (the pictures are worth more than 1000 words). You will read all about it, in the Sisterhood Column and in this Passover section.

Then came our Sunday School's Family Seder in the school room on the Friday before the actual first seder. You can read about that, too, on the KICC Religious School News page. The third seder was our very own First-Night-of-

Pesach Haimische Seder, held in our filled-to-capacity-and-beyond Social Hall. The pictures for that







And how does it end? What is the fourth seder about? It was the traditional Passover Second Night Community Seder (confused yet?), the only one where we do not cook or bring the food ourselves. The second-night seder, as celebrated by KJCC at the Islamorada Fishing Club, is the one that is as much

about community service as the retelling of the story of our people's passage from slavery to freedom. See the photos and the stories about honors bestowed. There are even photo pages of some of us far away, happy KJCC-connected people, happy to be at other seders. Enjoy the reprise and the delighted faces. >



ON HER 14TH BIRTHDAY: Welcome to the KJCC Women's Seder

nce upon a time an unusual baby was born – a brand new take on a 3,000-year-old tradition. She was treasured and nurtured by many different women. They brought her to life, sustained her, and every year they gathered to drink wine, tell stories, eat delicious food, make pottery, and celebrate her. She

loved her moms' creative projects and the moms supported her first steps into advocacy of





world repair (tikkun olam). In turn, she celebrated these women - a different one of her "moms" every year.

Last year the Women's Seder had her 13th birthday. Bat Mitzvah

time. Those of us sitting in the back of the sanctuary the day the baby was conceived remember both excitement and antagonism. We have seen many

changes and much growth, especially in the depth of relationships between the women of





KICC and in the connection with their friends in the larger community. Who knows what future changes will evolve. It's been a joy for 14 years. Stay tuned there may be a cookbook in the works.

Join us in this year's journey. Look at the diversity of people sharing the good words, the singing and the food. Marvel

at the "tablecloth" inspired by Muriel Swartz's witnessing of artist Judy Chicago's work (made

manifest here by artist and seamstress Marcia Kreitman, adding textiles with names of new attendees over the past eight cycles). Note that we have caught up with our beautiful honoree banners for last year's honoree, Jane Freidman and this year's, Eri-

ca Lieberman-Garrett. (Note the distinctive

"hippie-style" lettering created just for Erica by Marcia.) Read Joyce Peckman's tribute to this year's honoree from history. Finally, be witness to Erica's speech as she accepts her honor as the KJCC Women's Seder's "Woman of the Year." 💠





that are meaningful to her. Looking at the cloth from end to end is like taking a walk among good friends, some of whom are no longer with us.

Women's Seder (cont.):

Joyce Peckman, below, tells the story of Fanny Von Arnstein, the 18th century salonnière who was the historic honoree

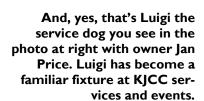
at this year's event. (Please see the separate article on page 32.)







Joyce had a busy and fulfilling night. At left she holds the painting she won in the raffle, an original oil by Geri Felder Smith.





Our Honoree from History:

Fanny Von Arnstein and the Salonnières

by Joyce Peckman

rica has long understood the value of people coming together around a meal, skillfully implementing Bernie's innovative commitment to shared monthly community dinners. We are extremely grateful to her for the social atmosphere she has helped to create here. In this room, we take for granted the notion of an egalitarian society, where men and women of different backgrounds and economic classes can gather and talk and enjoy cultural events together. But that is a modern concept. Before there were universities, women's suffrage, and concert halls for everyone to hear beautiful music, there were the salons.

From the late 18th century into the 20th, some Jewish women in Europe, and later in America, turned their drawing rooms into salons that shaped culture and politics and helped to create the modern world. Education has always been a Jewish virtue. Because most young Jewish women were not educated in traditional Jewish texts, they were often taught foreign languages and music. Because Jews were outside of the regular European social circles, their lewish homes were free from the normal social conventions. Their education and language skills helped them create a comfortable international atmosphere in their homes. Writers, artists and politicians of different classes could mingle and speak freely. These women fostered careers, spearheaded new art movements, protected and promoted controversial modernist works, encouraged new cultural movements and advanced social change, yet few people in America know their names.

Fanny von Arnstein was the outstanding salonnière of her time in Vienna. Born in Berlin on November 29, 1758, Fannv was the eighth child of the banker Daniel Itzig, who was court financier to King Frederick II of Prussia. In 1776 she was married to the Viennese banker and merchant. Nathan Adam Arnstein. During this



time, almost all Jews in the Empire were subject to heavy taxes and legal disabilities: they could not enter the professions or own real estate. Yet a small group of "tolerated" lews who lived in Vienna managed to win for themselves extraordinary privileges. Aware of her social responsibility as a wealthy woman, Fanny supported countless charities. She was a patroness of music, arts and literature. Her social talents created a very pleasant atmosphere in her Viennese salon, where guests from different ranks of society met and talked. Fanny, a gifted pianist, welcomed Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven to her musical evenings. The high esteem in which she was held contributed much to the growing acceptance of Jews in the high society circles of Vienna.

It was not all music. During the Napoleonic Wars (1805–1815). Fanny Arnstein and her daughter worked tirelessly for the sick and wounded soldiers. During The Congress of Vienna in 1814-1815, which reorganized Europe after the war, her salon became "the place to be," and diplomats from all over Europe were among her guests. So tonight we honor Fanny von Arnstein and the lewish women whose social talents helped usher in the modern age. >

ERICA LIEBERMAN-GARRETT -WOMAN OF THE YEAR

am honored to be here with you tonight, and I thank Susan Gordon for the lovely introduction. Susan told me that she wanted me to talk about myself: I said, sure! I won a public speaking contest in grade six, talking about my family, so I'll start there.

I was born in Toronto, Canada, to Max and Maxine Lieberman. My parents were very young when they married, and my mom had me at age 20. I was the first of her five children, and it was a miracle she had more after me -- I weighed over ten pounds. I have three sisters and a brother. We grew up in a modest suburb of Toronto called Bathurst Manor, with traditional Friday night dinners, homemade challah and matzah ball soup. My mom used to tell me I better learn how to clean a chicken and deal with the pippick! She would say, "It all washes off with soap and water," That was the beginning of my love for being

in the kitchen, which eventually led me to our KJCC Sisterhood.

I was fortunate to grow up having both my Lieberman and Kornbloom grandparents well

joyed the options of the shul's classes while I lived in Toronto.

I was diagnosed with a major scoliosis at age 16, and was advised to have spinal surgery. I chose not to do that: instead I found chiropractic and alternative healing options to help my



condition, and this became my lifelong career.

I moved to Miami Beach in 1992 after meeting my husband, Captain Ron, while visiting my grandparents. We were married in 1994, and raised his two wonderful children. We moved to Destin, Florida, for a few years, but we ended up in the Keys in 1996, when I opened my practice and wellness center in Tavernier. Next year will mark my career's 35th year. In the past 21

> years in the Keys I have taught water exercise, voga and meditation to many in

our community. This led me to meet Gloria Avner, who invited me to attend my first Women's Seder, in 2008. I then joined her at the Sisterhood meeting and have been involved in the KJCC ever since.

As I look around at all my friends and sisters who have become my Keys family and KICC mishpocha, I feel such love and joy to be connected to all of you, to have shared in so many blessed events, to have been the Sisterhood president, and to be part of this wonderful community. I know that we will share many future simchas. Thank you all for bringing me this moment. I am very grateful for this honor. >



into my 20s. Their influence and commitment to Judaism set me on my path. I went to Hebrew school three days a week at Beth Emeth Synagogue until my bat mitzvah. I was always interested in learning and studying and en-

FIRST SEDER AT KJCC A NEW TRADITION. A NEW SUCCESS.

or the third year in a row, KJCC held its own first-night seder for Pesach. We've taken to calling it our haimische seder because that is what it is – homey. Apparently people like it that way. First night is traditionally for families and that is who we have become to each other. The room was filled to bursting and yet we felt we were at the family dining table in the very large dining room, thanks to the efforts of

the gang of ten who came that morning to set up. There was drumming to accompany the songs (thank you, drummeister Rick Wolfe), a graphic demonstration of the plague of hail the Egyptians suffered (okay, so they were really ping pong balls – extra credit for creativity to Donna Bolton, who brought them and delighted the children when she began to fling them about the room) and lots of homemade, delicious food thanks to the organizational efforts of coordinator supreme – Susan

A large contingent of Susan Ellner's family was on hand for the first-night seder at KJCC. Her grandchildren, together with a little vocal help from Susan, led all present in a musical recitation of the Four Questions.





In the symbolic Pesach washing of hands on behalf of all, Susan Gordon pours water on the hands of seder leader Beth Hayden. Susan Ellner, the founder of KJCC's new first seder, is at lower right.

Ellner - and the many contributing cooks who brought their best dishes. (Everyone brought their own wine.) The



feast, including many vegetarian options, was arrayed buffet-style. Medina Roy became self-designated jokester, adding occasional commentary from a comic writer's take on seders as Beth Hayden, Sam Vinicur and Susan Gor-

don led a meaningful, tuneful, and humorladen seder.

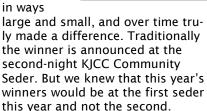
The high point of the evening, though, came just after dinner, before the seder resumed. It was time for

Rick Wolfe, at right, offered tympanic accompaniment to the seder songs.



the presentation of our synagoque's highest honor - the annual Joel Cohen Fellowship Award. Each year the previous winners decide the newest winner, or winners. Nominations are taken, and then there's a spirited discussion of how, and how much, the candidates have contributed to the culture and health and inner bonds

of KICC. No one is given the award for one act. or one idea. The goal is always to recognize who has been there, and participated, and contributed



The selection this year was easy, the vote unanimous. The winners of the 2017 Joel Cohen Fellowship Award are Jules and Nettie Seder. We offer them our

congratulations and deep appreciation. >



Almost 70 people attended KJCC's potluck first-night seder. Tables meandered around our social hall like a winning hand of dominoes. At the end of the evening, all previous loel Cohen Award winners who were still there posed with our newest winners, Jules and Nettie Seder. (No, their name got them no extra votes.) It was wonderful to get a visit from past-president (and former Joel Cohen winner) Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake, left with Medina, who to our delight were making a Pesach return to the Keys.

KJCC SECOND SEDER

enee Salant coordinated the KJCC Community Second Seder this year, and with the help of her team and Vinnie, the Islamorada Fishing Club head organizer, she did a wonderful job. Everyone loved the placecards designed by Sam Weis. Seder officiants Beth Hayden, Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon, were grateful for Sam Weis's set up

system. Gene Silverman helped in preparing the room as well as contributing charoset, Rosemary **Barefoot** greeted our quests at the door, Steve Hartz gave us the opportunity to

of the sound

sing Hallel in mini-version, and Steve Steinbock traveled well with the microphone to make sure every table could take part in the reading,

Eighty people were welcomed, and how wonderful it was that we had so many children taking part. Some were children and grandchildren of

our members (like Stan and Jenny Margulies' visiting family). Others were passing through.

This year, we had three different Jewish families on vacation with children among us. They were grateful to have a Jewish community to be among. They loved being part of our seder, and their children's visible excitement enriched all of us. Take a good look at Richard Knowles' photos of the climactic *afi*-



The three leaders of the KJCC second seder are above, from I-r: Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon and Beth Hayden. The woman in the gas mask at left is Renee Salant, who not only managed the seder, she also made a whole lot of horseradish from scratch. (The raw root is what she's holding. If it tasted incredibly fresh, now you know why. Who loves ya?)

komen moment. The expressions are priceless. Memories are being made that will be woven into their adult Jewish souls.

Passover is the one major Jewish Holiday that is not held in a Synagogue

nor led by professionals. It is homemade. We are guided by our

Haggadahs, our KJCC "minhag" (or customs), and our hearts. Of all the holidays we celebrate, more Jews around the world want to be around the big Passover



family table than at any other event we celebrate. We bless our ritual foods, ask our questions, tell our story, sing our thanks, get sen-

sorally visceral with our pinkies dipped in wine as we recite the ten plagues, we eat, we sing some more, drink lots of wine, and resolve to do it all again next year. Maybe that will be the year Elijah comes. If we



don't do it all again, who will remember our story and how grateful we are to be here, a free people with a complex history and obliga-

> tion to work towards justice and freedom for others as well as ourselves. >







Our deepest appreciation to Richard Knowles of Barbara Knowles Photography for all the photos you see here of the KJCC Second Seder report.



Other Seders In Other Places Shared by KJCC Mishpocha...

Among the 60 people at the Feder/ Kaminstein annual seder-by-the-sea were a notable crowd from KJCC. It was good to see the Levy sisters back in the fold, along with a great selection of mothers, aunts, cousins and ba-

bies. We got to eat schmear matzoh and see Nat Werthamer (below) hide herself on the way to finding the afikomen.





Rabbi Ed Rosenthal sent us the photo at top, of his Eckerd College Hillel seder. (A number of those at this table had just been

at KJCC while getting their openwater adaptive dive buddy certifications. At immediate right is a seder photo sent by Linda

Pollack. Skip is at far left, and Linda's sister Lani is at far right.



alone and the other, at left, with Joe. (It was Cooper who insisted on wearing the fez that Jews living in **Arabic countries** often wore. Joe grew

up in Aden, and someone in his family actually made this and other fez kipot.



The photo at left is from the annual seder held at St. Columba Episcopal Church in Marathon. KJCC members attending were Judy Greenman, Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis. Above is the New Jersey seder of Joyce Peckman's family. That's son Keith as Pharaoh.

Shavuot

What is it and what do we need to know about it? Rabbis teach us that it is actually the giving of the Torah that matters. The entire holiday is referred to as the time of the giving of the Torah. We are said to receive it every day: we are constantly in the process of receiving it. But this is the one time it was given, a moment to always be celebrated. Passover may have freed us from physical bondage, but the giving of the Torah seven weeks later freed us from bondage to idolatry and spiritual darkness.

Shavuot, which translates literally as "weeks," did not receive much attention in the ancient rabbinic literature. No tractate about it appears in the Talmud. All of its laws are contained in one paragraph of the Shulchan Arukh. This is interesting, since Shavuot is one of the three mandated pilgrimage festivals, along with Pesach and Sukkot, when healthy males — women were often exempted, because it was believed they had more important things to do at home — were expected to travel to Jerusalem to bring crop offerings to the Temple. But today, what we like to think of as modern times, there are many aspects to the celebration of this holiday. It might have begun as strictly an agricultural observation, but today it is infused with many levels of significance, especially because it is believed to be the exact moment when, with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the ragtag wandering Hebrews, so recently slaves in Egypt, at that moment became the nation of Israel, soon to be a major and continuous player in world history.

Omer Counting, the 49-Day Walk to Sinai, and Polishing Our "Rocks" to be Worthy of Torah

by Gloria Avner

An old friend of mine, and the synagogue's, gifted me with a small book ten 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 lewish 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 (reinforced by Rabbi Agler in his Shabbat Gadol learning service last month) that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon which our life as a people is built. The process of receiving the Torah—"instruction" actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called "Sefirat Ha'Omer," the Counting of the Omer.

Ancient Israel's economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the "waves" of grain were offered up every day from Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn't. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing everdeeper layers of meaning.

Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is mida (plural: midot): it is the same word that is used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn't our language wonderful?

The word s'fira (plural: s'firot) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the "counting" definition, but listen to what the famous 16th century Kabbalist RaMak said: "Sefirah means both 'mispar,' or number, and 'sipur,' as in story-telling. A third root is

'sapir,' 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 emo-

tions and qualities, known in plural as sefirot. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine."

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

Chesed: Lovingkindness, benevolence:

Gevurah: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;

Tiferet: Beauty and harmony; compassion;

Netzach: Endurance; fortitude, ambition:

> Hod: Humility, splendor: Yesod: Bonding, foundation;

Malchut: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these midot/sefirot.

Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of the week is represented by an aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days. again with each of the sefirot listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for example, we would focus on chesed b'chesed--lovingkindness in lovingkindness. On Day Two of Week One, we focus on g'vura she'b'chesed—the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the focus is tiferet she'b'chesed—harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the *Omer*, we take opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days' walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much

We are talking

about Iudaism. We

take the physical

and through it

reveal the meta-

physical, unearthing

ever-deeper layers

more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource quide not just to behavior in daily life but to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to our source. Bring your brightly polished self to KICC on the evening of June 2 at 6:00 pm to enjoy a home cooked dairy meal, to pray, remember your loved ones at the fourth and final Yizkor service of

of meaning. the Jewish year, study and discuss the Book of Ruth with Bernie Ginsberg, stay as long as you can to correct our ancestors' mistake of almost sleeping through the giving of the Torah. We'll help each other stay awake. Let's receive Torah with open arms and hearts. Come celebrate all the aspects of Shavuot with your KICC mishpocha. >

Shavuot Customs through History and Around the World

medieval book of customs states: "It is customary to scatter spices and roses on the synagogue floor to celebrate the festival." Beautiful paper flower cutouts called "shevuoslekh reizelekh" or "shoshanta" were pasted on windowpanes facing the streets. Among the intricate designs of folk art creations were motifs and patterns relating to Shavuot and the Torah.

Sephardic women took pride in baking a seven-layer cake for Shavuot called "Siete Cielos" (Seven Heavens), symbolic of the seven celestial spheres G-d traversed to present the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. Fashioned in seven circular rising tiers, one smaller than the other with the smallest on top, it was decorated with various symbols such as a star of David, the rod of Moses, the two tablets of the Law, manna, Jacob's ladder, and the Ark of the Covenant. Others topped the cake with a seven-rung ladder to recall Moses ascending Mount Sinai. Graven images might have been forbidden, but no one said Jews couldn't be creative when it came to their food.

Similar elaborate pastries called "Sinai Cake" alluded to the mountain. A large cake or bread with raisins, known as "pashtudan" or "floden" when baked for Shavuot, was also called Sinai. Some Sephardic women baked "baklava," a sweet cake made with nuts, sugar and honey.

Jews of Kurdistan (assuming there are still any lews in Kurdistan) prepare large quantities of butter and cheese for Shavuot. Their dish was ground wheat cooked in sour milk with butter and flour dumplings.

In Tripoli (now Libya), women baked wafers in various shapes: a ladder, to recall Moses' rise up Mount Sinai; a hand, denoting hands extended to receive the Torah: the two tablets of the Law: eveglasses, to see the words of the Torah, and other symbolic forms.

In North African communities it was customary to serve matzah remaining from Passover, because Shavuot is the culmination of the Exodus from Egypt. The matzah was shredded into bowls of milk and honey.

When Yemenite lews read "Tikkun" in the synagogue Shavuot night, each brings a choice delicacy such as spiced coffee or candy to share with those studying through the night. (One hopes this Yemenite tradition has been kept alive in Israel.)

And when KICC Jews gather in the Social Hall to discuss the Book of Ruth with Bernard Ginsberg, we will have slices of Key Lime Pie ready at hand. >

Why Dairy On Shavuot?

One of the most enduring customs of Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods. The most common explanation is because it was at Mt. Sinai that lews were first given the dietary laws and, now obligated to follow its teachings, realized that they could not properly prepare meat or their utensils there. So they ate dairy instead.

But food is involved here, so there are many more explanations. It is said that baby Moses was placed in the river on the sixth of Sivan (the future Shavuot). It is also said that Moses refused to nurse from an Egyptian woman, which led to his sister Miriam's suggestion that Yocheved, his birth mother, be brought in as his "wet nurse." Moses could not drink mother's milk from a non-Jew. So the day is commemorated with dairy dishes.

Some take their guidance from the Torah (given on Shavuot), which speaks in Exodus of a land flowing with "milk and honey." At Sinai, the Israelites were said to be as innocent as newborns, whose food, of course, is milk. Mystics have noted that the gematria, the numerical value, of the word *chalav* (milk) is 40, the number of days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments and other teachings. And that Mt. Sinai itself has eight names, one of which is gavnunim, because its appearance resembles that of cheese, which in Hebrew is a'vinah.

Those with a gustatory bent, however, focus on the menu of traditional Shavuot dairy dishes. There's cheesecake. And cheese blintzes. And yogurt with honey. And lasagna. And burekas, a Sephardic dish of cheese stuffed in dough. Even kreplach are sometimes cheese-filled.

So when Shavuot comes, remember that it celebrates many things; the harvest and our gratitude for it, the end of counting the Omer, and that it represents the giving of the Torah, the single essential act that created the lewish people.

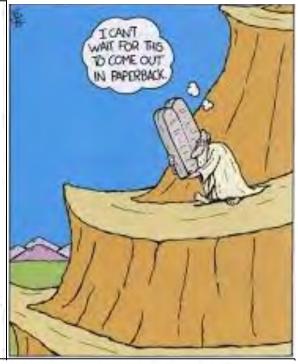
Then, guilt-free for the only time all year, have an extra, but very spiritual, helping of cheesecake. <



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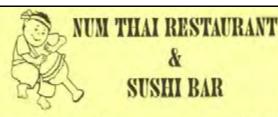
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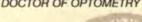
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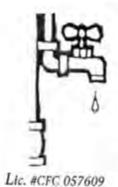


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June, July & August 2017

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Summer Reading via the KJCC Library - page 43

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June 2017 7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2nd Day of Shavuot Megillat Ruth	2 Bernie Ginsberg Sisterhood Dinner 6:00 Yizkor	3
Sisterhood luncheon (no meeting)	5	6	7	8	9 Dana Grace	10
11 KJCC Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	12	13	14	15	Erica Lieberman- Garrett	17
18 Father's Day	19	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23 Joyce Peckman	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Beth Hayden Joyce Peckman	

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha.

This is Chai-Lights' last issue before the High Holvdavs. We enter our summer "hafsakah" for July and August. I wish all a wonderful and rewarding summer and leave you with some thoughts about who we are as we prepare for the High Holydays in September. I quoted Edmond Fleg in my acceptance remarks as President. Fleg's words are to be remembered and I would share them with all of you this one last time. Fleg's book, "Why I am a Jew," was published in 1929 by Bloch Publishing Company. The book is dedicated "To My GRANDSON who is not yet born." A second, special printing was made in 1933. Flea writes in the introduction, "I am asked why I am a Jew. It is to you, my grandson who are not yet born. that I would make my reply." He adds, "We are the heartbeat of a world that wills to find its noblest self and to fulfill the law of Justice which it seeks to know; we are God's people, for we will it so, the stars our quest and truth our watchword still."

At the end of the book. Fleg presents 12 reasons why he is a Jew and they are these:

• I am a Jew because born of Israel and having lost it. I felt it revive within me more alive than I am myself.

- · I am a lew because born of Israel, and having found it again. I would have it live after me even more alive than it is within me.
- · I am a lew because the faith of Israel demands no abdication of my mind.
- · I am a lew because the faith of Israel asks every possible sacrifice of my soul.
- · I am a lew because in all places where there are tears and suffering the Jew weeps.
- · I am a lew because in every age when the cry of despair is heard the lew hopes.
- I am a lew because the message of Israel is the most ancient and the most modern.
- I am a lew because Israel's promise is a universal promise.
- I am a lew because for Israel the world is not finished; men will complete it.
- I am a Jew because for Israel man is not yet created; men are creating him.
- · I am a Jew because Israel places Man and his Unity above nations and above Israel itself.
- · I am a Jew because above Man, image of the Divine Unity, Israel places the unity which is divine. -B'shalom, Beth

Nosh

Sisterhood Special Project - Recipes R Us

It's time for a Very Special Cookbook. We've talked about it for years. Long ago, we actually did put together a Women's Seder Cookbook. Meredith Cline co-ordinated, and she was kind enough to bring us a copy. It will act as starter, just as if we were making yogurt or sourdough bread.

This cookbook, however, will not be limited in any way. All recipes that call out to be shared are welcome, from both men and women. This book will have a spiral binding to help it stay open easily. We can fill it with drawings and photographs and make it beautiful. The goal is to cover all holiday foods and non-holiday as well - all favorite recipes. We encourage you to share recipes that go beyond eating, into the realm of storytelling and family tradition. The pages will reach into past, present and future. There will be everything from "gribinnes" (to be explained in the first edition, or if you can't wait, call up the smell of onions, fried to near non-existence in that glorious but deadly spread known as schmaltz, the chicken-fat that our grandparents loved to eat on bread) to the healthy and delicious recipes created by our knowledgeable vegetarians and fans of moderate but creative farm-to-table eating. Send in recipes for food for simchas and food to bring to a shivah house. There are no limits.

Your recipes and stories, drawings, photographs and memories should go to Erica Leiberman-Garrett. She will co-ordinate. Volunteers

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June 30th - Joyce Peckman in memory of Fred Ross

July 7th - Sisterhood in honor of July 4th and Pauline Roller's 102nd birthday

July 14th - Randy, Tomar and Jonah Gross in honor of Oceana's Bat Mitzvah

with an artistic bent or a love of writing will design and integrate the stories with the recipes. It will be a little like putting together a big potluck, but no one will have to cook.

In fact, you don't even have to send in a recipe to take part, but can send in a check for a contribution to help cover publication costs. Be a food angel. Sponsor printing costs, the covers, the binders, collating, receive credit, gratitude, free copies and who knows – maybe there will be a specially prepared home-made dinner in your future, prepared just for you. There is so much to look forward to. Contact Erica at: hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Coming Attractions: High Holy Days

Ritual Committee is happy to announce our Rabbi and Cantor for the 5778 Ten Days of Awe, which will begin with Sisterhood's Erev Rosh HaShanah dinner on Wednesday, September 20th. We consider ourselves fortunate to have at our helm, again this year, Rabbi Richard Agler, KJCC's Resident Scholar, teacher extraordinaire, and writer/humanitarian. Joining him for the third year in a row will be Cantor Michael Dzubin, whose warm voice and sincere interpretations of the specific melodies have both moved and enriched us. Together, they will prepare for us a deeply engaging experience. If you have been with us before for High Holidays, you know exactly what we mean and you'll want to be here with us again. Rabbi Agler's sermons, his Torah Learning Sessions, his "Fast Talk" on Yom Kippur, have brought us to new understandings in a deep yet lively way. When the dues packets come this summer, think about making an extra donation to the Rabbi/Cantor Fund in honor of what they bring to our experience. They will also each be writing a piece for the September issue of Chai-Lights.

Shabbabeque Celebration and Birthday

On July 7th, at 5:30 p.m., KJCC stalwarts and friends will come together to celebrate the birthday of our country, Independence Day, and while we're at it, we will sing our congratulations to

June Birthdays

	=
2nd	Barbara Osder
2nd	Myra Kaplan
3rd	Abraham Rakov
3rd	Elanor Forbes
4th	Alfred Weihl
5th	Dorothy Wolfe
5th	
5th	
6th	Donna Bolton
6th	Nancy Kluger
6th	Suzanne Gilson
7th	Carrie Smith
7th	
8th	Eina Fishman
8th	Elaine Solas
9th	
9th	
12th	Kevin M. Silverman
13th	Israel Mayk
13th	Iustin Greenbaum
14th	
15th	
15th	Haley Mayclin
15th	
l6th	
18th	
20th	
20th	
21st	Nancy Hershoff
21st	Roberta Chester
21st	Sam Janowitz
21st	Taryn Nobil
23rd	Dale Chasteen
24th	Delaney Rohde
24th	Rita Bromwich
27th	
27th	
28th	
29th	
29th	
30th	

Pauline Roller, our Matriarch, as she celebrates her 102nd trip around the sun. See our Poster on page 28, and contact Beth Hayden to offer help in shopping, setting up, and grilling the delicious hamburgers, hotdogs, tofupups and veggieburgers that will be on the menu, along with all the trimmings. Beth's e-mail is hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net

See you in September

Sounds like a song, doesn't it? (Yes, it was, but that was long ago, once upon a time.) Well, you are reading the last Chai-Lights until the September issue graces your mailbox (to be filled with all things preparing you for the High Holidays). But just because there is no issue in July or August, it doesn't mean we can't communicate. Send photos of your summer doings. Send stories and suggestions for articles. Submit High Holiday greetings to your friends as we've done in past years. (The form will be part of your summer dues renewal package.) Most important, wherever you are, stay healthy and have a wonderful summer! Your mishpocha will keep the lights on.

	•	ears)
lst	Jim & Rita Williams	33
lst	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	31
5th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garret	t23
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg	58
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman	21
llth	Medina & Carl Roy	45
I2th	Steven & Jan Hartz	41
I2th	William & Donna Bolton	24
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler	41
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.	30
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax	43

25th

28th

28th

June Anniversaries

Herbert & Elinor Grossman......60

Wes & Rita Conklin.....47

Lloyd & Rae Wruble......48

July Birthdays

,, -	, .
lst	Alex Hudson
lst	Chely Markowitz
lst	Eitan Loi-Kamely
lst	Jennifer Gilson
lst	Nelson Chester
lst	Patti Gross
2nd	Elissa A. Denker
	Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
3rd	Max Finkelstein
3rd	Michael Kaufman
4th	Mindy Rosenthal
4th	Pauline Roller
	Lucy Moss
8th	Gary Sherman
	Joyce Peckman
	Steven Hartz
	Rebecca M. Schur
	Richard Steinberg
	Dot Brooking
	Leslie Reamer
	David Gross
I4th	Paul Eric Bernstein
	Danna Levy
	Foster Davidson
	John Hawver
	Shira Goldman
20th	Lyn Sherman
20th	Roosmary Benowitz
21st	Arlington Garrett
21st	Brian Smith
21st	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
	Linda Perloff
22nd	Millie Tainow
23rd	Barat Barefoot
	Carrie Temkin
25th	Alan Markowitz
	Carol Field
26th	Lance Royce Kaufman
27th	Marc Bloom
	Rachael Bloom
	Lila E. Juenger
28th	Mary Anne Pearl
	Andy Loi-Kamely
29th	Barry Neumann
	-

29th	Bruce Boruszak
29th	Candy Stanlake
29th	Mary Lee Singer
30th	Molly Bloom
3 st	Drew Nobil
3 st	Mark Steinberg

August Birthdays

lst	Lori Richardson
lst	Nicholas Rivera
2nd	Marc S. Field
4th	Jessica Forman
5th	Nissan Mayk
	Joseph Reamer
9th	Delia Grace Smith
9th	Eric Freundlich
10th	Barbara Smith
10th	Emma Feig
12th	Larry Weiss
13th	Gina Moritz
13th	Stephan Friedman
14th	Linda Ulman
15th	Danielle Zinner
15th	Patricia Isenberg
16th	Alan Lindenbaum
16th	Alison Thompson
16th	Tom Brennan
	Pamela Friedman
20th	Amanda Nobil
21st	Rachel Zinner
	Dave Mont
	Carl McNew
26th	Mikhaela Bitton
27th	Jaimee Marshall
27th	Judy Greenman
	Robert Temkin
30th	Sue Ann Weihl
31st	Brynn Borisoff

July Anniversaries Years 2nd Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross 17 9th Terry Willner-Tainow & Jon Tainow......45 9th Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly......7 12th lason & Debbie Madnick.....22 21st Dick & Rita Bromwich......43 30th Andrew & Randi Grant......28

August Anniversaries			
	Years		
Augie & Kristy Moss	4		
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	60		
Paul & Susan Roberts	49		
Richard & Barbara Knowles	18		
Ira & Shirley Stein	59		
Franklin & Judy Greenman	35		
Renee Salant & Sam Weis	19		
Israel & Nissan Mayk	45		
	August Anniversaries Augie & Kristy Moss Larry & Dorothy Wolfe Paul & Susan Roberts Richard & Barbara Knowles Ira & Shirley Stein Franklin & Judy Greenman Renee Salant & Sam Weis Israel & Nissan Mayk		

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 KICC section. Call Beth Hayden 305-773-0067.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

ONEG SHABBAT OR DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225 or e-mail her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

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

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, for annual rates.

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

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial to provide them to Haiti, where they are desperately needed.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **David Gitin** Samuel Segal William Owen By Gloria Avner By Paul & Barbara Bernstein By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Esther R. Cohn Lois Owen Louis R. Coltman By Nancy L. Cohn By Nancy L. Cohn By Barnet O. Coltman <><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Leo Finklestein Bea Ginsberg **Betty Weiss** By Max Finklestein By Bernard Ginsberg By Janice Gorson <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Saul Elson **Andrew Hutchison** Samuel Horn By Mrs. Marty Graham By Susan Horn By Susan Horn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lucy Kaufman Celestina Bravo-Mendez Ruth Rosen By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Emilia Mendez** Arthur Klimpl Max Margulies By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies By Michael Klimpl <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Fred Doellefeld Carl C. Reiff Dale Gerber By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies By Rick & Roberta McNew By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau

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In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Leslie Peckman **Elayne Pratt** Martin Roaman By Joyce Peckman By Bob Pratt By Carol Roaman <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Ben Horwitz Morris Rose** Milton Lang By Pauline Roller By Skip Rose By Skip Rose <><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Harold Rosenthal Leon Kirschenbaum Jan Finer By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal By Medina Roy By Stuart & Lauren Sax <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rose Graff Rosenfeld **Leonard Tobin** Wally Steinberg By Morton & Gene Silverman By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Andrew M. Tobin <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Irma Weihl Rose Fine **David Gitin** By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe By Gloria Avner <><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Morgan Rowen **Aaron Schmidt Beth Schulberg** By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Judith Schmidt By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Harvey Kelman Sylvia Sachs **Jack Leonard Sachs** By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Morton & Gene Silverman By Morton & Gene Silverman <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><>

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Nettie Goodman** Sidney Stark **Phyliss Bloom** By Gloria Avner By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark By Marc Bloom <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Abraham L. Blumenfeld Laura Bofshever Zelda Edelman By Marvin A. Blumenfeld By Ioel & Toby Bofshever By Dale Chasteen <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Robert L. Cline S. Marshall Gorson Sylvia Hershoff By Meredith A. Cline By Janice Gorson By Jay & Nancy Hershoff <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ronald Horn **Jacob Ratchik** Margaret Isenberg By Susan Horn By Susan Horn By Patricia Isenberg <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Sydney Emsig Beulah Grossman Les Reitman By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs By Marshall & Myra Kaplan By Sam & Leslie Janowitz <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Otto Kluger Miriam Margulies **Fred Ross** By Joyce Peckman By Nancy Kluger By Stanley & Jenny Margulies <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Bob Freundlich** Paula Travers Frank Stanley Sachs By Linda Perloff By Michele Riley By Joseph & Susan Sachs

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In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Franne Alter Isaac Berman Ralph Bofshever By Sylvia Berman By Barry Alter By Joel & Toby Bofshever <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Priscilla Leshin Gary W. Cohn Sandra Kanarek By Joan Boruszak By Nancy L. Cohn By Wes & Rita Conklin <><><> <><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Robert Davidson Dorothy Schafer Marty Faye** By Foster Davidson By Natalie Dorf By Sydney! Faye-Davis <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Harriet Feinberg** Jesse Ginsberg Henry Kirschenbaum By Arthur Feinberg By Bernard Ginsberg By Marilyn Greenbaum <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Margaux Rene Grossman Manuel Hershoff Nathan Herson By Jerry & Barbara Herson By Stuart Grossman By Jay & Nancy Hershoff <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Chanoch Levy Pauline Rosenzweig Eva Raub By Yardena Kamely By Gunther & Shirley Karger By Harvey & Judith Klein <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Shirley Lieberman Billie Kornbloom Max Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

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By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

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By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Mollie Lawent** Isaac Cohen Pardo Josephine Margulies By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum By Stanley & Jenny Margulies By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Dorothy Marmar** Gizella Reiff Jim Nobil By David & Pamela Marmar By Rick & Roberta McNew By Lynn Nobil <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Erik S. Persoff **Leonard Pearl** Eileen Roaman By Lynn Nobil By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl By Carol Roaman <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Howard Shutan** Joel Reed Baker Martha Schulberg By Stuart & Lauren Sax By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Selma Smith Meyer G. Cohen Samuel Wainer By Steven & Barbara Smith By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Erwin Wainer James Nobil Erik S. Persoff By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Jesse Ginsberg Ralph Tallent Seymour H. Levin

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

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By Bernard Ginsberg

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By Lillian Tallent

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Stanley H. Klipper	Bernard Solas	Manya Starr	
By Mary Lee Singer <><><>>>>	By Elaine Solas	By Adam & Judy Starr <><><>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Mollie Z. Cohen	Ben Steinbock	Mack Swartz	
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Stephen Steinbock	By George & Muriel Swartz <><><>>>>>>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Milton Swartz	lda R. Estrin	Alfred Eichler	
By George & Muriel Swartz	By Lillian Tallent <><><>>>>	By Judith Weber <><>>>>>>>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Frieda Feinberg	Henrietta Zinner	Dorothy Marmar	
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	By Donald Zinner	By David & Pamela Marmar	

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 KICC'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.

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



SISTERHOOD SPONSORSHIP **OPPORTUNITIES:** ONEG \$60





SHABBAT DINNER \$300

YOUR ONEG OR DINNER SPONSORSHIP WILL BE PUBLISHED IN CHAI-LIGHTS AND KJCC EMAILS AND ANNOUNCED FROM THE BEMA.

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a yahrzeit, birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice.

For Onegs, Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks. Desserts may be provided by Sisterhood or by You, the Sponsor.

Please send your donation with accompanying information to:.

KJCC Sisterhood

PO Box 116

Tavernier, FL 33070

We truly appreciate your generous support. For further information contact Joyce Peckman joycepeckman@gmail.com - (732) 447-5225







Sisterhood Renee Salant

written by Sam Weis



t's summertime, and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin' and the snowbirds have flown. Once again I am writing this column from the Pacific Northwest. The firs, cedars and hemlocks are towering. And the Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges are towering even more. Volcanic peaks reach up majestically above the rest of the range of mountains. Sometimes, however, one can see a tiny plume of steam rise from Mt. Baker to the north. To the south Mt. Rainier (Native American name, Mt. Tahoma) stands alone looking like a 14,410-foot scoop of ice cream. Quiet, dormant, for now. Wonder of wonders, the sun is out. Everyone thanks me for bringing it from Florida. And, just for fun, there have been a few earthquake swarms. Little quakes, to remind us of what a subduction zone of tectonic plates is all about.

But, meanwhile, back on the rock, the KICC Sisterhood continues to evolve. One of the biggest changes is that many of our dear snowbirds have flown. We wish them all a happy summer, and eagerly await their return.

As usual, for life on this planet, change is happening. It is the thing we can count on. Erica Lieberman-Garrett has, true to form. stepped up to take on the responsibilities of Sisterhood treasurer. I swear, Erica has an abundance of energy, drive and intelligence. I admire her, and am grateful for her strengths. Good luck, and thank you, Erica. We are here to support vou.

And, Joyce Peckman will now be your Oneg contact person. Thank you, Joyce for taking on this task. You are a gem, such a big part of the reason Sisterhood thrives. Our Onegs are so much fun. We talk, we eat, we drink gallons of coffee. Mostly, our Onegs reveal that we are a congregation that truly enjoys one another's company. I recall one Oneg that stretched on until after midnight. Bernie Ginsberg suggested that we should bring pajamas and have a slum-

ber party. We laughed, but it does, at times, feel like it is hard to part company when good discussions are going. And, this is a brag moment for all of Sisterhood's members, the food helps to keep us in the room, and these women really know how to bring on the food. Jane Friedman, you are indeed special. Thank you for keeping us in fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs. One of our favorites for Onegs is. of course, the ice cream cake. Coming from Washington State, I confess to never having seen one of these before. Oh, my. Please, do step up and call Joyce to sponsor an Oneg so we can set out an ice cream cake!

Speaking of dairy, around the time this is in your mailbox we will be celebrating our Shavuot Dinner. We commemorate having received the Torah, and have been trying to figure out what to do about it for the past three thousand-plus years. So, we celebrate. A non-Jewish friend recently asked me how it is that, after so much persecution, the Jewish people hold together and thrive. I replied, "Torah." It is the current, the glue, the vibe that keeps us strong, and curious. We gather to hear the words of the Torah, to sing, to nourish each other with our shared food, to argue, to learn to be kind to each other. Sure we struggle with gossip, with snarkiness, with ego, but in the end we are here for each other. Torah is why we eat the ice cream cake, it is why we cook the wonderful dishes we bring to share. It is why we stay up until three o'clock in the morning discussing many topics, but always examining the guestions raised by the everpresent Torah.

So, summer is here. Relax. Be curious. Have some iced tea. Go out on a boat. Visit with each other. Do good work, and pursue iustice. >

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

Avner, Gloria Hartz, Steve & Jan Hartz, Steve & Ian Gilson, Michael I. Berger, Dr. Paul & Marlene Mead, Richard & Elizabeth

In Memory of David Gitin Bea Avner Ellen Bloom Hedy Kopecky Sherry Zwerdling **Patty Silver**

Donations for Women's Seder Raffle

Smith, Geri Weis, Sam Avner, Gloria Gordon, Susan

Women's Seder

Gonzalez, III

Oneg Sponsorship

Williams, Rita Weis, Sam & Salant, Renee Roy, Medina Roy, Carl & Medina Peckman, loyce

Yahrzeit

Blum, Laurie/Gary Margolis

In Memory of Arlene Sugarman Margolis

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Gertrude F. Kaplan

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

Yahrzeit Plaques: KICC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plagues. Each plague 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."

<u>Tree of Life Leaves</u>: 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 plague included in the price.

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



"High" Expectations

In a bid to take a leading role in the growing field of marijuana research, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has recently launched the Multidisciplinary Center on Cannabinoid Research. (Cannabinoids are the chemical compounds found in marijuana.) The center will be staffed by leading scientific researchers, doctors and specialists who deal with brain science, nanotechnology and pain management. The staff will include Israeli chemistry professor Raphael Mechoulam, considered the "father of cannabis research." (Mechoulam got the ball rolling in 1964, when he discovered tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the principal psychoactive component of cannabis. He identified how the substance acts on the body and today, at 86, he continues his research at Hebrew University and is part of the center. He claims he has never smoked a ioint.) The center is looking to conduct and coordinate research with an eve towards commercial applications. According to Dr. Joseph Tam, the director of the center, the Hebrew University is the only place in the world that has such a broad approach to cannabis research because it includes agriculture, chemistry, drug delivery, pharmacology and chemical development. There are plans to eventually collaborate with scientists and biotech companies around the world. This past February Israeli cabinet ministers backed legislation to decriminalize recreational marijuana use. (www.jta.org, 4-5-17)

"Food Can Bridge Gaps"

Michael Solomonov. Israeli-born restaurateur, was named "Outstanding Chef" - the top award in the profession - at the 2017 James Beard Foundation Awards, the culinary world's equivalent to the Academy Awards. Solomonov is often credited with popularizing Israeli food - specifically Sephardic style -

in America and around the world. When he was a child his family moved from Israel to Pittsburgh. The death of his younger brother David, killed in 2003 while serving in the Israeli army, resulted in Solomonov returning to Israeli cooking, the foods he is most familiar with, and moving away from the classical European culinary training he received. He opened his Israeli restaurant Zahav in Philadelphia to rave reviews in 2008. (www.forward.com, 5-3-17)

An Unusual Unanimous Message

It's rare when all 100 United States Senators agree on something. But that's exactly what happened recently when they all signed a letter asking United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who assumed leadership of the world body in January, to address what the lawmakers call "an entrenched bias against Israel at the world body." The message uses strong language to insist that the U.N. do something about the unequal treatment of Israel on human rights in addition to its long-standing anti-Israel bias. "As both the U.N.'s principal founding member and its largest contributor, the United States should insist on reform," the letter - drafted by Senators Marco Rubio (R - Florida) and Christopher A. Coons (D - Delaware) - reads. "We are deeply committed to...advancing respect for human rights. But continued targeting of Israel by the U.N. Human Rights Council and other U.N. entities is unacceptable. Through words and actions, we urge you to ensure that Israel is treated neither better nor worse than any other U.N. member in good standing." The senators are requesting that Guterres remove the standing agenda item for the U.N. Human Rights Commission sessions that has repeatedly been used as a forum to

denounce Israel. They also want to see a change to the rules for membership on the human rights panel. In March, Guterres did take the important step of disavowing and removing a U.N. report comparing Israel's treatment of Palestinians to apartheid. (www.washingtonpost.com, 4-27-17)

"We Reject UNESCO"

Following the passage of UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) resolution on May 2nd condemning Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed Foreign Minister Director General Yuval Rotem to withhold \$1 million from Israel's funding to the U.N. (Israel's annual contribution to the U.N. totals over \$40 million.) "Israel will not sit by while the organization calls for the denial of our sovereignty in Jerusalem," Netanyahu said at a meeting of the cabinet on the day of the resolution (which ironically was this year's Israeli Independence Day). The resolution - called "Occupied Palestine" - was submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar and Sudan. It follows the controversial UNESCO resolution passed in October that totally ignored any Jewish ties to the Kotel (Western Wall) or the Temple Mount itself. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said that the "expected political decision by UNESCO only hurts the relevance of an organization that is supposed to preserve culture and heritage but which time after time is derelict in its duty when it comes to Israel." (www.jpost.com, 5-2-17 and www.jta.org, 5-3-17)

No Surgery Necessary

CartiHeal, an Israeli medical device company, is developing technology for an implant that regenerates bone and cartilage tissue. The company's product uses synthetic material that is implanted by injection; no surgery is necessary. The material biodegrades in the implantation site; this simple procedure promotes the regeneration of natural cartilage and subchondral bone in a single step, which also results in pain being alleviated. As time

passes, the body's cells break down the implant, which is then absorbed. The company believes that its product is uniquely advantageous because of its ability to regenerate cartilage without any scar tissue. (The market for a product to heal damaged cartilage, by the way, is estimated at \$2 billion.) *CartiHeal* was founded in 2009 by Nir Altschuler in cooperation with Ben Gurion University in the Negev. The company is preparing for a human clinical trial and believes that its trial will make it possible to submit its product to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval. (www.globes.co.il, 5-7-17)

Meet Hannah Risheq

Hannah Risheg, 25, is looking to run for a seat in Virginia's State House of Delegates in that state's 67th district, a suburban area in Fairfax County, near Washington, D.C. It's safe to say that she is probably the first to run as a Muslim-Jewish candidate. Risheg is the daughter of a lewish-American mother from Philadelphia and a Palestinian-American Muslim father who left Hebron after the Israelis took it over in 1967, spending a good portion of his life in Kuwait. Risheg grew up in a small North Carolina town. Shortly after she was born, members of the Ku Klux Klan burned down her parents' restaurant and things deteriorated even further after 9/11. In 2010, the racist atmosphere became intolerable and the family moved to Fairfax County in northern Virginia, which has both significant Jewish and Muslim populations. Her parents instilled in her a love for both faiths. pointing out their similarities. Often the family would go to the mosque Friday afternoons and then to the synagogue in the evening. (The one area where her parents vehemently disagreed was the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.) Risheg decided to get involved after she witnessed a spike in racist incidents in her area and decided to stand up. She believes she can be a symbol of a new generation of politicians. (www.forward.com, 5-4-17)

Update

In the World Jewish Report column of the March 2017 issue of Chai-Lights, we reported

on Anish Kapoor, the 2017 Genesis Prize winner (an honor dubbed by TIME magazine as the "Jewish Nobel Prize"). Well, at the request of Kapoor, an influential and innovative artist and an advocate for the rights of refugees, the Genesis Prize will not hold its annual award ceremony this year. Kapoor deemed the celebration inappropriate due to the escalating war in Syria and the deterioration of the refugee situation there. Instead of the planned festive ceremony, honoring Kapoor's wishes, the Genesis Prize Foundation said it would raise funds to aid the Syrian refugee crisis. (www.ita.org, 5-4-17)

In Memoriam

- **★** Isaac and Teresa Vatkin, a Jewish couple from Chicago who were married for 69 years, died at the end of April just moments apart in the same hospital room while holding hands. Teresa had been suffering from dementia and Isaac was her caregiver, staying by her side even when she was admitted to a memory care facility. She was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and he with influenza. They were moved to the same room when both were having difficulty breathing and became unresponsive. They were holding hands when Teresa died and forty minutes later still holding hands, Isaac died. As she was being wheeled from the room, their hands separated and, according to their son Daniel, it was as if Isaac said. "Okay, I'm done protecting her. I can go and rest as well." (www.forward.com, 4-30-17)
- * Chaim Ferster, a Holocaust survivor who managed to endure eight Nazi concentration camps, malnutrition and typhus during World War II, died in early February. He was 94. His sister Manya, 92, was the only other member of his family to survive the Holocaust. Ferster was born into an Orthodox family and raised in the Polish town of Sosnowiec. When he was 20 he was forced from his home by the Nazis. He lost 30 relatives in the Holocaust, including his mother, father and two other sisters. After the war he settled in Manchester. England, where he founded a sewing machine manufacturing business. His greatest fear was that people

- would forget the horrors of the Holocaust and so he spent much of his life giving lectures in schools and colleges, sharing his story with each succeeding generation. (www.bbc.com, 2-7-17)
- * Nechama Lifshitz, known as "the nightingale of Soviet Jewry," who traveled throughout the Soviet Union singing in Yiddish and Hebrew, died at the end of April. She was 89. Born in Kovno (now Kaunus), Lithuania, her family found shelter in Uzbekistan during the Holocaust, one of only a few havens for Jews fleeing the Nazis. Most of her family survived. After the war her immediate family returned to Soviet Lithuania, where she studied at the Vilnius Conservatory, appearing as a soloist with the Vilnius Philharmonic Orchestra in 1957. Music had always been a part of her life. Her father - a doctor, businessman and Jewish communal activist - played the violin and her mother, who was active in Zionist circles, loved to sing. Early on in her career Lifshitz was a classical singer, appearing with opera companies and philharmonic orchestras. Sometime later she realized that she needed to sing to the Jewish people, not in Russian or Lithuanian but in Yiddish and Hebrew. She reminded these people - once known as the "Jews of Silence" - that "silent or otherwise they were Jews who carried the responsibility of passing on whatever remained of their heritage to future generations." In 1951 she began touring the USSR as a Yiddish singer despite the many restrictions facing Jewish performers. After years of refusal. Lifshitz received permission to leave the country and in 1969 made alivah to Israel, continuing to give concerts in Yiddish despite a lingering resistance among many in Israel to welcome Yiddish culture. Lifshitz also studied to become a librarian at Bar-Ilan University, later winning awards for her expertise as a librarian and archivist. She also headed the Tel Aviv Music Library. She was overjoyed to learn of the eventual establishment of The National Authority for Yiddish Culture, established following a Knesset's resolution in 1996. The organization now hosts a multi-faceted Yiddish cultural event every year. (www.jpost.com, 4-23-17) >

Photo Gallery

There was much to celebrate at this end-of-April oneg. Jules Seder, at right, is still kvelling from winning KJCC's Joel Cohen Award along with wife Nettie. We wished Susan Gordon happy returns on her birthday (flanked at far right by pals Joyce and Erica). The happiest moments of all, though, were reserved for the happy returns to us

Bloom and Mort Silverman. Renee Salant, near right, beams (as usual)

in full health of Marc

with joy, as does Gene Silverman alongside hubby Mort, top right.





And just in case you don't recognize the two affectionate young wres-

tlers just below left, there's a reason. Maddy Bloom is growing by leaps and bounds, in both height and beauty. (Congrats to mom Rachael.) Sean Kaufman is sporting a totally new young man's haircut. So handsome!

Hey, Mary Lee. We love your new haircut. It goes perfectly with the great smile. And because we can't say it enough, thanks for being the KJCC historian.





Pauline Roller may have moved, from her long-time home in Key Largo to new digs at the Plantation Key Nursing Center, but she is definitely not lacking for company. In just one afternoon she hosted Tiffany and mom Roberta McNew (they brought chicken soup and

> matzoh balls) Linda Pollack, **Donna Bolton and Gloria** Avner. Tiffany, at left with Pauline, had her Bat Mitzvah at KJCC a few (!) years back. She's now a full-time occupational therapist at the facility and can visit Pauline every day. Lucky Pauline.



On May 12th, Medina Roy and **Bernie Ginsberg** sponsored the oneg to celebrate their joint birthday, as they do every year. (It's May 14th, the same birthday as

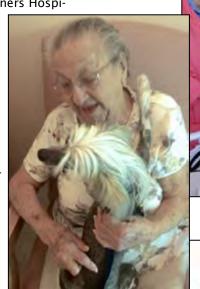
the state of Israel, even though Bernie was in California this year visiting his kids. It wasn't the same without him, but Medina did manage to cut the challah and chant haMotzi.



KICC's own Ollie is hard at work as a Certified Therapy Dog. Every Wednesday afternoon, Ollie visits patients at Mariners Hospi-

tal. These days he also continues south after finishing at Mariners to visit KICC's own Pauline Roller in Plantation Nursing Home. Ollie is a nine-year old Chinese Crested Hairless dog who is a Canine Good Citizen (CGC), a Certified Therapy Dog (CTD) and also holds his Rally Novice title (RN). Ollie has a tough job, but somebody has to do it. Here you see him visiting a patient in Mariners and also visiting with Pauline. Ollie decided to give Pauline the "Ollie hug"; 102 degrees of hairless dog cuddling right next to you. Way to go, Ollie!

-Beth Hayden





Thanks to Roberta and Tiffany McNew, Pauline got a lovely change of pace (and venue) for Mother's Day, spending much of that special Sunday with Roberta's extended family, (at immediate left).

Rabbi Richard Agler's last Shabbat morning Torah service of the season on April 13th was special (and well attended) for lots of reasons. This week happened to offer the exact same parshah as it had on his Bar Mitzvah. We of

course gave him the honor of the Aliyah, plus he also chanted the same maftir as he had over 50 years before, but this time from he read from our KICC Holocaust Torah.



It had been Rabbi Agler's

birthday two days before. So we did one of the things we do best: we celebrated a simcha. Steve Steinbock contributed the chocolate cake above (with a little guidance from Mindy Agler). As is traditional during the omer period, Rabbi Agler had made that morning's study a chapter from the Pirkei Avot (Wisdom of the Sages). One of that chapter's teachings was the question "Who is happy?" The rabbinic answer is "they who are content with what they have." We were content, and also grateful.

On Wednesday, May 17th, what seemed like half of KJCC gathered at Num Thai in Key Largo to celebrate the joint birthday of Bernie Ginsberg and Medina Roy. (Our contract with Medina requires us to publicly announce that Bernie is older.) The evening was arranged and coordinat-

nal plan was to have one candle for each of their respective birthdays, but the candle store didn't have that many in stock. (Enjoy the photos on this page and the next.)



Photos from Bernie and Medina's birthday dinner at Num Thai (cont.):



Jules and Nettie Seder sent in the two top photos, from a Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure (to provide breast cancer research funds) on May 14th in Philadelphia. They were there with their daughter and two granddaughters. The three photos at right mid-page show Harry and Jane Friedman with some of the bounteous

harvest from Harry's Eagle Scout project Garden at KJCC, which donates fresh produce to Burton Memorial's food bank. (And to KJCC onegs.)



Some photos from the May 19th

oneg at KJCC. Steve Hartz led the service, and the HaMotzi prayer. At right, both Maria and Jane made fresh and delicious contributions to the oneg.



Book Review: **"Shadows Walking"**

by Beth Hayden

ne evening, as I was searching for different books on Amazon, an author with the name "Skopp" popped up in a search. The name caught my eye, because many years ago, when I taught at State University of New York at Platts-

burgh, a good friend called Doug Skopp

taught in the history department. Doug's specialty was modern German history: his wife, Evelyn, was German. Doug was fluent in German and very familiar with the country itself. In fact, in the same history department, Doug taught alongside Hans Hirsh (both Doug and Hans are Jewish), who had lived in Berlin and, as a young man, actually attended school with Albert Speer. Intrigued, I clicked on the name and discovered none other than my old friend who was now the author of a book entitled "Shadows Walking."

"Shadows Walking" is a paperback edition, 470 pages in length, that was published by CreateSpace in December of 2010. The book is historical fiction that

traces the lives and paths of two young German doctors who grew up together in a small town and were friends for years. The narrative continues to trace their relationship and evolving circumstances in the years before, during and immediately after the Holocaust. One of these young men is a German physician who becomes involved in Nazi experi

mentation; the other is a German-Jewish physician who will eventually lose his life. "Shadows Walking" opens with the Nuremberg Trials. Herr Doktor Johann Brenner, who became involved in Nazi medical experiments, has escaped apprehension at the end of the war, assumed a false identity and is

working as a janitor in the building where the Nuremberg Trials are being held. As the testimony unfolds and Brenner watches the medical criminals he idolized and for whom he worked, he takes us back in time to the events he himself experienced as well as his childhood friend, Herr Doktor Philipp Stein (a Jew). As the trials continue and the enormity of the offences become clearer and clearer, Brenner then begins to write a long letter to his wife detailing his actions, his reasoning and his involvement in horrific medical experiments. Many of the events he describes are true and taken from extant historical sources. I will

refrain from revealing the ending, except to say that it is brilliant in its simplicity and inevitability.

This era of German history is one that Douglas Skopp has ruminated on for many years. The book is, in essence, a psychological study of how one descends into a state in which common norms and decencies are



abandoned. What were the pressures, the realities, the motivations that would allow an educated physician to participate in nothing short of atrocities against humanity? In the author's own words, ""What leads men and women of good will to violate fundamental ethical principles? How do they justify their behavior? Are we all capable of such acts? And if so, how can we guard ourselves from making these choices? These are the guestions at the heart of my endeavor. ... My novel describes [an "ordinary" Nazi doctor] able, for a while, to justify his actions and believe he was still fulfilling his sworn responsibili-

ties to "do no harm." It tells the story of his descent into this abyss. And it allows me to raise two questions: first. what, if anything, can a perpetrator do to redeem himself. and second, what should society do if it becomes aware of his deeds? I have tried to be as faithful and attentive to historical events as I can be. ... Evervthing [in "Shadows Walking"] either did happen or, I believe, could have happened. I want to evoke an historical reality--from the experiences Johann Brenner and Philipp

Stein might have had in their childhood, to their involvement in the First World War and its chaotic aftermath during the fourteen years that "Germany tried democracy," to the impact of the Nazi regime on their lives and choices. These are crucial public events, affecting everyone who lived through them. The novel's more incidental facts, too--from the color of the American automobiles in Nuremberg in the immediate aftermath of World War II, to the improbable herd of goats in the streets of war-ravaged Berlin, to the slaughterhouse next to the train station in Freiburg--are drawn from my study of the sources. from reading other historical accounts, and from my personal experiences." -- from the author's "Afterword and Acknowledgments".

E. Thomas Moran, Ph. D., Director, Insti-

tute for Ethics in Public Life at SUNY Plattsburgh, writes in his forward to Shadows Walking, "How do we then come to terms with the Holocaust? At the most specific level of historical analysis, we might infer that the majority of the German people were so intoxicated with Hitler's renewal of their national pride in the early years of his regime, and so terrified of him and his henchmen in the later years, that they simply were pushed down a brutally tragic path. ... We might consequently conclude that the Holocaust says nothing about us - that it could not happen here. We want to believe that the Holocaust does not

> derive from anything inherent in the human condition. We can therefore insist that the human beings who perpetrated it were thoroughly evil, so unlike us that we need not give their behavior any more thought than we expect predatory animals to show kindness to their prey. We confidently proclaim that we would never, could never. do what they did. nor would those we know and love."

I was reminded reading this, of a comment Marcel Ophuls made about some of

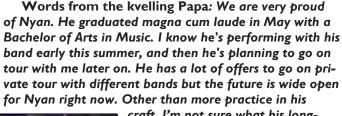
the Nazi participants he interviewed in his monumental film "Memory of Justice". (Ophuls, by the way, still thinks Memory of Justice is his best work.). He was answering questions from the audience about the behaviors of those interviewed. Ophuls had attempted to interview a Nazi doctor living in Austria: she refused to be interviewed but turned on the light for Ophuls and his crew as they descended the stairs and cautioned them to be careful. When asked about this, Ophuls paused, looked up, sighed and smiled and said, "The face of evil is banal." That remark has always haunted me. There are no brands, no external identifiers, there are no easy answers. "Shadows Walking" is a highly recommended, edifying read. It is available in the KICC Library. ♦



NYAN FEDER GRADUATES FROM F.S.U.

And to paraphrase the immortal Dr. Seuss. . .

OH, THE PLACES HE'LL GO!!



craft, I'm not sure what his longrange plans are.

-Dave (and Nyan, your KJCC mishpocha is very proud of you, too.)

A Note From The Graduate Hil

I've been looking forward to graduation because it means that now I have the mental space to figure myself out career-wise, musically and geographically. This coming summer I will be spending most of my

time touring the Southeast and recording with my band, Ecology, which I am very excited about. Looking into the next few months, I'll be spending some time working

> with my dad on our duo show and will hopefully take that to some new places!

For the upcoming Fall and Spring, I will be working out of Tallahassee, using it as a "home base." I look forward to spending time honing my craft and trying new things about music that will help me unlock just what it is that I would like to pursue head-first in the musical realm. I have a lot of good work lined up with some great local Tally musicians (including professors from FSU), and some people from outside the area.

On that note, travel is going to be a huge thing for me; I'll be visiting different places throughout the country (and beyond), in order to

figure out where it is that I want to land "permanently." My post-graduate plans are looking like they are going to turn up wonderfully, and I couldn't be more excited to kick "real-life" into gear! -Nyan ⋄



Tisha B'Av – A Time of Mourning

by Joyce Peckman

eople often link their birthdays to the iovous holidavs near their birthdates. Autumn babies have the High Holidays. lune children have Shavuot. My older son was born during Passover, my younger during Hanukkah. My birthday has the dubious honor of usually coming out near Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the month of Av. Tisha B'Av primarilv commemorates the destruction of the first Temple, destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E, and the second Temple, destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E., both on the ninth of Av. But the day is linked to other tragedies in Jewish history, particularly the expulsion from England in 1290 and from Spain in 1492. World War I began on Tisha B' Av.

The destruction of Jerusalem was not a one-day event, and so Tisha B'Av follows three weeks of increasing mourning, beginning with the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, which commemorates the first breach in the walls of Jerusalem before the First Temple was destroyed. During this three- week mourning period, remembering the increasing suffering in Jerusalem, religious Jews correspondingly intensify their grief and anxiety. Weddings are prohibited because the joy of marriage is incompatible with the mood of sorrow. Engagement and birthday parties are very low key. No instrumental music is played. (My son has a collection of a cappella CDs, which I memorized after spending several summers in Denver.) There are other grief rituals during the three weeks: no haircuts are taken, and many men grow beards. (In ancient times, letting hair grow long was a sign of mourning.) People refrain from buying new clothes, a new home, a new car, or eating a new food that would call for a shehechiaynu blessing.

The symbolic statement is: Who has the faith to go out and buy new things or plan for the future? Who has the heart to try to look good when the end is clearly drawing near? Throughout the three weeks, prophetic portions proclaiming Israel's sin and the forthcoming destruction are read in the synagogue.

On the first day of Av, during the "Nine Days," (seven days for Sephardic Jews) the mourning intensifies. Symbolically, the noise of the approaching Roman armies disrupts the ease and order of daily life. Home decorating, weaving, knitting and decorative sewing are stopped. People refrain from eating meat or drinking wine, except on Shabbat. Swimming or bathing for pleasure is prohibited. Jewish camps eliminate the "free swim," although instructional swimming is okay.

Finally, on Tisha B'Av, as on Yom Kippur, we trade our comfortable leather shoes for canvas sneakers or plastic sandals. Those who have just experienced the powerful loss of death do not want to wear something derived from the death of another living thing. Drawing from mourning rituals, we neither eat nor drink nor wash nor anoint ourselves with perfumes or creams. It is a day to read Ieremiah's "Book of Lamentations." We remember the starving remnants of the destruction of Jerusalem, and the refugees from pogroms and deportations throughout the ages. We recall the scenes of Jews in the Holocaust, kept sitting in the open squares all day without food or water. We mourn the tragedies that have befallen our ancestors and contemplate our own uncertain future.

I often felt a sense of foreboding at the approach of Tisha B'Av, like a muchmagnified Friday the 13th. We may not have fasted, but we generally left the city for a guiet week in the mountains, returning home with a sense of relief when the 10th of Av arrived with no catastrophe.

Tisha	B'Av this	year	begins	at sunset	t on
Iulv 31st.					

My major source of information for this article was Irving Greenberg's "The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays." >

KJCC Religious School News

by Morah Reba (Randy) Klein-Gross

s we wind down this year of KICC Religious School activities, we appreciate all that we celebrated. learned and dis-

The students were exposed to songs, trope, seders, Jewish recipes, prayers, holidavs. movies. art projects, Shabbat traditions and games through which they were able to learn Hebrew. Making it fun for kids to eniov religious school while they are learning is not always easy, but this year flew by.

This summer. on Iulv 14th and 15th, Oceana Gross, our oldest student (and. of course. my daughter). will be Bat Mitzvah'd in front of family, friends and the KICC family. She

has worked hard over the past few years to learn her prayers and the

meanings behind them. Her favorite song has always been Shalom Rav, ever since she attended Camp Ramah in California, many sum-

mers ago.

We hope everyone will join Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and Oceana's family and friends for Friday evening services on July 14th and Saturday morning Torah

> service at 10:00 a.m. on July 15th. Ioin us also for a luncheon afterwards. This will be a fitting culmination to Oceana's years with the KICC Religious School. &







Our Holocaust Survivor Speaks Out

Many KJCC members know his story by now. Born in the southern Rhine Valley town of Schmieheim in 1933, Gunther Karger was sent, alone and at the age of six, by his parents on a train to Sweden in a desperate attempt to save his life. They succeeded. Arriving in the U.S. shortly after the war, Gunther went on to have a distinguished career as an aeronautical engineer. He has written and lectured extensively as a Holocaust survivor. We reproduce here a letter Gunther sent to his local Homestead paper that they published on April 24th.

onday, April 24th, is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. This is the day we remember and honor the six million murdered in the Holocaust perpetrated by Germany's Nazi Regime of Adolf Hitler. This remains the most horrific, organized, regime-sponsored, mechanized persecution and murder of a people just because of their ethnic heritage. Nearly onethird of the entire world's lews, including 1.5

million children, were murdered during the period 1938-1945. Beyond those murdered in the most horrific ways were millions more whose lives were forever impacted by the loss of parents. grandparents, homes and family legacies. Out of this human and ethnic disaster, the State of Israel was born in 1948, creating a home for the Jewish people seeking a safe and permanent home, their "Promised Land."

This day. Yom HaShoah. is declared a national holiday in Israel, and at 10:00 a.m. a siren sounds

across the nation. Everything stops for two minutes, including vehicles on highways and streets. Jews across the world observe this event in their temples at special events; TV programs are aired commemorating the Holocaust and many churches and Christians join in this Day of Remembrance.

On this day, I personally remember and honor my entire family, all of whom were murdered in the Holocaust, including my parents. grandparents. aunts and un-



Gunther and his parents at home in Schmieheim, age 3.

cles. Yes, I am the sole survivor of my entire family, which had lived in my hometown since the 1600s. The memorial shown was erected by the Evangelistic Church of Schmieheim, Germany (my hometown), by its youth group three years ago in memory of the last 14 lewish persons deported late in the fall of 1939 from there to a concentration camp, all of

> whom were killed. Of these 14 victims, eight were my parents. grandparents, aunts and uncles. The only reason I was not also deported and killed was that my parents sent me out of Germany on the last train of children from Central Europe to Sweden. where I survived in foster homes and an orphanage. I was six years old and never saw my parents or grandparents again.

We all are human beings regardless of race, color or religion and should respect

our differences. We should work together toward common goals and strive for all people to live in freedom without persecution. This message is especially directed to politicians at all levels...local, state and national. Together, we survive and thrive. Apart. we fail ourselves, our community, our nation and the world. . .

Our Own Genizah

We Honor G-d's Name (and Bury the Books)

"The test of a people may well be how it treats its books. We have been taught to kiss our holy books, to save them from fires, to ransom them from captivity. We bury them when they are old and worn. We treat them with the reverence and care we show to beloved friends and relatives. In the words of David Ben Gurion, 'For thousands of years we safequarded the Book, and it has kept us safe." - Rabbi Robert Silvers (a friend of our own Rabbi Richard Agler)

genizah is a special place - a room, a vault, a closet, a coffin where books are kept when they are no longer of use but in which one or more of the seven most sacred names of God are printed and therefore can not be thrown away. At KICC we have been talking about a respectful book burial for vears.

This year, 5777, has been a year of completion. We cleaned and painted all the syna-

gogue walls with colors both soothing and dramatic. From the imaginations, skill and generosity of our member artists, we created an inspiring art exhibit. We installed attractive new carpeting that helps damp down noise (plus cushion our step) in our Social Hall. And iust a few weeks ago. after combing through

scores of books and pamphlets on shelves throughout the synagogue, we put the unusable, unwanted books respectfully into white pillowcases/shrouds and had a hole dug in which to bury the books and papers we no longer use.

A minyan of us gathered at the large open shallow gravesite and formed a kind of fire-



instead of pails of water. passing them from hand to hand until they were finally laid to rest on top

of a large white fitted sheet in the limestoneand-coral-rock-littered burial hole. On and on we went. Then we covered the books with

> white sheets, spoke our Kever Shemot (Burial of the Names) service roundrobin style, words of goodbye and appreciation. Finally we sang Hashivenu, and we were done. Rabbi Agler noted quietly that this is what burials really look like in Israel, a white shroud being the deceased



person's only covering. He said that even the rock and dirt piles - ours at KICC and theirs in the ancient homeland - look the same. We looked with new eyes and saw a nearly human form (albeit giant-sized) underneath the sheets. It

added reverence and solemnity. Just before the final song, we paused for a moment of silence to recognize the role the

Torah and holy books have played for us (and for every Jewish congregation). The physical forms were about to be covered by earth, but we knew that their teachings were alive, inside us, heart and soul.

As we turned away to return to our building, ready for Erev Shabbat services, our hole digger, Bernie Loeb, the owner of Florida Keys Tree Services, arrived, towing his power-

ful mini-bulldozer. Perfect timing. He mounted his machine and proceeded to cover both books and hole with coral rock and dirt. Our KICC genizah was at rest, just in time for Shabbat. We had fulfilled a time-honored Jewish dutv.

-Gloria Avner



The final step was for Bernie Loeb of Florida Keys Tree Service, who'd dug the hole, to come finalize the formal burial of our books. Rabbi Agler led us in prayer. We had buried God's name respectfully, in accordance with rabbinic tradition, another important first for KJCC.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

by Joel Bofshever

As many of you know, Toby and I are volunteers with honorflightsouthflorida.org, whose services include veterans from Monroe, Dade, Broward and the lower part of Palm Beach Counties.

On April 8th I was privileged to be an elite guardian for a World War II veteran for the entire day.

I picked up George Benitez at 3:00 a.m., and we drove to Ft. Lauderdale Airport. Toby was part of the ground crew that helped process the vets.

Our organization's mission is to honor World War II veterans with a special day in the nation's capital. We flew to Baltimore and boarded charter buses, which took us to Washington to see the World War II Memorial. Senator Bob Dole, who lost the use of an arm in World War II. was also there. It was very special to see the men and women who had served our country enjoy this emotional experience. From there, we went to the Korean Memorial.

Lunch was eaten on the bus as we drove with a police escort to Arlington National Cemetery, where our veterans were honored with the privilege of sitting up front for the

changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The veterans were saluted by the quards with a special scuffling of their heels as they passed us by. We then proceeded to the Iwo Jima Memorial, where group pictures were tak-

The best part of the excursion is the homecoming.

These men and women have no idea that thousands of people will be there specifically to greet and honor them. It is very emotional when children and strangers walk up to them, shake their hands and applaud their contribution to our freedom.

Because World War II vets are passing away at the rate of about 800 a day. we need your help in finding and register-



ing all of them. Korea, Vietnam, The Philippines - it does not matter where they were stationed. And there is no cost to the veterans for the flight or any part of the day's adventure.

If you know of any veterans in South Florida, please ask them to log onto the web site, or help them do it. You can also contact me by e-mail: bofloel@vahoo.com. >



KJCC's Holocaust Weekend

by Gloria Avner

writers, educators, psychologists, merchants, lawyers, police officers, artists, musicians, scientists, naturalists, scholars, public policy administrators, stockbrokers, jewelry designers, computer geniuses and healers. We hail from different parts of this country and from other countries as well, with children and without. From drama to glory to tragedy and back, between us we've experienced at least 50 shades of joy and sorrow. So when Yom HaShoah comes around, and it is time to light the six yellow candles that will commemorate the six million Jews lost in the Holocaust, we trust that our committee, embodied by Yardena Kamely and Medina Roy, will present a thought-provoking program. They did

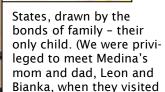
e are our own mini-melting-pot. Amona our members at KICC are

The Friday **Night Service** and Yizkor

not disappoint.

Yardena brings the perspective of a world citizen. having grown up in Israel, Germany, and Chile, born of parents who as children them-

selves escaped from secret lewish lives in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad and who themselves wielded rifles (including tiny Michal) in the 1948 war for Israel's independence. Medina Roy's parents were survivors who spent most of their lives in Israel (where two of Medina's grandparents lived and are buried) and eventually returned to the



us in an UIpan class, shortly before Medina's father died.)

The Yom HaShoah program this vear was sober, somber, uncluttered. and direct - a combination

of Shabbat, Yizkor (our third of the mandated four remembrance services we observe each year), and commemoration of the lost ones in the Holocaust. We were touched by song, story, poetry, and, believe it or not, a harmonica solo. If you were with





us that night, your eyes may well up again, remembering. If you were not in the sanctuary with us on that special night, imagine the following: Gunther Karger, KICC's sole Holocaust survivor sent as a six-year-old by his par-

1939 Germany to temporary safety in Sweden with foster parents and orphanages - wanted to be with us, together with wife and life-long partner Shirley, at this commemoration. He had been asked to light the second of the six candles. When all the candles were lit, "Eli Eli" sung, and tribute paid to the dead and the survivors, Gunther was asked to come forward again. He brought his harmonica with him to the bimah.

ents on the last Kindertransport train out of

One might have imagined that Gunther would play some rousing version of HaTikvah or a song of the Partisans, but

no. Gunther chose to play something that would pay tribute to the country that had welcomed him after the war, when there was no one to go back to in Germany and that gave him new life after every member of his family had been exterminated. Gunther started to play, quietly, God Bless America. Before a full stanza was complete, people from the congregation began joining in. What started as a whisper ended in a soar-

> ing burst of song with a strong undercurrent of tears. It was an unforgettable, indelible moment.

And then, as if there was not enough deep emotional energy in the room, Bernie, still technically in mourning for his mother, led us all in our observance of the year's third Yizkor, that for Passover. Every light on our *vahrzeit* boards, representing members and loved ones from the very founding of KJCC, was lit in

> respectful remembrance.

On To The Oneq

And then came the celebrations. A big Mazel Tov to Gene Silverman. Gene and Mort were sharing Gene's birthday with us via

a beautiful ice-cream cake. Jane was celebrating the bounty of Harry's garden, plvina us with delicious vegetable dish-

es, and Maria, mother of twovear-old Binyamin, seen hoisting a

l'chaim, brought out platters of pasta.

Who knew that among us that night there would be guests Justin and Jackie Kunst? Justin. the son of one of our earliest members



(Barry Kunst), is a newly married young man who started his education with us at the age of seven and became Bar Mitzvah here 17

years ago!
Wife Jackie
looked
through early
archive issues
of Chai-Lights
with awe,
seeing the
adorable
blonde boy
(now her

handsome darkhaired husband) gracing our pages in the prime of his youth. Medina qvelled, as Justin had once been one of her students. She laughingly remembered (and then recreated for us in a photograph, shown

above) Justin sitting at her feet, listening intently while she read to him in her days as Ms. Roy, PKS Librarian. After the solemnity of our *Yom HaShoah* observance and *Yizkor*, the shift to joy at evidence of *mishpocha* continuity was welcome.

There was more to come.

The Movie

The next night, Saturday, we gathered for the penultimate movie of our First Annual KJCC Moms' Memorial Winter Film Fest, so wonderfully sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman. "Denial" was a strong, extremely well-acted film not just about David Irving, an oft-published Holocaust denier who used his

> prejudices to turn truth on its head, declaring that there had never been gas chambers used to kill Jews in Germany and that the mass murders were a fiction perpetrat-

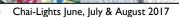
ed by Jews greedy for reparations and the establishment of a Jewish state through

manufactured sympathy. This was a film about a dedicated Holocaust scholar, Professor Deborah Lipstadt.



We were enthralled

by the film depicting her now-famous British libel trial and the fine acting performances, particularly those of Rachel Weisz (as Professor Lipstadt) and Tom Wilkinson, but the ultimate inspiration was seeing the real Deborah Lipstadt give her passionate talk in person.



She had publicly named Irving as a Denier and been sued by him for libel. Under the

terms of British law, she had to prove her accuser wrong, that she had not committed libel by naming him a Holocaust denier. It was riveting. (Spoiler alert she was successful.) The little band of us - Joyce, Medina, Gloria and Yardena, that was planning a field trip to Aventura the next day to hear this renowned Holocaust scholar. hero and one-time childhood neighbor/playmate of Medina in Far Rockaway, Queens, speak of her experience - was eager.

The Trip to Aventura

According to Joyce, the Aventura Turnberry **Iewish Center** was the most beautiful modern synagogue she had ever seen. We were early enough to explore, to enjoy the ex-

hibits, art, architecture, and most of all, the music of the "Holocaust Survivors Klezmer Band." When the Holocaust ceremony began, it was not unlike ours. There were six candles to be dedicated and lighted. The numbers of attendees, though, were very different. When all survivors were called upon to take the stage and light the second candle, they came in wheelchairs

and walkers, with canes, helpers, and alone, some with elegant postures, beautifully dressed. It was an impressive procession.

And when the next candle was to be lit, the second, third, and fourth generation of those

> survivors took the stage. It was a luminous moment, evidence that Yom HaShoah is not just about remembering the lost ones, but equally about valuing those who came before and will continue to come after.

Professor Lipstadt's talk came after the ceremony, after the cantor's beautiful Malai HaRachamim and the childrens' choir's Ani ma'amin (Lbelieve). "We are all defenders of the truth," she said. "Truth is under attack. Alternative truth equals lies." Her advice? Ask, "Where is vour evidence? Follow the footnotes. Be extremely vigilant. The time to fight is short. We must devote ourselves for all the gen-

erations." She reminded us of Galileo's words after he was forced to recant his scientific proof that the earth revolved around the sun: "and yet it moves."

We loved listening to her, and we loved

standing in line afterwards. waiting for Medina's turn to speak to her old school chum. (Did I mention that they grew up across the street from each other, went to the same Yeshiva and used to play stickball and jacks together?)

Medina walked to the table where Deborah was signing books and put an open Yeshivah Yearbook in front of her. "You brought the



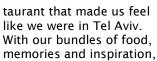
All members of the Klezmer orchestra are Holocaust survivors. The youngest is 90 years old. They rocked. Tower?" shouted Deborah in surprise. She grabbed a pen, drew an arrow right down the center of the page into her high school face,

and wrote, "This is me! Deborah Lipstadt." They grinned into each other's eyes, laughed, traded questions, posed for a few photos, and off we went, satisfied, through a dramatic downpour to a kosher supermarket followed by lunch at an Israeli res-

Ten years ago, Medina was in a bookstore when a book fell off a shelf ten feet in front of her. Being a good

and well trained librarian, she dutifully picked it up. Imagine her surprise when she saw that the author's name was that of a childhood playmate, who had in the intervening years become a renowned Holocaust scholar. This was the first time Medina and Deborah had seen each other since high school. Note how rapt

they are in their junior high yearbook.



we returned to the Keys, our Yom HaShoah weekend concluded, firmly rooted in a grate-

ful present. >



Medina has the knack of finding homies. On the way out, above, she met another alumna of the Far Rockaway yeshiva.

Letting our Torah Breathe: Restoration, Rejuvenation and Un-mustification

by Gloria Avner

e made a promise a little over a year ago when we undertook the effort of restoring our precious Holocaust Torah to the highest standards of "Kosher." Over the years, letters had cracked, ink had dimmed, stitching became

weak, and darkness had taken hold in many spots. Bernie saw the deterioration and showed it to Rabbi Agler, who agreed that

restoration was necessary. The KICC Board also agreed: we needed to honor the people of Susice (in the former Czechoslovakia), to whom this 1880s Torah had originally belonged, by making it right and beautiful again. (The sofers, the Torah scribes, had oohed and aahed when they first saw it. It was of a unique style and type format, and just by looking they could tell where and when it had been written.)

You all made it possible, through hard work, generous donations, and

participation in the *mitzvah* of "writing a new song" (the 613th and final mitzvah), inking a

letter of your very own, your hand on the feather of the sofer's quill as he wrote each sacred letter.

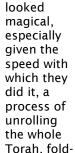
The promise we made required something more of us: we were to periodically air

out our Torah to protect it from its worst enemy - dampness - which over time would cause it to deteriorate and become unkosher again. The sofers demonstrated the process



to us once, well before we'd agreed to the appropriate level of repairs. (The group who had taken our Torah to the sofers and experi-

> enced all this in person had been Sam Vinicur, then president of KJCC; me, Gloria, as V.P. and Ritual Chair; past-president Bernie Ginsberg, whose great -uncle - to the delight of our hosts - had also been a sofer: and Gene Silverman.) It all



ing and unfolding it back on itself so that it eventually looked like a giant's portion of ribbon candy. But it was a process that also served to allow air to touch every inch of both sides of the organic parchment without having to stretch it out to its full 80-foot length.

A year after completion of our Torah project, we kept our promise. Even though none of us had ever done this before (including Rabbi Agler), we figured it out. We donned gloves, worked as a team, and unrolled and



re-rolled our Holocaust Torah.

In between the unrolling and re-rolling we took a four-hour break so the Torah could dry and breathe new, longer life into itself. In rerolling, Rabbi Agler pointed out special points of interest along the way: the Ten Commandments, the Shema, the Song of Songs (the portion where we had done our own penning, together with the sofer).

Somehow, it seemed appropriate that we undertook this task on the day of Rabbi Agler's last Shabbat morning service for the season. It also happened to be just two days since his birthday. In the morning's service, in which we studied from Pirkei Avot (Wisdom from the Sages), Rich was given the honor of the day's Aliyah.

To see the entire Torah up close and personal is an awesome experience. We felt privileged.

Who could have known how special this day would become? He then chanted from the Torah the very same *Maftir* portion he

had chanted more than 50 years ago at his Bar Mitzvah. Could anything have been more bashert?

With the Torah now reset to B'reishit (Genesis), which we will read on Rosh HaShanah, we dressed and returned it, aired and honored, to its weekday home, the safe. We kept our promise and will do it again before the High Holidays. The soferim call those who do this maintenance work "Holy Rollers." The name made us laugh, but

the process did feel like a privilege. Enjoy the photos, and feel free to volunteer for the next time; being so close and so intimate to the absolute core of Judaism brings a special feeling, a warm glow, as if our grandparents are sitting just behind us and kvelling. We will do this regularly for all three of our Torahs. It felt like a mitzvah. (Actually, according to Rabbi Agler, it was.) ♦

As we get older, we have fewer opportunities to perform important Jewish rituals for the first time.

Thanks to KJCC, we've been very rich in such experiences in recent years. You, too, will soon have the opportunity to participate in the airing and re-rolling of one of our other two Torahs, to yourself be a "holy roller" and to help air and preserve them for posterity. Our deepest thanks to Rabbi Rich Agler for being there to help guide us the first time any of us (including him) had ever done this.

Take a Free Cruise This Summer...

With the KJCC Library

by Medina Roy

Our KICC library is constantly growing. And that's a good thing. Over the years, we've received wonderful donations from a number of generous contributors, both members and non-members. And now, many thanks go out to Yardena Kamely. She has recently brought boxes of outstanding books from Temple Beth Am in Kendall for us to add to our library. Beth Am has been downsizing and Etta Gold. Beth Am's librarian (and a close friend of Yardena's) has been savina books for us; books she feels are a "must" in any Jewish library. And we are the lucky recipients of some very impressive new titles.

Here's a short list - some old, some new of books representing several genres that you may find enticing. The long, lazy days of summer are the perfect time to explore new perspectives or the unique insights of a new writer or a new subject you never knew you'd love: in other words, a book. (All text inside quotes, attributed or not, are from published reviews.)

All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir by Shulem Deen (2015 National Jewish Book Award Winner)

"Shulem Deen was raised to believe that guestions are dangerous. As a member of the Skverers, one of the most insular Hasidic sects in the U.S.. he knows little about the outside world - only that it is to be shunned. His marriage at eighteen is arranged and several children soon follow. Deen's first transgression - turning on the radio - is small, but his curiosity leads him to the library, and later the Internet. Soon he begins a feverish inquiry into the tenets of his religious beliefs, until, several years later, his faith unrayels entirely. Now a heretic, he fears being discovered and ostracized from the only world he knows. His relationship with his family at

stake, he is forced into a life of deception, and begins a long struggle to hold on to those he loves most: his five children. Deen traces his harrowing loss of faith, while offering an illuminating look at a highly secretive world "

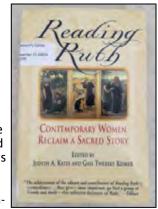
Shulem Deen currently serves as a board member at Footsteps, a New York City-based organization that offers assistance and support to those who have left the ultra-Orthodox lewish community. Library location: Biography (BIO)

Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story, edited by Judith Kates and Gail Twersky Reimer

This is a diverse collection of thoughtprovoking essays written by an eclectic group

of lewish novelists. essayists, poets, rabbis, psychologists, and scholars to explore one of the most beloved stories in the Bible. the Book of Ruth. Here "the gamut of women's experience in the modern world is illuminated by this ancient story. Whether the essay-

ists explore relationships between sis-



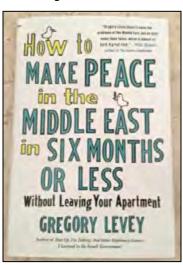
ters, the complex bond between mother-inlaw and daughter-in-law, the place of the 'other' in society, the heartache of loss, the limitations of loyalty, or the elaborate connections of family, they give voice to an exciting array of thought and interpretation that endows this sacred tale with new life." Location: Women's Studies (WS)

Day After Night: A Novel, by Anita Diamant (Named a Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post.)

"lust as she gave voice to the silent women of the Hebrew Bible in her novel The Red Tent, Anita Diamant creates a cast of vivid characters - young women who escaped to Israel from Nazi Europe. The book is based on the extraordinary true story of the October 1945 rescue of more than two hundred prisoners from the Atlit internment camp, a prison for "illegal" immigrants run by the British military near the Mediterranean coast south of Haifa. The story is told through the eyes of four young women at the camp who survived the Holocaust: Shayndel, a Polish Zionist; Leonie, a Parisian beauty; Tedi, a hidden Dutch Jew; and Zorah, a concentration camp survivor. Haunted by unspeakable memories and losses, afraid to hope, the four of them find salvation in the bonds of friendship and shared experience even as they confront the challenge of re-creating themselves in a strange new country." Location: Fiction (FIC)

How to Make Peace in the Middle East in Six Months or Less Without Leaving Your Apartment, by Gregory Levey

"Gregory Levey's modest goal is to solve the Middle East conflict - all by himself. After returning to North America following a stint



in his midtwenties writing speeches for the Israeli aovernment first at the United Nations and then for the prime minister in lerusalem - Levey soon discovers that everyone on this side of the Atlantic seems to think that

they have the solution to the intractable conflict – and they all feel the need to tell him about it. Tired of the endless debate, he decides that the only way he is going to escape it all is if he once and for all solves the conflict himself. So Levey sets out on a hilarious quest to broker a peace deal where a long line of world leaders have failed."

Interacting with a cast of characters that would be outright funny if the situation weren't so dire (including White House officials, high-profile journalists, secretive fundraisers, former Israeli spies now living in North America, and hundreds and hundreds of Jewish grandmothers), the result is "a fast-paced, humorous romp through U.S. policymaking in the Middle East." Location: HUMOR (HUM)

The Genesis of Justice: Ten Stories of Biblical Injustice that Led to the Ten Commandments and Modern Morality and Law, by Alan Dershowitz

Dershowitz, the retired Harvard Law School faculty member, is noted for representing controversial and unpopular clients. In this book, "he turns to ten stories from *Genesis* to demonstrate how the Bible pro-

vides a basis for contemporary ideas about justice and injustice. The narratives deal with Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham, Lot, Jacob, Dina, Tamar and Joseph. Dershowitz includes a translation of each story, recounts some theological

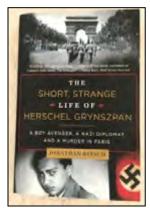
Dershowitz
argues that the
'bad actions'
depicted in
Genesis gave
rise to the
'common law of
justice.'

commentaries and offers his own interpretations. He acknowledges the failings of the Biblical characters, pointing out that they were guilty of deception, lust, crime, incest, revenge and murder. Their problematic actions highlighted the need for the laws that appear later in the *Torah*, starting with *Exodus* and the Ten Commandments. The book

concludes with four chapters on 'The Genesis of Justice in the Injustice of Genesis.' Dershowitz argues that the 'bad actions' depicted in Genesis gave rise to the 'common law of justice.' He addresses the profound question of theodicy - the defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil - claiming that the belief in the hereafter solves the problem of why evil exists on earth. Finally, he asserts that the stories he has examined explain the need for judicial codes." Location: lewish Law (LAW)

The Short, Strange Life of Herschel Grynszpan: A Boy Avenger, a Nazi Diplomat, and a Murder in Paris, by Jonathan Kirsch

"On the morning of November 7, 1938, Herschel Grynszpan, a desperate seventeenyear-old Jewish refugee, walked into the German embassy in Paris and shot Ernst von Rath, a Nazi diplomat. Two days later von Rath lay dead, and the Third Reich exploited the murder to unleash Kristallnacht in a bi-



zarre sequence of events. But was Grvnszpan a crazed lone gunman or agent provocateur of the Gestapo? Was he motivated by a desire to avenge Jewish people, or did his act of violence speak to an intimate connection between the assassin and his target, as Grynszpan later claimed? The

book brings to life the historical details and moral dimensions of one of the most eniamatic cases of World War II." Location: History (HIS)

Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory, by Deborah Lipstadt.

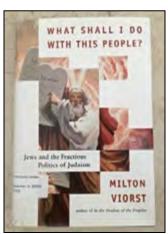
In this book, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt "traces the history of Holocaust revisionism and contends that it can no longer be ignored, showing how Holocaust-deniers, once dismissed as a lunatic fringe, have been growing in numbers and influence since the 1970s. Professor Lipstadt presents numerous examples of attempts to prove that the extermination of six million Jews is a hoax; that only a few thousand Jews died in the camps from disease; that the Allied bombings of German cities were worse than any Nazi offense; and that the 'true victims' of WW II were the German people." Lipstadt argues vehemently against giving revisionists a forum in the name of free speech or freedom of the press. This is the book in which Lipstadt named David Irving a Holocaust denier, resulting in the famous lawsuit he filed against her.

(We recently screened the major film "Denial," starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson, at the KICC, which was based on the trial.) Location: Holocaust Studies (HOL)

What Shall I Do With This People? Jews and the Fractious Politics of Judaism, by Milton Viorst.

"'What shall I do with this people?' was Moses' exasperated question to God in Sinai, and it is posed once more in Milton Viorst's account of the crisis in Judaism today. Not since the destruction of the Second Temple have Jews displayed such intolerance toward one another or battled so fiercely over ideology. And these battles are not just intellectual exercises: they exact a fearsome price in today's Middle East. Framed by the murder of

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an Orthodox extremist - an unprecedented outburst of violence among lews - the book examines how religious leaders through the centuries have shaped Judaism to serve their own political ends. often with disastrous conse-



quences. Viorst vigorously critiques Orthodox Judaism's doctrines concerning territory in the Holy Land as well as on marriage, divorce, conversion, and women's rights, contending that religious law often departs from the teachings of the *Torah* and has, in fact, changed over time to perpetuate rabbinic power. The author calls for an end to violence in the name of Judaism and offers a stirring plea for mutual understanding among what even the God of the Hebrew Bible called 'a stiff-necked people.'" Location: Politics and Government (POL) >

My Life: Rising From the Ashes of the Holocaust, by Gunther Karger

Our very own KICC member Gunther Karger, a Holocaust survivor and sole surviving member of his family from a small town in the Black Forest of Germany, has written an account of his own personal experience as a six-year-old boy, his escape from Germany as his parents sent him alone to Sweden on a train just before they and his entire family were arrested, deported to a concentration camp in France and murdered. Gunther spent the next six years in foster homes and orphanages in Sweden, "ranging from a very religious evangelistic Christian home to an ultra-Orthodox Jewish home, until after the war ended." Then he was shipped, again alone, to America to live with a distant relative in the U.S. Unlike most Holocaust survivor stories, which focus on the horrors of the experience, our Gunther focuses on making the most of the opportunities one encounters along the way. Location: Biography (BIO)

Son of Hamas: A Gripping Account of Terror, Betrayal, Political Intrigue, and Unthinkable Choices, by Mosab Hassan Yousef

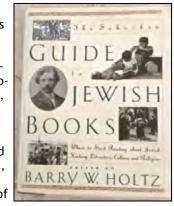
"Since he was a small boy, Mosab Hassan Yousef has had an inside view of the deadly terrorist group *Hamas*. The oldest son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding member of *Hamas* and its most popular leader, young Mosab assisted his father for years in his political activities while being groomed to assume his legacy, politics, status and power.

But everything changed when Mosab turned away from terror and violence, and embraced instead the teachings of another famous Middle East leader: Jesus. Mosab reveals information about the world's most dangerous terrorist organization and unveils the truth about his own role, his agonizing separation from family and homeland, the dangerous decision to make his newfound faith public, and his belief that the Christian mandate to "love your enemies" is the only way to peace in the Middle East." Location: Biography (BIO)

The Schocken Guide to Jewish Books: Where to Start Reading about Jewish History, Literature, Culture and Religion, by Barry W. Holtz

Although this edition was written 25 years

ago, it is still a worthwhile, resourceful reader's quide recommending books "on the Bible, Talmud. lewish historv. the Holocaust. modern Israel. religious life and customs, mysticism, Hebrew and Yiddish literature, and lewish feminism to readers of all backgrounds



and at all levels of expertise." Location: Reference (REF)

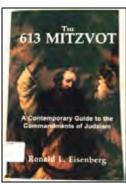
The Secret Chord: A Novel, by Geraldine Brooks

This is an absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *People of the Book*. Brooks "portrays one of the most heroic yet morally troubling figures in Jewish literature, King David." The entire life of David, from simple shepherd to his death, is told through the prophet Natan, voice of David's conscience as he interviews people in David's life at the request of David himself, who wishes a chronicle of his life and kingship as a legacy. The result "captures"

both the enormity of David's crimes as well as his generosity and largeness of heart." Above all, the book is a rich character study of all the people who love, hate, and fear David most, especially through the eyes of his wives Michal, Avigavil and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his old age. Library Location: Fiction (FIC)

The 613 Mitzvot: A Contemporary Guide to the Commandments of Judaism, by Ronald L. Eisenbera

Looking for something a little deeper? Try this one. "Traditionally, the 613 commandments embodied in the Torah serve as the



basis of Jewish practice. Using the Sefer ha -Mitzvot of Maimonides, this book details all the 248 positive and 365 negative mitzvot in an easily readable style. For each mitzvah. there is a citation of its biblical source according to Maimonides, as well as a discussion - in layman's language - of its essen-

tial features, the views of major commentators, and current applications. Commentaries from the Mishnah and the Talmud to presentday interpretations are included." Location: Judaic Studies (JUD)

Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle, by Dan Senor and Saul Sinaer.

"Start-Up Nation addresses the trilliondollar question: How is it that Israel - a country of 7.1 million, only 60 years old - (this book was written in 2009; the population is now over 8 million and the country recently celebrated her 69th birthday) - surrounded by enemies, in a constant state of war since its founding, with no natural resources - produces more start-up companies than large. peaceful, and stable nations like Japan, China, India, South Korea, Canada and the U.K.?

With the savvy of foreign policy insiders, Senor and Singer examine the lessons of the country's adversity-driven culture, all backed up by government policies focused on innovation. In a world where economies as diverse as Ireland, Singapore and Dubai have tried to re-create the 'Israel effect,' there are entrepreneurial lessons well worth noting." Location: Israel (ISR)

Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots by Deborah Feldman

Here is another memoir of escaping from the Hasidic way of life, this time of a young Jewish woman. "Deborah Feldman was raised in an insular, oppressive world where she was taught that, as a woman, she wasn't capable of independent thought. But she found the determination needed to make the break

from that world" and in this book she has written an account of her iournev. "As a member of the strictly religious Satmar sect of Hasidic ludaism. Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of relentlessly enforced customs governing everything from

"Deborah Feldman was raised in an insular. oppressive world, taught that, as a woman, she wasn't capable of independent thought."

what she could wear and to whom she could speak to what she was allowed to read. It was stolen moments spent with the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott that helped her to imagine an alternative way of life. Trapped as a teenager in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she barely knew, the tension between her desires and her responsibilities as a good *Satmar* girl grew more explosive until she gave birth at nineteen and realized that, for the sake of herself and her son, she had to escape." Location: Biography (BIO) >



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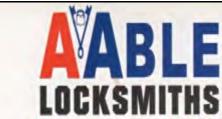
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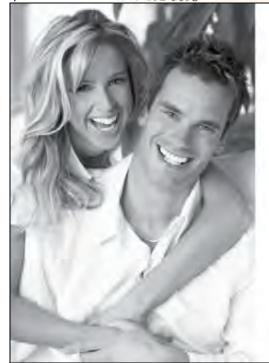


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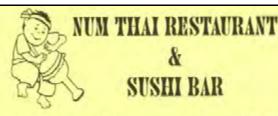
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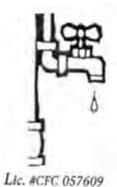


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10 Elul 5777 - 10 Tishrei 5778

Steve Smith Plays Klezmer Trumpet in Russia - page 33

Rabbi Ed's Hillel Retreat at KJCC - page 41

High Holiday Section - page 46

September 2017

10 Elul - 10 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Erica Lieberman- Garrett	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Sisterhood Meeting 1:00 p.m.	7	8 Joyce Peckman	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 Beth Hayden	S'lichot Pizza & Movie 6:00 p.m.
17	18	19	20 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 5:30 p.m. Service 7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day One Service 9:30 a.m.	22 Rosh Hashanah Day Two Gloria Avner Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis	Shabbat Shuvah Service 10 a.m. Havdalah 7:30 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Services 9:30 a.m. Yizkor

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha,

This issue of Chai-Lights ushers in the time of year when we prepare for the High Holy Days of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. It is a time of year that fills me with anticipation and affirms my feeling that we are actually very fortunate to be Jews. These Yamim HaNoraim (Days of Awe) are unique and bind us to the observances and customs of our predecessors. Who cannot be deeply moved when the majestic and haunting melody of Aveinu Malkeinu (Our Father, Our King) rises in supplication? How can one remain impassive when we ask to be written in the Book of Life (Sefer Chaim) for a good year? Or recite the words of the Unetaneh Tokef as we ask "Mi vichayeh umi *yamut*" (who will live and who will die)? While these are deeply personal and humbling days for all of us, as we review our successes and failures during the past year, these are also days when we can look ahead with anticipation to a new year, new plans, fresh intentions and a fresh beginning. Not only is the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishri the celebration of Rosh HaShanah, in our tradition it is the birthday of the world. The KJCC incorporates in its preparation for and observance of the Days of Awe



some very traditional events. We have an evening on which we observe S'lichot services. Slichah (the singular) literally means pardon or forgive. The plural (S'lichot) is used when referring to the High Holy Days and describes the penitential psalms and pivyutim (Jewish liturgical poems) composing the S'lichot service. It is a traditional lewish act to ask forgiveness from people one may have hurt or wronged, either purposefully or accidentally. during the past year before beginning the observance of a New Year. The KICC also observes Tashlich - the custom of "casting" away past sins by throwing bread crumbs on moving water. During the days of repentance that separate Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur we observe Shabbat Shuvah (Sabbath of Return or Repentance) and on the tenth day, we observe the most solemn day in our calendar, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). It is customary on these days to wish each other a "Shanah tovah umetukah" (a good and sweet year) and "G'mar chatimah tovah" (may you be sealed for a good year). And so allow me to wish for you and each and every one of us. a Shanah tovah umetukah and G'mar chatimah tovah.

-B'shalom. Beth

Nosh

Israel 2018—Yesterday and Today

Whether you've never been to Israel or you have been many times, this will be an Israel experience unlike any other.

The State of Israel has come a long way since its founding. Through Socialism and Labor Zionism to free-market capitalism; from agriculture to manufacturing to the famed hi-tech "Start Up Nation;" with secular, national religious, ultraorthodox and Israel's new "secular spirituality" all playing a role.

The KICC will be returning to Israel in the Spring of 2018 and we'd like to have you join us Our theme will be "Israel: Yesterday and Today" —with special emphasis on today.

We will see first-hand how Israel is changing, e.g. in relations with her Arab neighbors, the national narrative, and a once-secular society now looking for, and finding, new modes of Jewish spiritual expression.

We will explore all of these and more in people-to-people encounters with scholars, guides, and everyday Israelis. We will also delve into Israel's historic past, with visits to new discoveries at archeological sites that teach us about the ancient roots that shape the land and its people today.

Though we will see "sites" this is not a sightseeing tour. It is a 10-day encounter with the people and movements that are shaping Israel's present and future destiny.

Come, be engaged and inspired. For further information, please contact Scott Pearl, KJCC's volunteer trip organizer, at 954-655-8330 or smpearl@gmail.com.

Veterans Invited

If you know any returning veterans who would like to participate in High Holiday services, please invite them to be part of our KJCC mishpocha for the 10 Days of Awe. We would love them to join us for Rosh HaShanah dinner and our Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast as well, where we will be

pleased to welcome them and express our gratitude for their service. Please RSVP in advance. with the veteran's name, to Donna Bolton (Iton9993@bellsouth.net).

Help Decorate Our Sukkah

Join us in the KJCC Meditation Garden on Sunday morning, October 1st, at 11:00 a.m., the day after Yom Kippur. The previous evening we will have feasted at our always-sumptuous Sisterhood Break-the-Fast. We'll then need some creative exercise. Let's once again make Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake's pergola gift into a gorgeous outdoor "booth" for Sukkot. Naturally, all who come (please bring your children and grandchildren) will have an assortment of treats and coffee to sustain them. We will practice our *lulay*/ estrog blessings. (For our formal celebration of Sukkot the following Friday evening.) This is always fun, for kids of all ages.

Selichot: Prayers and Pizza

Our High Holiday cycle doesn't really begin on Erev Rosh HaShanah. Everything in Judaism is a continuum. Erev Selichot marks the inner beginning because on that night we say prayers for forgiveness in community and set the intent for all that is to follow. It helps us get in a state of receptivity and commitment and is our warm-up for the Days of Awe to come. So be at KICC on Saturday, September 16th, by 6:00 p.m. It is always a special night - warm, meaningful, entertaining and delicious. Services will be led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg, Pizza and salad will be served, and we'll watch that perennial, multi-layered film favorite, "Fiddler On The Roof." Many thanks to Linda Pollack for sponsoring this important ritual evening. (See ad on page 16 for RSVP information.)

Oneg Sponsors for September 2017

September 22nd – Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Laurie's dad's Yahrzeit.

Yahrzeit Plaque

Patty Silver Schocket 10/29/1952 - 10/26/2016

Always in our hearts Sandy Feldman, M.D., Larry Binderow, Sasha Binderow and Jeffrey Schocket

Erev Rosh HaShanah Dinner

When we begin an important holiday, especially one that involves serious communal prayer, we all want to be around that big family table beforehand. Sisterhood will be offering its finest home-cooked foods, for meat lovers and vegetarians alike, on Erev Rosh HaShanah, September 20th, at 5:30 p.m. Make your reservation now and send your \$25 check (per person, not counting children under 13, who eat free) made out to KICC Sisterhood (P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070). It will be an auspicious, delicious and homey event as we prepare to be written into the Book of Life. Please see the ad on page 8 for more information, including RSVP. Hope to see you there.

Break-the-Fast With Us

On Saturday evening, the last day of September, we will have been in prayer and fasting mode all day long at KJCC. The experience will be deep, engaging, and multi-layered, as are all services led by Rabbi Richard Agler. So by the time we hear that final Tekiah g'dolah blasted by our shofar players, we will be feeling both uplifted and ethereal. We will have confessed our failures to live completely ethical, loving lives. Some of us (more every year) will have stayed at shul all afternoon to take part in Rabbi Agler's "fast" talk. (Yes, we'll be listening to and discussing more Leonard Cohen.) We will be hungry. And happy. Come to KICC Sisterhood's incomparable Break -the-Fast feast. Call or e-mail Erica Lieberman-Garrett – 305-393-1162, hippiejap@hotmail.com - or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585,

September Birthdays

lst	Mildred Finkelstein
2nd	Lloyd Wruble
4th	Chase Barrett
4th	Debby C. Block
	Steven Greenbaum
7th	Mindy Agler
	Morton Silverman
7th	Stellar Levy
8th	Susan Horn
9th	Jacob Klimpl
10th	Gerri Emkey
13th	Andy Tobin
13th	Lisha Lane
13th	Shawn Borisoff
l6th	Larry S. Schur
17th	Ellen Ecker
18th	Shirley Krissel
19th	Barbara Bernstein
19th	Brenna Nobil
19th	Joel Bofshever
19th	Steven Schur
22nd	Fred Hudson
23rd	Lauren Schur
24th	Noah Bitton
25th	Marla Berenson
25th	Michel Bitton

susangordon424@yahoo.com – to co-ordinate your dish and say how many will be coming. There is no charge for this joyous event. Please see the ad on page 28 for more information.

Toss Away Your Sins

One of the loveliest rituals of the High Holidays, and the shortest service, is Tashllich. We meet on Thursday, September 21, Rosh HaShanah Day One, at the Ocean Pointe Resort in Tavernier, at 4:00 p.m. Using pieces of bread, we metaphorically cast our "sins," the acts which did not reflect our best selves, into the ocean. We pray, we throw away and then we sing. The seagulls love it. This service will be led by Cantor Michael Dzubin.

News from a KICC Graduate

We like to hear from our one-time B'nei Mitzvot out in the world. Harry Friedman is pictured here with his boss for the last few months, Congressman Carlos Curbelo (R-FL). He will contin-

ue to work as an intern in the Congressman's Kendall office throughout his senior year. Harry is a student at Coral Reef High School in Miami. in the Engineering Magnet Program, and hopes to enter the Naval Academy when he graduates. We at KICC, Harry's mishpocha since



he was seven years old, wish him well and are confident that he will succeed. A hearty mazel tov to Harry Friedman and his proud parents, Jane and Steve, who sent us this news. Come back to us often, Harry. We love your chanting of Chatzi Kaddish and will always want to hear more of your adventures in the world.

Activities for the Upcoming Season

Plans are already being made for the upcoming season's activities. We know we'll be having an advertisers' dinner again. Sisterhood is planning their roster of events, as are the Adult Education, Ritual and Art Committees. (Gloria is working on a fabulous program on Kabbalah to be taught by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.) If you have ideas for lectures, or specific films or documentaries, or group reads, or off-the-rock activities, please contact Medina Roy, our Adult Ed chair, at hiitsmedee@gmail.com. For ideas about art classes, contact Gloria Avner, geetavner@gmail.com. We are what we think

September Anniversaries

		Years
7th	Jay & Nancy Hershoff	18
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov	33
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith	39
27th	Gary & Lyn Sherman	
30th	Marsha & Tom Garrettson	27

Please Send Those Dues Packages In

All membership renewal packages went out in July. (They're sent, of course, to addresses we have on file. If you didn't get your package, please write or call Donna Bolton.

lton9993@bellsouth.net or 305-393-1351.) Yes, it's vital that we get our members to renew, and donate as generously as they can, but there is another important aspect to the packets, too. It's to make sure we have accurate and updated information from you. If you've moved, or changed your cell phone, or your e-mail, please remember to let us know.

Still, there's another aspect of the information that probably causes more consternation than any other: the form that lists yahrzeits and the other that offers you names you have listed in our annual Yizkor Book in the past. For yahrzeits, Alan has set up the database to reflect either the religious or secular date, but not both. So please be sure you know which you've chosen; that can actually affect the month in which names are read from the bemah. And if you have additional names to be listed in the Yizkor Book, please make sure your form is returned no later than September 3rd.

Yahrzeit Plaque

Frances Weiser February 6, 2003

Forever in our Hearts Andrew & Randi Grant

about and endeavor to do.

Two High Holiday Poems by Gloria Avner

Yes, she's an artist, and yes, she's a writer of prose, and, yes, she's becoming the editor of Chai-Lights, and yes, she sings. But did you know she's also a published poet? Here are a couple of poems, inspired by the Days of Awe, we thought you'd enjoy.

Iewish Woman

Briskets in the slowcooker for the New Year feast I like that I am part of a world-wide confederation of women humming to ourselves hands smelling of garlic.

Tashlich

Four-year-old Sean and 102-year-old Pauline throw bits of bread into the ocean like thousands grouped along European creeks and Asian rivers leaning over bridges watching gulls and needlefish gobble our sins.

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 Beth Hayden 305-773-0067.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

ONEG SHABBAT OR DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225 or e-mail her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 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.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial to provide them to Haiti, where they are desperately needed.

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 Geptember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sam Roazen	Goldie Berman	Mae U. Stark
By Sylvia Berman <><><><>	By Sylvia Berman <>><>><>>	By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Molly Feldblum	Morris Abramson	Jim Boruszak
By Marc Bloom <><><>>>>	By Joel & Toby Bofshever <><>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Lillian Goldstein	Sydney Edelman	Ronald Repka
By Joan Boruszak	By Dale Chasteen	By Nancy L. Cohn
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Evelyn O. Coltman	Ida Hitzig	Sadie Suchman
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin	By Foster Davidson
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\		
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Albert Improta	Hannah Improta	H. Melvin Berkon
By Carol Field	By Carol Field	By Jamie & Laura Goodman
<><><><><>	~~~~~~~~~	<><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Nettie Gorson	Beverly Harvey	Leonard Roberts
By Janice Gorson	By Mitchell Harvey	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan
<><><><><><><><><>	<><><>	<><><><><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sadie Klimpl	Burton Margolis	Anne Hendin Margulies
By Michael Klimpl	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

In Memoriam Beptember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Toby Mitchell	Melvin Richardson	Lorraine Martell
By Linda Pollack <><><>><>	By Lori Richardson & George Smyth	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
David Gulkis	David Schur	Max Rosenfeld
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Lee Schur <>><><>>	By Morton & Gene Silverman
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Mollie Silverman	Irving Kopecky	Roger Starr
By Morton & Gene Silverman	By Adam & Judy Starr <><><>>>>	, , ,
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Charlie Temkin	Jim Boruszak	Evelyn O. Coltman
By Robert Temkin <><><><>>	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>>	By Barnet O. Coltman

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

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

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

We cordially invite you to our

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 5:30 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishig 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 by September 15th if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Members - \$25

Member Children under 13 - no charge

Non-Members - \$30

Non-Member Children under 13 - \$10



Sisterhood Susan Gordon

would like to welcome all of you who are taking the time to read my first message as Sisterhood President. Yes, it's now official. After over 30 years of involvement at the KJCC, holding numerous positions and different titles, I have finally accepted the job of Sisterhood President. It is the right time. I feel very positive and highly motivated to work with such a wonderful group of supportive and enthusiastic women. Many thanks to Erica for being my mentor for the past two years as we worked closely together in the roles of Sisterhood President and Vice President. I learned a lot from her, and she will continue to assist in her new position as Sisterhood Treasurer. I am also pleased to announce that Jane Friedman has once again accepted the position of Vice President. We all know that she does amazing work with food preparation, and she will purchase everything food and kitchen-related, the primary focus of Sisterhood. (Not to mention her amazing work with her KICC produce garden in season.) Geri Smith does a thorough job recording the minutes at our Sisterhood meetings; we are fortunate to have her as Recording Secretary. If you have received a beautiful, wellwritten note of thanks from Sisterhood, know that it came from Michele Riley, our Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to all the women who attend monthly Sisterhood meetings and do so much for our congregation. I would like to encourage all female members of the KJCC to join us for a meeting. All are welcome. Participation is fun, important, and it deepens friendships.

We held our summer meeting on August 6th, accomplishing an amazing amount of High Holiday planning in just over one hour! I feel blessed to be working with a focused and organized group of women who share the common goal of making KICC the most fulfilling environment possible in which to enjoy one another's camaraderie, while celebrating our common



bond of Judaism. Although many have been

away during these past few summer months, our small group of remaining Sisterhood members have been very busy, beginning with a fabulous dairy dinner for Shavuot on June 2nd, prior to services. It was enjoyed by about 48 people. Two days later, on Sunday, June 4th, a group of 12 women met at the Bavside Grill to enjoy each other's company at our annual Sisterhood luncheon. During the June 11th KICC Board meeting. Sisterhood presented a donation check in the amount of \$2,000 to the KICC. Earlier that week, we distributed the *Tikkun Olam* (repair the world) funds which were raised by the Women's Seder. The recipients this year were the Talia Agler Girls Shelter in Nairobi, Kenva, VNA Hospice in Tavernier, and our own KJCC Scholarship Fund. On June 13th, the High Holiday Planning Committee met at the KICC to begin work on the upcoming dinners and events for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. So much Sisterhood activity within only two weeks! Who says that things are guiet at the KJCC during the summer? Throughout the summer we continued to have multiple Onea sponsors for each Shabbat, and every Oneg was well-attended, in spite of what we call the slow season. Please contact JoycePeckman@gmail.com to sign up to sponsor your Oneg celebration in coming months. The "Chai-Light" of the summer at the KJCC was our annual Shabbabaque and celebration of Pauline Roller's 102nd birthday on Friday, July 7th. Eighty-five people came. It was a great party!

I look forward to a wonderful, nourishing year with my m*ishpocha* at the KJCC. Thank you for showing your confidence in me as Sisterhood President.

Contributions to KJCC

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

June, July & August Contributions

Bookplate

Swartz, George & Muriel

In Honor of

Pauline Roller's 102nd birthday

In Memory of L.R. Coltman

Coltman, Barnet O.

In Honor of

KICC

General Fund

Begam, Delores Please, pray for us

KJCC Sisterhood

Kwalick, Teresa Pauline Roller's birthday Margulies, Stan & Jenny future of KJCC donation Rabbi Ed Rosenthal KJCC hosting Hillel seminar Swartz, George & Muriel Shabbabaque

Zoren, Karen

General Fund

In Memory of

Dorothy Horn

Aunt Pauline Roller

Avner, Gloria Rick McNew
Avner, Gloria Dorothy Horn
Boruszak, Joan Jim Boruszak
Peckman, Joyce Rick McNew

KJCC Scholarship Fund

KICC Sisterhood

Steinbock, Stephen

Oneg Sponsorship

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Bloom, Marc & Family Bofshever, Toby & Joel Coltman, Barnet Garrett, Erica & Ron Gross, Tomar, Randy & Jonah Hartz, Steve & Jan Hayden, Beth Oneg Sponsorship

Itkin, Art

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena Knowles, Richard & Barbara

Margolis, Gary/Blum, Laurie Pearl, Dr. Scott & Mary Anne

Peckman, Joyce Rose, Skip

Salant, Renee

Williams, Rita & Jim

Yahrzeit

Boruszak, Joan Dorf. Natalie

Dorf, Natalie

Grossman, Stuart

Roy, Medina

Kwalick, Teresa

Taramona, Hermine L.

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Kaplan, Ronald

Kaplan, Ronald Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Riley, Michele

Tallent, Lilian

Starr, Adam & Judy

Solas, Elaine

Starr, Judy

Tallent, Lillian

Yahrzeit Plaque

Feldman, Sandy, M.D. Grant, Andrew & Randi In Memory of

In Memory of

Dorothy Schafer

Emanuel Schafer

Robert Robinson

Catherine Kaplan

Margaux Grossman Leon Kirschenbaum

Priscilla Leshin

Bill Kwalick

Les Rutman

Sidney Kaplan

Paula Travers

Ralph Tallent

Bernard Solas

Olga Schuman

Manya Starr

Ida Estrin

Frieda Feinberg

Patty Silver Frances Weiser

Contributions to KICC (cont.)

Membership Renewal Contributions

Chai-Lights Fund

Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Margulies, Stan & Jenny Pollack, Linda Roy, Medina Sheinker, Miltra Sherman, Robert & Adriana

Chai-Lights New Year's Greeting

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Dorf, Natalie Gordon, Susan Hayden, Beth Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie Peckman, Joyce Shapiro, Libby Sheinker, Miltra Smith, Stuart & Geri Wruble, Lloyd & Rae

General Fund

Blumenfeld, Marvin Goldfinger, David & Toby Gross, David & Patti Hartz, Steve & Jan Kreitman, Marcia & Hawver, John Pollack, Linda Solas, Elaine

Holocaust Education Fund

Roy, Medina Steinbock, Stephen Tallent, Lillian

Meditation Garden

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Wruble, Lloyd & Rae Roy, Medina Steinbock, Stephen

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Avner, Gloria Coltman, Barnet Gross, David & Patti Kreitman, Marcia & John Hawver Margulies, Stan & Jenny Olsen, Jerry & Sheila Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Linda Roy, Medina Sachs, Joseph & Susan Smith, Stuart & Geri Steinbock, Stephen Wohl, Joan

Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund

Roy, Medina

Scholarship Fund

Roy, Medina Tallent, Caire Tallent, Lillian Willner, Sherrie

Tikkun Olam Fund

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Steinbock, Stephen Tallent, Lillian

Yizkor Book 5778

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Bernard, Joel & Stark, Joan Brodie, Thomas & Renee Cline. Meredith Coltman, Barnet Dandrea, Robert & Joni Sages Dorf, Natalie Emkey, Frank & Gerri Goldfinger, David & Toby Gordon, Susan

Contributions to KJCC (cont.)

Membership Renewal Contributions

Yizkor Book 5778 (cont.)

Gorson, lanice Gross, David & Patti Hartz, Steve & Jan Hayden, Beth Itkin, Arthur

Kaplan, Ronald & Deborah

Kaplan, Sandra Kluger, Nancy

Kreitman Marcia & John Hawver

Krissel, Michael

Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie

Olsen, Jerry & Sheila Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Linda

Riley, Michele Roy, Medina Sachs, Joseph & Susan Shapiro, Libby Sheinker, Miltra Sherman, Robert & Adriana Silverman, Morton & Gene Smith, Stuart & Geri Steinbock, Stephen Swartz, George & Muriel Tallent, Lillian Temkin, Robert Willner, Sherrie

How Certain Contributions to KICC Can Instantly **Become Permanent, Living Memorials**

Wohl, Joan

Yahrzeit Plaques: KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plagues. Each plague is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both vahrzeit 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 KICC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Iconic Einstein Photo

The most famous photo of Albert Einstein, with him playfully sticking out his tongue at the photographer, has sold at auction for \$125,000. The buyer's identity has not been revealed. UPI photographer Arthur Sasse took the photo in March 1951 while covering Einstein's 72nd birthday party at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Einstein was tired of photographers asking him to smile for a photo, and when Sasse tried to get him to do so, the scientist stuck out his tongue instead. When the photo - which was signed by Einstein - was published, the famed scientist was so pleased that he ordered nine copies to give to close friends. (www.forward.com, 7-28-17)

Another Win for the Chicago Cubs

Fans of the Chicago Cubs waited over 100 years before winning a World Series championship. (Not individually, of course.) And now, another 100-plus-year wait is also over: Wrigley Field now has kosher food! A subsidiary of the Chicago-based Danziger Kosher Midwest catering company began running DanZtand in late July. The company's representative, Sam Mashiach (yes, you read that right), met with Cubs officials and convinced them that Wrigley was the perfect place for kosher food. It is now the thirteenth major league ballpark to serve kosher food. (www.tabletmag.com, 7-13-17)

2017 Tony Awards

Back in June, a play inspired by the peace process that led to the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accords in 1993 was awarded Best Play at the 2017 Tony Awards. "Oslo," written by American playwright J.T. Rogers, is a political thriller; it won rave reviews and is slated to become a movie. It tells the story of the littleknown, behind-the-scenes role of a Norwegian couple (social scien-

tist Terie Rod-Larsen and diplomat Mona Iuul) who coordinated a series of highly secret talks between Israelis and Palestinians that ultimately led to the handshake between Yitzchak Rabin and Yasser Arafat on the lawn of the White House. Both men went on to earn the Nobel Peace Prize, which they shared with Shimon Peres. (Mona Juul is now Norway's ambassador to the United Kingdom. Her husband, Terje Rod-Larsen, now heads the International Peace Institute and continues to work on various crises around the world.) "To the ladies and gentlemen of the Oslo Accords who believed in democracy, who believed in seeing peace, seeing their enemies as humans, I give this up to them." said playwright Rogers upon accepting his Tony award. "Oslo" earned a total of seven nominations. (www.timesofisrael.com, 6-12-17)

Argentina's Nazi Documents

The Argentine government recently donated close to 40,000 World War II era documents to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The documents are digitized copies of letters, newspaper articles and reports produced by Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 1939 and 1950, including information about Nazi war criminals. Approximately 5,000 Nazis, escaping Europe at the end of the war, found their way to Argentina with the aid of former Argentine President Juan Peron. Peron's government had established escape routes through Spain and Italy. One of these war criminals was Adolf Eichmann, architect of the "final solution of the Jewish question." He was identified by Israeli intelligence in 1960, kidnapped and brought to Israel where he was tried and executed. In one of history's ironic parallels, Argentina was also the primary South American destination for

some 4,800 Holocaust survivors. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 7-31-17)

Wearable Radar

Ohio State University medical researchers are conducting a clinical trial using a vest that features radar technology originally developed by the Israeli military and rescue teams to be able to see through walls and rubble of collapsed buildings. The doctors are using it to better detect signs of heart failure in patients at home, preventing unnecessary trips to the hospital for the nearly six million people in the United States with the condition. Until now, cardiologists have not had a way to monitor patients at home for fluid changes in the lungs, a possible sign of congestive heart failure. The standard has been for patients to weigh themselves daily and report symptoms such as swelling or shortness of breath. But this method "doesn't catch the progression of the disease early enough and that's why hospitalization and rehospitalization rates for heart failure have changed very little in the last 20 to 30 years." says Dr. William Abraham, director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. The vest was created by Sensible Medical, an Israeli developer of medical wearables. Radar goes through the chest wall and obtains an accurate measurement of water inside the lungs through readings that last about 90 seconds. The results are then uploaded and delivered to the patient's electronic health record, where they are reviewed by a cardiologist or nurse. Wexner claims that the results are promising, with an 87 percent reduction in heart failure hospitalizations when using this method of lung fluid monitoring, and that such remote monitoring has the potential to help keep a better eve on other types of chronic conditions for patients at home. (www.digitalcommerce360.com, 6-28-17)

Water From Air: A Game Changer

The city of Miami Gardens in South Florida has launched a pilot program with Water-Gen, an Israeli company whose technology captures humidity from the air and extracts

drinking water from it. Miami Gardens, suffering from major water problems, is the first U.S. city to participate in this pilot program. This device will enable us to measure its use for clean drinking water if needed for hurricane relief and any other emergency water situation that may arise," said Mayor Oliver Gilbert III. The company's largest generator can yield as much as 825 gallons of water per day, costing only 10 cents a gallon, mostly in energy costs. Florida gets much of its drinking water from the Floridian Aguifer and the Biscayne Aguifer in addition to surface water from Lake Okeechobee and other lakes. Increases in population have placed a substantial strain on these sources. Hurricanes can also cause water contamination. Earlier this year, Water-Gen signed deals - valued at \$150 million - to produce drinking water in India and Vietnam, two countries that have long faced shortages. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, some 1.2 billion people nearly one-fifth the world's population - live in areas where water is scarce. (www.forward.com, 6-21-17)

Who Exactly is Millie?

Have you been wondering about the GE commercial on television featuring Millie Dresselhaus, the little old gray-haired lady? In the spot, children dress up as Millie for Halloween, babies are named after her and there's even a Millie emoji. The ad celebrates women in science, promoting GE's goal to place 20,000 women in technical roles by the year 2020. So who is this Millie Dresselhaus, the "queen of carbon science?" Millie was the first woman to win the National Medal of Science in Engineering. She was the first female Institute Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and had a 57-year career at MIT. Millie Spiewak was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Polish Jewish immigrants. She earned a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1958 while studying under Nobel laureate Enrico Fermi. Winner of just about every scientific award short of the Nobel Prize. Dresselhaus was the recipient of the *National Medal of Science* in 1990 in recognition for her work on electronic

properties of materials as well as expanding the opportunities for women in science and engineering. She was the director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy from 2000-2001; from 2003-2008, Dresselhaus chaired the governing board of the American Institute of Physics. In 2014. President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Several theories in physics carry her name. She died in February 2017 at age 86. (www.huffingtonpost.com, 2-8-17 and www.wikipedia.com)

\$8.15 Million Prize with a Pair of Deuces!

Scott Blumstein, 25, pulled "a deuce on the river" - the final card of a poker round to win with a pair of twos in a dramatic finish in the World Series of Poker, the game's most prestigious event. The Temple University graduate, who holds a degree in accounting, took home \$8.15 million in the Texas Hold 'Em tournament in Las Vegas. Blumstein topped the field of 7,221 players, the third largest in history. (www.ita.org, 7-24-17)

In Memoriam...

* Shulamit "Shula" Cohen-Kishik, a spv for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, who worked undercover in Lebanon for fourteen years, died in May. She was 100. A native of Argentina, she was raised by Zionist parents who moved the family to pre-state Israel. Shulamit married a wealthy Jewish-Lebanese businessman from Beirut when she was sixteen and the couple settled in Lebanon. She began working for the Mossad when she was 27, spending the next 15 years helping to bring persecuted Jews from Arab countries to Israel. She managed to get herself accepted into Lebanon's high society, and as a result was able to gather intelligence information about Arab military activities. In 1952 she was caught smuggling and spent 36 days in jail, just three weeks after giving birth. Cohen-Kishik continued her secret activities for another nine years before things became too dangerous and she moved to Rome. When she returned to Lebanon in 1961, she was immediately arrested for espionage. While in prison during the trial she was tortured and

sentenced to death by hanging. The verdict was reduced to 20 years of hard labor because she was a mother of seven. Following the Six-Day War in 1967, Cohen-Kishik was released in a secret prisoner exchange. She then immigrated with her family to Jerusalem, where she spent the rest of her life. "I did what I did because I wanted to, because I loved the country and I wanted to help its establishment," she said. Her son Itzhak Levanon was Israel's ambassador to Egypt from 2009 to 2011. (www.jpost.com, 5-23-17)

* Judith Jones, the Jegendary editor who rescued Anne Frank's diary from her publisher's reject pile, died at the beginning of August. She was 93. Jones was an American cookbook editor who early on in her career pushed to have "The Diary of Anne Frank" published in English. In 1950, she was working at the Paris office of the American publisher Doubleday when she happened to notice the intriguing photograph of a young girl's face in a pile of rejected submissions of manuscripts and books. It was that of Anne Frank on the cover of the advance copy of the French translation of her diary. Iones' boss found her in tears reading the discarded manuscript. "We have to publish this book," she told him. Persuaded by Jones, Doubleday published "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" the next year. (Anne's diary has now been translated into 70 languages, and published in over 60 countries. More than 30 million copies have been sold.) Iones is also credited with launching the career of Julia Child with the publication of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." She retired in 2013. (www.thejewniverse.com, 8-4-17)

Did You Know...

* A street in Manhattan - the southwest corner of West 84th Street and Central Park West - was recently named "Elie Wiesel Way," in honor of the Nobel laureate, one of the great post-World War II voices for Jewishsourced humanism and healing. Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Elie Wiesel was perhaps the most eloquent voice for peace in our world. New York City is proud to honor his memory." (www.tabletmaa.com, 6-14-17) >

Saturday, September 16, 2017 6:00 pm Pizza and Movie followed by Slichot Services led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg



In prerevolutionary Russia, a Jewish peasant contends with marrying off three of his daughters while growing anti-Semitic sentiment threatens his village.

Starring: Topol, Norma Crane, Leonard Frey, Paul Michael Glaser, Molly Picon

Runtime: 3 hours





RSVP TO LINDA POLLACK LINDAP4000@YMAIL.COM (SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH PIZZA TO GET) SPONSORED EVENING. NO CHARGE. COME AND ENJOY!

Photo Gallery

Welcome back. There's a lot to catch up on. The photo at right, the oldest in this month's collection, was taken on May 24th, during a midweek movie shown to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, the day during the 1967 Six-Day War

when Israeli troops unified lerusalem under Jewish rule for the first time in almost 1,900 years.



The two center photos were taken at the oneg after an Erev Shabbat service on May 26th led by Medina Roy. At top, Joel Bofshever and Ken Atlas explore the latest Bovshever family photos. Below, just after Bernie Ginsberg had chanted the Kiddush, Stan Margulies and Medina perform the hamotzi.

At right, Steve Smith with his horn during a free concert in Key Largo of the Keys Community Band. (See elsewhere in this issue the full article about Steve's trip to St. Petersburg, Russia as lead trumpeter in a klezmer orchestra.)

Scenes from the June 2nd Shavuot Erev Shabbat dinner at KJCC. Two checks were presented, both from funds generated by the Women's Seder that spring. The first, at far left, to Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler to help support the vital work of the Talia

Agler Women's Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya; the other, near left, to KJCC president Beth Hayden for the KJCC Scholarship Fund.









As has become a recent KJCC tradition, Bernie Ginsberg led a Tikkun Leil Shavuot discussion again this year after the oneg on

June 2nd. We didn't, once again, stay up all night (so as not to miss, as our ancestors almost did, the giving of the Torah), but Bernie did lead a discussion of the **Book of Ruth. And Linda** Perloff made and brought some of her nonpareil cheesecake...





Some photos from the Sunday, June 4th end-ofseason Sisterhood luncheon at The **Bayside Grille in** Key Largo. As has become another tradition, the final meeting of the year is strictly social and not a formal meeting at all...





Photos this page were taken at the oneg after services on June 9th. That week's oneg was sponsored by Steve and Jan Hartz, at left.



On June 9th a donation was delivered to the Upper Keys VNA/Hospice, from tikkun olam funds raised by the Women's Seder in March. Representing KJCC are Erica Lieberman-Garrett, left, and Steve Steinbock.



On June 11th, right after the Board meeting, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Hartz and Jeff Schocket began inspections of the Torahs that might be used for the following month's Bat Mitzvah of Oceana Gross.





In the photo at right, Sisterhood president Susan Gordon pre-

sents its annual check to KJCC president Beth Hayden. At right, four of the five current Sisterhood officers, from left: Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Treasurer; Susan Gordon, President; Jane Friedman, Vice President; and Geri Smith, Recording Secretary. Missing was Michele Riley, Corresponding Secretary, who summers in New England.





Just prior to leading services on June 16th from the bemah, Erica Lieberman-

Garrett played an overture of "Fiddler" music on the piano we keep for the **Upper Keys Concert Association series** during their offseason.

All the other photos were taken at the oneg following services that same evening...



At the oneg on June 23rd, an early birthday cake celebrated the upcom-

ing 102nd birthday, on July 4th, of KJCC matriarch Pauline Roller. (The cake was also in honor of the two grandsons of Barney Coltman, who sponsored the oneg.)

Notice the giveaway basket of freshpicked garden herbs (above right). Our garden continues to be the gift (from Harry and Jane Friedman) that keeps on giving.



and wife Roberta. with Susan Gordon at right.



The photos above and at right show KJCC members Gunther and **Shirley Karger of** Homestead at their local 4th of July parade. (If you're reading this online, note their patriotic socks in the higher

photo.) In the shot just above, Gunther displays the plaque he was given for "continuing service to the community." (He's former Air Force.)



Yes, that's a chuppah, above. We'd gotten a request to rent the sanctuary for a tropical wedding on June 30th. They came, they said "I do," and they left, just in time for services to start.

The three photos closest to this text were taken on Friday, July 7th, during both the service and the oneg. This was, of course, the service that followed the annual Shabbabaque and celebra-

tion of Pauline Roller's century-plus birthday. (See the full coverage of the Shabbabaque itself later in this issue.)





The photos left and above were taken at the July 21st service. Gary Margolis led the service and Beth Hayden sponsored the oneg.

Nature (or perhaps nature's god) decided that the end of July would be birthday time for lots of KJCC's special collection of Blooms. At left, as sponsors of the July 28th oneg, are Marc, daughter Rachael and Rachael's daughter Madison, all celebrating birthdays. (Marc's other daughter, Molly, also celebrates around the same time.) Standing next to Marc, at the table lovingly hand-built for KJCC by Bobby Singer, are Scott and Mary Anne Pearl.

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 5778.

Shana Tovah To our KJCC family Mindy & Rich Agler	My Mishpocha, I wish you good health, happiness and peace in 5778. Love, Gloria Avner	Wishing all my friends at KJCC a happy & healthy New Year. Natalie Dorf
Erica Lieberman-Garrett wishes a Shana Tova & healthy 5778.	A happy & healthy New Year to KJCC family! Blessings to all with love, Susan Gordon	A good and sweet year to all the KJCC. Beth Hayden
To my dear KJCC friends, students and Mishpocha, L'Shanah Tovah 5778. Yardena Kamely	L'Shana Tovah to our KJCC community. From Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies want to wish our KJCC family a happy & healthy New Year
Joyce Peckman wishes you a joyous year of prosperity, health & friendship.	To our dear KJCC friends A happy and healthy 5778. Libby Shapiro	Miltra Sheinker wishes all our KJCC a happy & healthy New Year.
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Sherman wish all our friends a happy & healthy New Year.	To our KJCC family, happy and healthy 5778. Geri & Stu Smith	Wishing all a happy & healthy 5778. Lloyd & Rae Wruble



Saturday, September 30, 2017 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 hippie jap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162, or Susan Gordon susangordon424@yahoo.com (305) 766-3585 to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space

> RSVP: by September 25th Sponsored by the KJCC Sisterhood No Charge

Shabbabaque 2017: Independence, Burgers, and a Birthday

or more years than some of us can count, we have celebrated Independence Day on the closest Shabbat to July 4th. We round up two or three grills, assemble our volunteer grillers (many thanks to Skip Rose, Jeffrey Schocket, Barat Barefoot, Steve Steinbock, Ioel Bof-

for services. Gene Silverman read a special note of congratulations to Pauline one of the few remaining KICC founding members - sent by State Representative Holly Raschein. Pauline smiled until her cheeks hurt, had her photo taken with

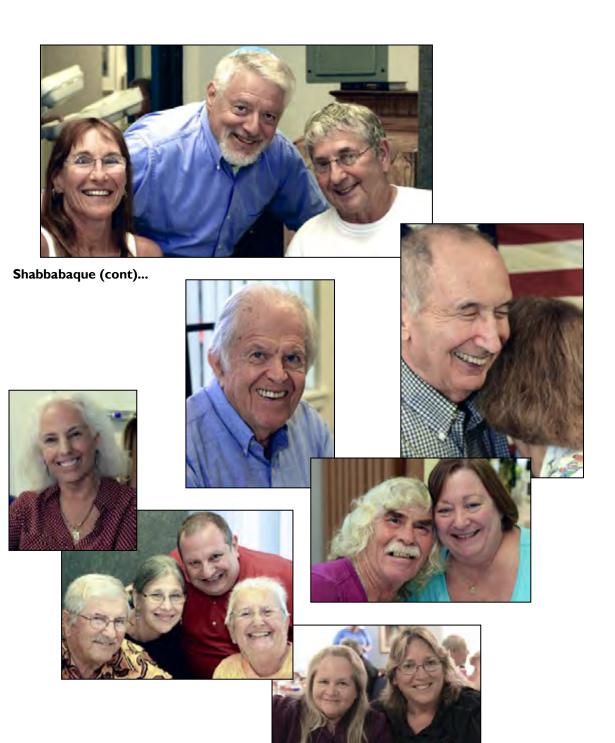
shever - and Marc Bloom on hot dog detail). Marc, Jane Friedman and Barbara Knowles do an excellent job of shopping and preparing food for the event and Susan Gordon's team of enthusiastic decorators get into full swing. It's tradition. But two years ago something changed. It was Pauline Roller's 100th birthday on July 4th and time to put on a big bash. We did it. And then she had her 101st.

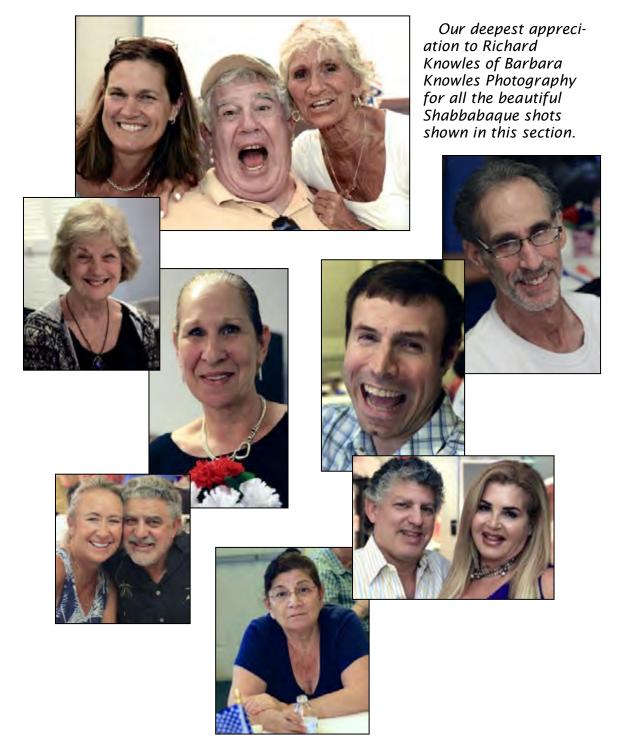
myriad fans (see accompanying photos) and had a wonderful time before she went home to the Plantation Kev Health and Rehabilitation Center. We celebrate the birth of our nation on the same day as we celebrate the birth of our matriarch. Somehow it seems fittina. >

and we did it again. What a joy and mitzvah it was this year to have the opportunity to celebrate Pauline Roller again and her 102nd trip around the sun. Eighty-five people came to wish her well. Everyone enjoyed the food and cake, and many stayed









It Could Have Been the Tower of Babble

by Steven Smith, M.D.

n the story of the Tower of Babel, all men and women originally spoke the same language. The great flood was over and God had promised not to destroy his people ever again. One might think harmony would then reign. But humans have short memories. This was not to be. The people began to feel they were God's equals and started to build a tower meant to reach the heavens. God countered their arrogance by splitting them into 70 nations, each of which spoke a different language. Mass confusion reigned. No one could understand

what others were saying, the tower building stopped, and the 70 frustrated groups migrated to different parts of the world.

As we know, a lot has happened since then. I'm writing because I have recently had an experience that is strangely parallel to this story, yet in reverse. Mine had a completely different outcome.

Recently, as a result of a series of odd circumstances. I found myself playing in the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra, the only full orchestra in the world of this type, despite being merely a "comeback" or "wannabe" musician, with little recent experience.

In December of 2016. I responded to a Trumpet Bulletin Board post on the Internet (yes, such a thing exists) looking for someone to fill in for the Second Trumpet Player of



the klezmer orchestra for a series of concerts they'd soon be giving in St. Petersburg, Russia. I soon had a "Skype audition" by the Principal Trumpet Player and was accepted for the job. (I don't think that it was my musical ability that landed me the job as much as it was my willingness to pay my own way and fill in without compensation.) As fate would have it, in mid-April the Principal Trumpet player became ill and was told by his physician that he could not go to Russia. Suddenly. I was promoted to the position of Principal Trumpet and Flugelhorn, which was way

> above my pay grade, my talent, and the experience level of my recent 15-month comeback. (I had played trumpet seriously as a vouth. and worked in bands all through college. But I'd stopped playing when I entered med

school, and the non-playing gap had lasted over forty years.)



played simply as an orchestra, sometimes we accompanied the Vienna Jewish Choir. In the final Gala Concert, we accompanied a choir of over 500 international singers made up of all the participating choirs.

The highlight of the various venues was the Mariinsky Concert Hall, considered one of the world's finest. Just as it is the dream of most serious musicians in the United States to perform in Carnegie Hall, it is the dream of most serious Russian musicians to perform in the Mar-

iinsky Concert Hall.

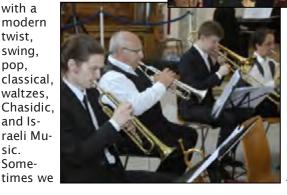
We also attended meetings, ate two meals, and watched some of the choral groups perform at St. Petersburg's Grand Choral Synagogue the second-largest synagogue in Europe, built late in the 19th century on a special exemption granted by Czar Alexander II. (Technically St. Petersburg was offlimits to Jews, who were legally confined to the Pale of

Settlement. But the Czar granted exceptions to retired members of the military, people with academic degrees, first guild merchants and specialty craftsmen. At the time the Grand Synagogue was built there were ten other synagogues serving the useful Jews of St. Petersburg.) Shabbat services were held at our hotel.

The Vienna Klezmer Orchestra (it's official name, the Wiener Klezmer Orchester) was founded in 2016 by Roman Grinberg and Sasha Danilov. Roman Grinberg has been shaping the Jewish music scene in Vienna, Europe and beyond for over thirty years. He wrote many of the original pieces and arranged all the music for the orchestra as well as the Choir. Sasha Danilov. the orchestra's conductor, also has dedicated his life to klezmer and Jewish music. Both are consummate professionals who have performed all

On July 1st I left Florida for Vienna. On July 3rd I rehearsed some of the pieces with the orchestra for two hours. On July 5th we left Vienna for St. Petersburg. the old Czarist city built by Peter I and the site of the Fifth European Jewish Music and Choir Festival. We rehearsed and performed in the festival from July 6-9. 2017. We performed three concerts, with a 16-piece repertoire including the musical styles of Eastern European Klezmer, liturgi-

cal music with a modern twist, swing, pop. classical. waltzes. Chasidic. and Israeli Music. Some-



Steve Smith poses with who he thought would be first trumpet, above, but that chair ended up being filled by Steve. At the famed (and full) St. Petersburg Mariinsky Concert Hall at concert's end, center.

over the world. The orchestra consists of amateur as well as professional musicians who are interested in playing this music. In fact, many of the orchestra's musicians are not lewish.

The Vienna lewish Choir (Wiener Judischer Chor) was founded in 1989 under the leadership of Roman Grinberg. The Choir performs in Austria on a regular basis and has performed all over the world, including in Boca Raton. Florida. It has 60 dedicated members. In 2013 it and Vienna hosted the Second Furopean lewish Choir Festival with more than 300 participants from 11 countries. The other festivals previously were in London on two occasions and once in Rome.

"Music

is the only

common

language

understood

throughout the

world."

The possibilities for Babel revisited become clearer when vou visualize the range of homelands among the festival's participants. Other performers include the Choir Polyphonies Hebraiques de Strasbourg, with members from France, England, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Germany, and Switzerland; the Ensemble Choral Copernic from Paris: the Zemel Choir from London; the Coro Ha Kol from Rome: the Ierusalem Oratorio Chamber Choir; the Ramatayim Men's Choir, also from

Jerusalem; Renanim Europe representing France, Belgium, and the Netherlands; the Jewish Youth Choir, "Eva," from St. Petersburg: and lastly, the band "Dobranotch," also from St. Petersburg. In total, over 600 people participated as performers for this festival.

As an American participant, my foreign language skills were almost nonexistent. With primary languages of the participants including English, German, Spanish, French, Dutch, Flemish, Luxembourgish, Italian, Hebrew, and Russian, the potential for this event to become a Tower of Babble was very high. Several factors prevented this from happening: 1) The events and combined rehearsals were conducted in English and Russian. Europeans, Israelis, and Russians are all fluent in

multiple languages. 2) Everyone singing Jewish prayers and songs pray and sing as members of the community. In addition, singing beautiful melodies from the depths of one's soul makes one focus on the prayer or song. Also, the choirs act as a messenger of the community in front of G-d to help prayer or songs reach heaven. We are praying or performing for G-d. not trying to compete with G-d. 3) Music is the only common language understood throughout the world. If you were to place a piece of sheet music before a musician or singer from any of the countries listed above, all would read and interpret it in a similar fashion unrelated to their native language. Even if my fellow participants were not multilingual, the music was a common

language understood by participants and audience alike.

As a Levite, it was interesting for me to learn, through the Chief Rabbi of St. Petersburg, M. M. Pevzner, that at the time of the Temple Levites were singing and playing musical instruments while the Kohen was performing a sacrifice. Iewish music was not only a decoration for the service, but also an integral part. Rabbi Pevzner also said, "people who promote Jewish music and performing arts do important work and deserve the deepest respect." (I'm sure all the

other performing Jews enjoyed hearing this as much as I did.)

For those interested in seeing first-hand how the universal language of music unified such a diverse group, including this English-speaking Florida Keys resident, and prevented this event from turning into "The Tower of Babel," videos of some of the performances are available at the following web address:

https://m.facebook.com/groups/IFest17/

A short video of the orchestra alone was posted on July 9, 2017 and the combined orchestra and all the choirs on July 11, 2017. Another good video of the Gala Concert combined performance is a July 10th link to an Instagram post. There are other videos as well of many of the choirs.

Enjoy!!! I certainly did.>

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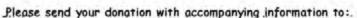


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Oceana's Bat Mitzvah Weekend

by Randy Klein-Gross

On July 14th and 15th, the Keys Jewish Community Center welcomed the Klein and Gross families and their friends from around the world with open arms. Everyone was touched by the warm and close connection felt between the Gross family. the KICC congregants, and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. Director of Tampa area's



had passed away, missing this special day. Her Grandma Nella, who fought in Israel's Six Dav War, loved the song "Eli, Eli." so cousins Einav and

Ieff Silverstein sang and played guitar, causing tears to flow freely from family, congre-



gants and Rabbi Ed. To the possible dismay of some, the Gross family ended the Friday service with Adon Olam to the tune of "It's A Small World "

Suncoast Hillel, and founder of the Tikkun HaYam movement to "repair the seas." Rabbi Ed

calls the KICC his home away from home and our congregation was delighted to experience his enthusiastic leadership in full Shabbat services for the first time.

The Friday night service, led by both Oceana and Rabbi Ed. involved the participation of a lot of family and friends. At the end of the service, Oceana spoke of her grandparent and great grandparents who



The Saturday Torah service started with the reveal of a beautiful sheer tallis Oceana picked out. gifted by her grandparents. Tina and Arnold Klein.

Oceana had been so nervous about walking while holding a Torah for the processions that she bought sparkly Converse shoes for the occasion.



Steve Hartz blessed us with his voice and inspiring words as he did a *mitzvah* by chanting four Torah portions for the *aliyas*. Rabbi Ed then called Oceana -Hebrew name Galia Bat Reba v' Tomar - to the Torah for Parsha

Pinchas' conclusion. the *maftir* portion, and the haftarah blessings. Her chanting sounded so perfect, one could have thought she had the whole thing memorized (and one might have been right). The way Rabbi Ed talked to Oceana was both meaningful and relevant. The speech to Oceana, given by KJCC President Beth

Hayden, was so moving, both grandmothers asked for a copy. Well beyond the actual gifts given by the KICC congregation and Sisterhood to Oceana. Susan Gor-

don's presentation of the book and kiddush cup made the whole room see the love and pride this extended

mishpocha has for Oshi. It may be a long time before we get to see this rite of passage again and Oshi set a high bar.

Oceana's speech moved many congregants as she thanked those who helped her get to this place in her life and then analyzed Parsha Pinchas as it is relevant to her and society today. She was particularly strong on how it relates to the power and rights of girls



and women. Candy was thrown, the mazel tovs shouted and sung, and all moved

to the social hall, still kvelling (Yiddish for swelling with pride) for a I'chaim and lunch.

The Saturday luncheon was shared with many KICC congregants, who mingled with family and

friends of the Bat Mitzvah. Randy and Tomar were quite amused with all the interesting connections



made that day.

The festivities continued with a sunset sail aboard a local catamaran and a party at the docks of Rainbow Reef, filled with crocodiles. tortoises and snakes. Good

food was served and a meaningful candle lighting ceremony was held. Floating candles were lit in a fish tank by family and friends.

Sunday morning we had brunch and then most of the family and lots of friends

went divina and snorkeling. Our second stop was

to the underwater "Christ of the Abvss" but after adhering a varmulka to his head, the statue's

name was unofficially changed to "Moses of the Deep." Enjoy the pictures.

Thanks to everyone who was part of the special weekend. <

MARCH OF THE LIVING, INTERFAITH VERSION

In part because we've had so much practice. Jews do the remembering thing about as well as anyone. Chanukah is a remembering thing, as is Passover. So are Sukkot, Shavuot, and many of the minor holidays. We are reminded in prayer after prayer that we are to remember to do (or not do, or be, or not be) something-or-other, often because we were once slaves in

One of the great innovations of the Torah was that it instructed its followers not only how to worship their God but also how to live a moral life in society

with each other. It did this with a level of detail and scope that previous attempts, such as the Code of Hammurabi (from the Babylonian king who preceded Moses by about 500 years) did not begin to attain. When the rabbinic era emerged after

Eavpt.

the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans, they greatly expanded on what Jews would be taught to be the meaning of life, its essence, and the many ways it was to be honored and valued. (Yes, this was a change. There's an awful lot of devaluing or casual taking of life in the Torah stories. The rabbis, in essence, eliminated capital punishment as one of their steps to make life itself, not just its practice, more sacred. Perhaps they were only being practical, to help assure that the then-fragile Jewish people survived. But either way they utterly changed the culture and its laws.)

Judaism has evolved a great deal in the last 2,000 years, but the emphases on remembering and the value of life still are among its fundamental teachings. Some

might insist that the primary way for modern Judaism to treat the enormous meteorite of memory offered us by the 20th century - the Hol-



ocaust - would be simply to repeat the facts and stories over and over, to "never forget," that that would be enough.

But one event, that has grown in scope and importance since its founding in 1988, refused to focus only on death and loss and sadness. Because a rebirth, a declaration of the indomitable resilience of the Jewish people, also was a direct result of the Holocaust: - the modern State of

> Israel. That event is known as the March of the Living.

Each year, on Yom HaShoah. Holocaust Remembrance Day, thousands of young adult Jews from around the world, together with their

guides and leaders, gather in Poland to experience with their own eyes and feet and hearts several Nazi death camps - including Auschwitz/ Birkenau and Maidanek - where the attempt to systematically eliminate the Jewish people actually took place. They pray, they weep, they see the mountains of shoes, they see the names of

relatives they never would know, they see the stains of cyanide gas on the concrete walls where people who once lived with dignity stood helpless and naked and shivering from the cold. They embrace each other, and memories become permanent.

But the true beauty of this program is that, like Judaism itself, its strongest focus is not on death but on life. The next stop for the participants after the death camps

is the thriving State of Israel, on Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day. There they experience parades, and celebrations, and the tears of joy that proclaim the preeminence of life and its ongoing miracle. Hope and the Jewish reverence for life both thrive.

Last year, KJCC's own Rabbi Richard Agler and Dr. Bernie Ginsberg joined the Miami contingent of that year's March of the Living, Rabbi Agler as (for the third or fourth time) spiritual guide and teacher,

In the garden at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church, I-r: Rabbi Richard Agler, Bernie Ginsberg, Father Tom Graf, presenters and host of the event.



and Bernie as group physician. They came back with lots of photos and their own precious memories. Shortly after they returned they made a presentation at KJCC, sharing the trip's warmth and importance.

There is, happily, a thriving interfaith community in the Upper Keys, of which Rabbi Agler is a regular participant. Of its

Christian participants, none is more eager to spread tolerance and understanding than Father Tom Graf, the pastor of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Islamorada. (Tom virtually grew up in a synagogue in the Bronx, where his father was the shamus. He knows our prayers as well as many of us do.) On June 28th, in conjunction with

Keys to Peace, Father Tom asked Bernie and Rabbi Agler to come to St. James to share their photos and memories of last year's trip. Some sixty were there to hear, including nine other clergy from the Upper Keys. Bernie

showed the photos and talked about the trip's details, more than once choking up when discussing a particular photo. Later, Rabbi Agler, borrowing from the themes he'd discussed at last year's KJCC High Holidays, asked the audience to consider some profound questions: How could human beings do such a thing? How could some people allow *other* people to do such a thing and not protest? And where was God during all this?

There was not a sound in the room when Rabbi Agler finished. It took a while before someone was brave enough to break the reverential silence and ask a question... >

—Sam Vinicur

A Tikkun HaYam Retreat

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal is on a quest. When he took the reins of the Suncoast Hillel chapter a number of years ago, he realized that there were dozens (or more) lewish environmental organizations in this country, but surprisingly, none that focused on the marine environment. It says right in the beginning of Genesis that "the seas belonged to God." So Rabbi Ed invented the term Tikkun HaYam, an intentional play on the familiar Tikkun Olam. He's been working tirelessly ever since to bring Jewish social ardor to bear on behalf of the oceans, which comprise a full 70 percent of the earth's

surface. He recently brought a number of other Hillel professionals together on a retreat, to educate and inspire them to help spread the vital message. Part of the retreat took place in the ocean, the rest in the sanctuary and social hall of KICC.



On the first evening of Rabbi Ed's retreat at KJCC, all the Hillel professionals gathered in the KICC Social Hall for a group photo, representing south, central, west and northern Florida. That's Rabbi Ed in the second row far right.

KJCC—My Home Away From Home

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

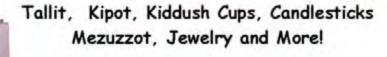
he first time I came to the KICC was during spring break in 2011. There were ten of us all together, nine students from Eckerd College and myself. We came to volunteer with the Coral Restoration Foundation, and launch our program of Tikkun HaYam (Repairing the Sea). We slept on the floor in the classroom, cooked our meals in the kitchen, ate in the social hall, showered at the Methodist Church next door, and we did our part to try to save the endangered coral of the Keys. I had spoken to Stuart Sax, who was President at the time, about whether

it would be possible for our group to stay at the KICC. Ever con-

scious that students are on very limited budgets, I had to do whatever I could to keep the costs down for the students, and staying at a synagogue seemed like the perfect way to do just that. Stuart was open to the idea, but concerned about having a group of college students in the synagogue over spring break. I guess he had seen too many spring break students in Key Largo; but he wanted to help. So he took our request to the Board, and they agreed to allow us to stay... with the proviso that we clean up every day and respect the space. I told Stuart that our policy is to leave any space we use cleaner than we find it. So every morning our group deflated their air mattresses (the floor is really hard) rolled up







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

On evening two, the featured speaker was KJCC member Patti Gross, representing the Coral Restoration Foundation. Everyone is holding up blue marbles she passed out, symbolizing our home. the blue planet.

their sleeping bags, put away their clothes, cleaned the floors. did the dishes and put away all

their food. To make a long story short, it was an incredible experience for the students (and for me). and no one even knew we had been there. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

Six vears. fifteen Coral

Restoration trips, one Adaptive Dive Experience and close to a hundred students later, the KICC is my home away from home. I am the proud holder of an honorary life membership (along with my wife, Mindy) and love this congregation. So, when I came back in July with a group of my colleagues from Hillels across the State, I was proud to share this treasure with them. You can read about the Florida Hillel Professionals Tikkun HaYam Retreat in the accompanying article written by my colleague Sam Friedman from the University

of Central Florida Hillel. He will tell you about the impact of the Retreat on him. The impact it had on me was of profound happiness that the awareness of the responsibility which we have - not only as humans and caring people. but specifically our moral obligation as Jews to preserve and protect the marine environ-



ment - was beginning to spread beyond my small Hillel at Eckerd College and on to other universities in Florida. Seven of my colleagues from three different Hillels came to Key Largo for five days. They earned their open water scuba certification, learned about the Marine Environment, and studied "Water Torah." It was



Rabbi Ed is a tireless and passionate advocate for God's seas. It was Ed who coined the phrase "Tikkun HaYam."

made possible through the generosity of the Maurice A. & Thelma P. Rothman Family Foundation in St. Petersburg; all my colleagues had to "pay" was to then go home and make a good faith effort to create a Scubi Iew chapter at their own Hillels.

Based on Sam's article, I think we will see new chapters start to pop up across the State. The next step will be to move beyond the campus to the community. If we continue to raise awareness in the Jewish Community about this responsibility we have, then maybe more good can be done to protect the Marine Environment.

The incredible hospitality, openness and love which the members of the KICC have shown to my students and to me over the years has had a tremendous impact on us all. For each of four consecutive nights, KJCC members helped us with the sanctuary a/v system, watched the films with us and then

put out snacks and drinks so we'd feel welcome and comforted after a long day of instruction and study. It is my hope, as the Scubi lew program spreads and we see students from across the State come to Key Largo to expand the work done by my students from Eckerd College, that they, too, will experience the happiness and fulfillment of a relationship with the Kevs Iewish Community Center. I do know they'll always be made to feel at home.



The final group photo, after four long days of diving and studying.

ter.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to travel with Central Florida Hillel's Director of Engagement, Danielle McKinstry, and Director of Jewish Student Life, Andrew Max, to Key Largo for a five-day "Scubi-Jew" retreat and training with other Florida Hillel profes-

> sionals that was organized by Suncoast Hillel's Executive Director, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. The retreat focused on tikkun hayam (repairing the seas, and a term that by all evidence was coined by Rabbi Ed) and included open water and "dive against debris" certifications for all participants, as well as intensive Jewish ecological learning.

What we saw and what we learned was both awesome and worrisome. The ocean is majestic and overwhelming; it provides the earth with 70 percent of our oxygen and covers 71 percent of its surface.

Here in our own tiny corner of the planet in Florida, we are blessed with over 2,200 miles of tidal coastline and the third-largest reef system in the world. We have 663 beaches, 11,000 miles of rivers and streams, 5,400 lakes, and 27 springs (more than any other state). And with every breath of the tide those bodies of water are flowing into and out of each other.

From an economic standpoint our waterways contribute nearly \$562 billion to the Florida economy annually. Those waterways are also in great peril.

The south Florida reef system, for example, is all but dead. The fish are leaving and in their absence, the jellyfish are swarming. Miles of beautiful coral are now bleached out and dying due to pollution, littering and dredging. During our final dive, we brought up vards of discarded fish line that we had to cut from now-lifeless coral. We found countless hooks and lures, a snorkel, and more

For the Sea is His, He Made It... (Psalm 95.5)

by Sam Friedman Assistant Director, Central Florida Hillel

ost people with a moderate amount of Biblical knowledge can recite the opening line of the Torah without having to give it much thought:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

But what comes next? The text continues: Now the earth was astonishingly empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water (Genesis 1:2).

If this is true, then before there were animals and humans, before there was a sun or moon or stars, even before G-d spoke light and all of creation into being - there was wapieces of plastic than you can imagine.

It was gross. It was shameful and a real threat to our very own lives. Our waterways deserve better than this and so do our children and, hopefully, generations to come.

And it's time we gave back.

As Rabbi Rosenthal shared with us, "when the Jews get involved in a cause, meaningful change happens," and

As Rabbi Rosenthal shared with us. "When the Jews aet involved in a cause, meaningful change happens."

as a result of our experiences, we at Central Florida Hillel have decided to get involved. We will be kicking off the school year by hosting a reverse tashlich beach clean-up on the Sunday between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. (Location details to be determined.) We will also be

making a concerted effort to reduce our use of plastic, increase our recycling efforts, and offer more environmental learning opportunities for our students including diving, snorkeling and experiencing the many wonderful aquatic opportunities available in central Florida so that they can learn to appreciate the precious resources that we have been entrusted with to preserve.

In Pirkei Avot we are taught that we are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to desist from it. We owe it to the water (it was here before us), we owe it to ourselves (it sustains us), and we owe it to future generations to make a difference. So, as we say on Birthright: "Yalla! Let's go."

At left, Patti Gross gives a one-hour seminar on the dire and deteriorating condition of the Keys coral reef. In the photo just below, the tree just outside the KICC kitchen window showed our Hillel guests the beauty of a Keys poinciana in full, glorious bloom.

> In closina. I'd like to offer special thanks to the Maurice P. & Thelma A. Rothman Family Foundation for sponsoring Scubi-Jew training, the Keys

Jewish Community Center for hosting us, and to Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast for inspiring us all to be better Hillel professionals, better stewards of the sea, and better Jews. &



These Hillel members are focused on "Tikkun HaYam"- repairing the seas — and are making a stand to "dive against debris." www.repairtheseas.org

High Holidays 5778

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 — KJCC Head of Ritual Gloria
Avner, Rabbi Richard Agler and
Cantor Michael A. Dzubin.

The Month of Elul: A Head Start on the Path to Forgíveness

by Gloria Avner, KJCC Ritual Chair

If you are reading this in early September, you are lucky. We still have 20 days of Elul in which to get ready for *Yamim Nora'im*, the Ten Days of Awe we know as the High Holidays. A few years ago, the High Holy Day period seemingly leapt upon us with no warning, a mere 48 hours after Labor Day ended. Many of us were still in summer mode. Without a separate August Chailights to help us prepare, the auspicious month of Elul was nearly over by the time we had the opportunity to read our Rabbi and Cantor's messages.

We can breathe easier this year, and take advantage of *Elul*, the month before *Tishrei*, a month without any holidays, when God is compared by our sages to a King walking through his fields, accessible to each of us if we try to "return," to make *t'shuvah* towards God and conscious ethical living.

There are lots of ways to use the energy of this special month in our search for forgiveness and eventual sealing (inclusion, at least for another year) in the Book of Life. Our *machzor*, High Holiday prayer book, lays it out: "*Teshuvah*, *Tzedakah*, *and Tefilah*" (return to Godly behavior, Charity, and Prayer) but Elul is also a month of great classic stories. They give us good hints and



Ceremonial, symbolic and auspicious foods start off the New Year.

take us back to the roots of Judaism. Let's look at some. These stories - the midrashim - are the rabbis' way, ancient and modern, of explaining why and how our ancestors did what they did. They give us a window on the ideas and values behind certain actions. Most of us know the story of the binding of Isaac. Even though Abraham is willing to sacrifice his son, he is given a reprieve by God, who sends a substitute, a "scapegoat," in Isaac's stead. Some are disturbed that God would ask such a thing of Abraham, but there is a *midrash* that says God always creates a solution for every crisis before the problem comes into being. While other cultures of the time engaged in human sacrifice, we did not. Abraham and his actions mark the beginning of a huge shift in the belief systems of the nations to whom we are supposed to be a "light." The midrash says that God created the sacrificial ram, and the dove who would carry the symbolic olive branch telling Noah the flood was over, long before either event happened - a strong trust-in-God message.

A lesser-known *midrash*, the "great" one known as *Midrash Rabbah* 38, is my favorite. Here we find the explanation of how Abraham (then called Avram) came up with his "big idea," monotheism. When I used to tell this story to our schoolchildren, their eyes would go wide in wonder – and understanding. We're at the beginning of a new year. What could be better than reviewing the beginnings of our religion – the concept of one invisible God?

Terah, Avram's father, is a dealer in carved wooden idols. (Yes, that in itself holds great irony.) Terah sells the idols to people who believe that these statues, whom they call "gods," each with its own name and attributes, have the power to help them solve their problems. Avram has no patience with these beliefs or with his father's participation. Another midrash tells that Avram has been imprisoned as a boy. In solitary confinement he ponders the nature of the universe. What brought it into being? Is it the Sun that is all powerful? The Rain? Is it the plethora of small gods claiming powers of creation that neighboring tribes pay homage to? The realization comes to him that there is a greater power beyond anything that we

can understand, a supreme creator who is responsible for all of nature and that man must pay attention and act in harmony with that Creator. When he is finally released from prison, he is appalled at his father's occupation.

One day Terah is called away and leaves his shop in the hands of his son. A woman comes in with a fine grain offering for one of the "gods." Avram asks her why she would give an offering to an object no different from the wood with which she makes fire and cooks. He then starts to destroy the statues. The woman is frightened. Don't worry, says Avram, I will leave the largest one intact. If he is as powerful as you believe him to be, surely he can reconstruct the others.

You can guess the rest of the story. Terah returns, is furious at the destruction. but cannot deny the truth of his son's insights. Avram leaves his home, vowing never to return, and goes off to plant the seeds of a religion



that will lead to the core belief system for hundreds of millions of the world's people. all based on Avram/ Abraham's resolve to be true



to the One God. Moses brings it down to us from Mt. Sinai, carved in stone.

Now, here we are in the days leading up to the Yamim Nora'im, the Ten Days of Awe. Will we have the courage of Avram to be true to our beliefs, to look deep within, analyze our behaviors, admit where we have not been our best selves? Will we apologize to those we've wronged, and resolve to make changes? Those are the opportunities of the month of Elul, and on this month's last Shabbat before Rosh HaShanah, we will come together as a community for Selichot. to say prayers for forgiveness together. The experience will be powerful, but even more so if we have done serious introspective work in these mercy-filled days of Elul. The rabbis teach that the letters of the name Elul stand for the verse in the Song of Songs: "Ani L'Dodi v'Dodi Li. (I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is Mine.)" With such encouragement, and with the words of Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin in our ears and hearts, we should be able to make the most of this vear's High Holidays.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good vear. Ketivah Vechatimah Tovah. >

A Message From the Rabbi...

by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

n the year since last Rosh Hashanah, the turbulence in the wider world has not abated. It may not be at Great Depression or World War levels (thank God) but most of us would agree it has been unsettling nonetheless. In times such as these, the message of the High Holydays is more needed than ever.

So many of us remain captive to matters of



the moment. We are in over our heads with our connection of choice, be it Facebook, Twitter, the cellphone, TV or internet news feeds. But as they reach for us, the High Holydays remind us that there are better compulsions to have and there is (much!) more to life than this.

I've been reminded of William Wordsworth frequently in recent years. In 1807 he wrote. "The world is too much with us." We shudder to think what he might say now. We know that our psyches need a break. So do our spirits and souls.

We know too that the Torah ordains for us a rest one day in every seven. Those of us whose Sabbath observance includes disengagement from the wider world can testify to its value. (If yours doesn't, I invite you to consider it.) We are much the saner for it.

But even if we keep Shabbat faithfully, it takes more than that to keep ourselves in spiritual balance. When it comes to helping us reorient. redirect and re-ground our

lives, nothing compares to the power of the High Holyday season. Much of its quality comes from its sheer quantity, a month of preparation followed by ten Days of Awe followed by almost two more weeks of meaningful joy.

There is so much to explore. How are we

falling short as individuals, as a community, as a nation and as a world? How can we break the inertia and turn our slow-moving personal battleships around? And how can each of us make the most of whatever time we have left? Now as always our tradition has much to say on these subjects. Come the new year, we will do our best to bring its insights to life.

The color for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is white, a symbol of purity. We acknowledge that purity is not a legitimate expectation. But droplets of it can and do find their way to us. touch us and maybe even begin to transform us. For our part, being open to the possibility is the way to begin.

Mindy joins me in expressing gratitude for being a part of this wonderful community. We wish every member of our KICC family a shana tovah u'mvurechet--blessing and goodness in the year ahead. >

Thoughts as we strive to be a "light unto the nations..."

by Cantor Michael A. Dzubin

recently returned from a wonderful opportunitv to serve as one of the lewish Chaplains at the Boy Scouts of America's National Jamboree in the mountains of West Virginia, where I was able to provide spiritual and religious guidance, as well as Jewish ambassadorship to between 25 and 30.000 Scouts and leaders (as well as up to 7.000 staffers) from all over the country, and quite a lot from other countries.

The National Iewish Committee on Scouting hosted a public reading of a letter written by our nation's first president, George Washington, in 1790 to the "Hebrew Congregation" of Newport, Rhode

Island. The letter read, in part, "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that

they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support." (As an aside, in an acknowledgement of the importance of the Boy Scouts, the president of the United States has historically been the honorary president of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Every sitting president since 1937 has been invited to address Jamboree participants, and the chance to hear words of guidance, wisdom and inspiration from our president is something that our Scouts and Scout leaders have looked forward to at each lamboree.)

Jewish teachings and ritual observance primarily aim to achieve a perfection of the human relationship, and to create a better society, as evidenced by the Ten Command-

ments. Out of the 613 Commandments listed in the Torah, God chose these ten to issue to the Israelites during his face-toface meeting (so to speak) at Mount Sinai. The rabbis point out that the first five commandments dictate how we should relate

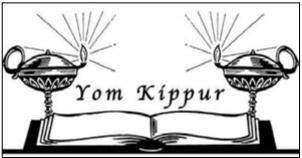
with God, and the back half of the Ten Commandments instruct us how we should relate with each other. However, Rabbi Noson Weisz points out that "the predominant theme of the tablets is that it is impossible to separate one's interactions with other people from one's interactions with God. making connections between the "God side" and the "Man side." The great sage Hillel summed up the essence of *Torah*, and by extension, Judaism, by saying "What is hateful to you, do not do to others." Rabbi Akivah, at the beginning of the 2nd century C.E., cited "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:17). When the Talmud speaks of the characteristics of Israel, it does not do so in terms of the unique ritual observances, but rather, it says "Three characteristics does this (Jewish) people possess: they are merciful, modest and perform

deeds of kindness." Jews who lacked these qualities were considered unworthy members of the people. Maimonides went so far as to declare that "there is reason to be suspicious of the Jewish credentials of one who is cruel." The "good heart" is actually the Talmud's prerequisite for a truly pious and observant person. The Talmud instructs one who "aspires to piety and saintliness" to follow the laws which deal with monetary, civil and criminal matters. On the other hand, it warns that acts of injustice, brutality, dishonesty, deception, slander, and unkindness are all religious transgressions against God, no less than they are crimes against man. Notice that the Al Het (an important prayer throughout the Yom Kippur services, in which we confess our collective "sins"/mistakes) consists primarily of ethical/moral transgressions, rather than ritu-

al ones. The laws of Yom Kippur emphasize that God will forgive transgressions against Himself, but will not forgive transgressions we make against our fellow men. unless we first apologize, make up for our mistakes and gain forgiveness from

the people that we have wronged. These laws include: G'milut Hassadim (acts of (loving) kindness); Tsedakkah (often mistranslated as "charity," but it comes from the word *Tsedek*, which means "righteous," and therefore really means "the right thing to do"): Lashon HaRah (literally "the Evil Tongue"; laws relating to slander, revenge and deceit); and Khoshen Mishpat -Jewish civil law, which includes laws pertaining to work and wages.

The separation of church and state practiced by modern societies (including ours) has an unacceptable consequence from a *Torah* perspective: moral relativism. For example, we evaluate the president of a major corporation (let's say Exxon) amorally in terms of his office. The way he treats his wife and kids has no bearing on his iob performance. He can be an excellent corporate president, even if he isn't a very "good" person. A person's private life, in other words, is



his own business. However, the Torah takes a different view, teaching us that God relates to each person in terms of his level of spirituality in all aspects of his life, but that He judges on a curved grading scale, based on the individual's role in society. The moral flaws of the president of a corporation ranks much lower than those of a teacher, who is held up to a much higher standard; and political leaders, who are charged with the preservation of our social values, are held to an even higher one. Similarly, a rabbi must not only teach the Torah and the Jewish way of life by what he (or she) says, but also by what he or she does; the idea is to personally reflect the values and teachings that each wishes their congregants to practice. It is common for (non-orthodox) congregants to run into each other at the store on Shabbat and think nothing of it, but they would be shocked and appalled if they were to find their rabbi there during that same shopping trip!

Jewish law even sets the qualifications expected of one who serves as a permanent Shaliah Tsibbur (emissary of the congregation, who represents and leads the congregation in prayer before the Almighty), or Cantor (Hazzan in Hebrew) of a congregation. According to the Shulkhan Arukh (literally "set table," or Table of Jewish Law), any layman who possesses the educational background and the religious merit (and every Jew should!) is privileged to conduct all parts of the religious service. It states that the cantor should know the meaning of the Hebrew prayers, and possess the faith to say them with sincerity. He (or now she) must not be a dull or foolish person, but one who can intelligently discuss and participate in the affairs of the community. He or she should be wellversed in the various melodies and chants that are appropriate for different services. He or she should be a modest person, and personally acceptable to the congregation, and should possess a pleasant voice. Finally (and perhaps most importantly), he or she must be a worthy and suitable person, who is not tainted by any reputation for religious or moral transgressions. One who is known to



commit religious or moral transgressions is disqualified, and must not be chosen. In fact, the Talmud warns that where an unsuitable or unworthy person is permitted to act as Shaliah Tsibbur on account of his pleasant voice alone. his prayers are regarded by our religious tradition as unacceptable to the Holy One. It is, in fact, considered an abomination. "Those who do this, withhold good from Israel" (Mishne Berurah: 12 on Orakh Hayim 53:4). If there cannot be found one who possesses all of these qualifications, the one with the most wisdom and good deeds should be chosen. Benjamin Franklin: "It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it."

All of us are expected to shoulder our responsibilities to follow God's commandments (both in relation to God, as well as to our fellow humans), live proper lives, and do our best to be "a light unto the nations." It is told of the immortal Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook. Talmudist, mystic, philosopher and first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, who passed away in 1935, that on his deathbed he was attended by one of the most illustrious physicians of the day. Ray Kook turned to his famous doctor and whispered. "I am pleased that we have lews who are great; now we must strive to have great Jews."

I pray that I am found to be worthy as a Shaliah Tsibbur, and that we all strive to become a Holy Nation, and indeed a "light unto the nations."

-L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu! (May you all be inscribed for a Good Year!) >

KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule 5778 (2017)

Rabbí Ríchard Agler and Cantor Míchael Dzubín

Saturda	y, Se	ptember	16th

6:00 p.m. Pizza/Movies/S'lichot Service

Wednesday, September 20th

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner - RSVP required 5:30 p.m. Erev Rosh HaShanah Service 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 21th

Rosh HaShanah, Day I. Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m. Break after shofar Sounding 12:00 noon Musaf Service 12:15 -- 1:30 p.m. Luncheon 1:30 p.m. Taschlich at Ocean Pointe 4:00 p.m.

Friday, September 22nd

Rosh HaShanah, Day 2 9:30 a.m. Shacharit (Morning Service) 12:00 noon Break after shofar Sounding Musaf Service 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.Luncheon 1:30 p.m.

Friday, September 22nd

Erev Shabbat Service and Oneg 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23rd

Shabbat Tshuvah (led by Cantor Michael Dzubin) 10:00 a.m. Followed by Kiddush 12:00 noon Havdalah Service at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

Friday, September 29th

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 30th

Yom Kippur morning service	9:30 a.m.
Yizkor (Memorial Service)	I I: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	7:15 p.m.
Break-the-Fast	7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 1st

Sukkah Decoration at KICC 11:00 a.m.

Friday, October 6th

(actual start of Sukkot: October 4th in evening) Family Sukkot Service (oneg in Sukkah) 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7th

Sukkot potluck at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 13th

(actual dates 12,13)

Yizkor Service, plus Simchat Torah service and celebration (including Rabbi Agler's famous seven-minute Torah reading), followed by Chocolate Extravaganza Dessert Table.

7:30 p.m.



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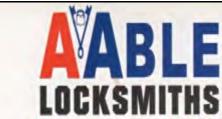
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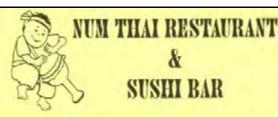
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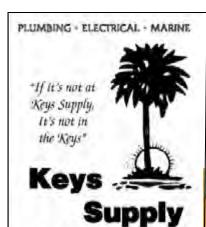
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October 2017

11 Tishrei - 11 Cheshvan 5778

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October 2017 11 Tishrei - 11 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Sukkah Decoration 11:00 a.m.	2	3	4 Mindy Agler Counseling post-Irma 6 p.m.	5	6 Sukkot 7:30 p.m. Ken Atlas Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis	7
8	9	10	Mindy Agler Counseling post-Irma 6 p.m.	12	13 Yizkor Service Simchat Torah Joyce Peckman & Bernard Ginsburg Linda Perloff & Mitch Harvey	14
KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	16	17	18 Mindy Agler Counseling post-Irma 6 p.m.	19	Joe Shabathai Kathy and Joe Shabathai	21
22	23	24	Mindy Agler Counseling post-Irma 6 p.m.	26	Beth Hayden Steve Steinbock	28 Rabbi Agler's 1st morning service of the season 10:00 a.m.
29	30	31	1	<i>Italicized</i> na	leaders of Friday servic mes are Oneg sponsors ery Friday at 7:30 p.m.	res.

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

dinner be-

Shalom uvracha.

And so we go on post-Irma. The KICC building sustained no damage and never lost electricity. Grounds and trees suffered greatly but, all in all, we were very fortunate. While generally we pray for the safety of Israel, that was somewhat reversed this year. KJCC received a lovely letter of support from the Conservative Minyan of Kfar Vradim (Village of Roses) in the Galilee. You can read the letter yourself on page 3.

Despite everything, KJCC observed both the first and second days of Rosh HaShanah services so ably led by Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin. We gathered in the social hall prior to services the first evening in order to eniov apples and honey as harbingers of a sweet year. While attendance was not as high as in a "normal" year, the first evening and first day were well attended by around 60 congregants.

The second day services drew roughly 20 attendees who, among other things, learned about the "incomplete vav" in the word shalom as addressed in one of Rabbi's study sessions. If you were one of the unfortunates who missed that second day, try to find someone who was there and can tell you about this intriguing vav.

While we had to forego our traditional Rosh HaShanah



cause of Irma, as always, Sisterhood and our outstanding members rose to the challenge. We had onegs, snacks and luncheons. Many thanks to Susan Gordon, Sisterhood President, and all the wonderful men and women who ensured KICC could offer food and beverages as part of the New Year celebration. Thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles, Jane Friedman, Mary Anne Pearl, Kathy Shabathai, Marc Bloom, and Luz Levine. And many thanks to our own intrepid Carla who was always there, always smiling and always working. And more thanks to the gentleman who sees to the KICC building and grounds, Lawrence Zischka, aka "Count", who performed a minor miracle clearing the parking lot of trees and debris in time for Rosh HaShanah. Last, but not least, thanks to Ken Atlas for providing security on a day "off" from ongoing 12-hour work shifts. Now we make ready for Yom Kippur, the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar year.

Hopefully, most KICC members who evacuated will be back with us by then. May it be an easy fast for everyone and may 5778 be a wonderful year for all of us and a year in which each of us finishes with a "chatimah tovah".

Gmar chatimah tovah, Beth

Nosh

THE Holiday: Our Sukkot Ceremony

Because of Irma's aftereffects, we've had to make some adjustments to previously announced plans. Rich and Mindy Agler regret that they will not be able to host their Sukkot potluck this year. Nevertheless, you will still have the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of shaking the lulav and inhaling the scent of the etrog twice - at 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning, October 1st, when we decorate our Sukkah, and on Friday evening, October 6th in our own Sukkah after services. (Please see the Sukkot article on page 22.)

Rabbi Agler's Monthly Services Resume

Our Resident Scholar has once again volunteered to offer a monthly Shabbat morning service in season. Mark your calendar. October 28th is the date, 10:00 a.m. (sharp) is the time. The parashah we'll be exploring is Lech Lecha, the beginning of Avram's journey from his home, a journey that will lead to his new name, Abraham, and creation of a monotheist nation. (That's us.) Join the group of eager members and friends who come to be engaged by the warm, informal, thought-provoking style of Rabbi Richard Agler. You'll be glad you did.

Simchat Torah Celebration Plus

We won't just be unrolling and re-rolling the student Torah any more. We're moving on to something bigger. A few months ago we aired out our revitalized Holocaust Torah for the first time. It's a vow we made, to do our part to keep our Torah kosher. The new year, 5778, brings not just a new year but a new season of accepting responsibility. Come and be part of "holy rolling." Rabbi Agler will not give his sevenminute translation into English of the entire scroll. Instead, we will get deeper insights from him as we roll along. That night, October 13th, will also mark the observance of Yizkor. Bernie Ginsberg will lead us in this second mandated remembrance service of the New Year. But wait.

there's more. Celebration and sorrow ends with more celebration. We'll be dancing with our Torahs and there might just be a chocolate extravaganza oneg at the end of it all.

KJCC's Israel Trip 2018

The KICC is planning a trip to Israel next year. The trip will be led by the best tour guide possible — our own Rabbi Richard Agler. (Ask Joyce, Gloria, Medina or Barney what their experience was like, four who went on this adventure with Rabbi Agler in 2013 and waxed rhapsodic about it in Chai-Lights.) This journey will provide a unique opportunity not only to visit ancient historic sites and religious highlights, but a chance to LIVE the culture of modern day Israel. The details of the trip, dates and costs, are still being worked out as of publication time. We are trying to determine the extent of serious interest first. Non-KICC members or family are welcome to join us at no cost premium. I've agreed to be the KICC trip coordinator, so if you have ANY interest please send me an email at smpearl@gmail.com. After talking to a number of people during Rosh HaShanah, we can already see that the interest is strong. I'll be in touch with all who have spoken to or e-mailed me as soon as we have more information. Looking forward -Scott Pearl.

Oneg Sponsors for October 2017

October 6th - Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis, in honor of Laurie's Grandmother's Yahrzeit.

October 13th - Chocolate Oneg Extravaganza sponsored by Linda Perloff and Mitch Harvey in celebration of Mitch's birthday.

October 20th - Kathy and Joe Shabathai, celebrating loe's birthday.

October 27th - Steve Steinbock, in loving memory of Carol.

October Birthdays

2nd	Michael Gilson
3rd	Natalie Dorf
4th	Michael Kanarek
4th	
5th	
6th	
6th	
7th	
th	
12th	
13th	
14th	
I4th	
I4th	
15th	
15th	
15th	
l6th	
17th	
17th	Stacev W. Seewald
18th	
20th	
20th	
21st	Sammy Knowles
22nd	
22nd	
22nd	
24th	Stacy Temkin
24th25th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser
24th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser Richard Wolfe
24th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser Richard Wolfe Adriana Sherman
24th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser Richard Wolfe Adriana Sherman Shyella Mayk
24th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser Richard Wolfe Adriana Sherman Shyella Mayk Franklin Greenman
24th	Stacy Temkin Landon Strasser Richard Wolfe Adriana Sherman Shyella Mayk Franklin Greenman Katie J. Schur
24th	Stacy TemkinLandon StrasserRichard WolfeAdriana ShermanShyella MaykFranklin GreenmanKatie J. SchurMark Hitzig

Sorry For the Brief Delay

You'll notice, we're sure, that this issue of Chai-Lights is delayed by a few days. Not to make excuses, but we did have a production glitch or two because of Dame Irma. (Not to mention no internet or power.) But we should be back on normal schedule for November.

October Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein	23
6th	Sue Sigel & William Pomenti	27
l5th	David & Toby Goldfinger	58
l 6th	Jerry & Barbara Herson	18
22nd	Scott & Mary Anne Pearl	29
22nd	Steve & Luzviminda Levine	5
28th	Michael & Suzanne Gilson	16
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein	63

From halfway around the world (or almost) in Israel's Galilee, good friends of Beth Hayden sent the following post-Irma letter of support to the KICC community:



19 September 2017

Dear Beth and Members of the KJCC, HaMinyan HaMishpachti HaMasorti in Kfar Vradim, Israel, is thinking of you.

As closely as possible from 5,000 miles away, we followed the harrowing days of Irma's approach and watched as the storm broke over the Caribbean and Florida. Now, as we reflect during the Tishrei Holidays, we wish you strength as you begin rebuilding.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring a year of creation and restoration. May it offer opportunities to correct and strengthen our relationships with nature and our fellow man, as we strive towards understanding and peaceful co-existence. May our collective goals bring us together for the betterment of our common existence, and may nature's beauty overcome her wrath.

L'Shana Yoteir Tova.

Judith and Avery Jochnowitz, on behalf of HaMinyan HaMasorti HaMishpachti

The Margulies Family Sanctuary

In January of 2017, Stanley and Jenny Margulies made a very generous gift to the Keys Jewish Community Center. In their honor and in the spirit with which the gift was given, our sanctuary, by vote of the KJCC Board in February, was renamed "The Margulies Family Sanctuary." That name is now installed above the doorway, along with the beautiful and appropriate blessing approved by Stan from Deuteronomy 28:6: "Blessed are you for having come and blessed are you in your going forth." It arcs in beautiful brass Hebrew letters over the new name and a plaque stating:

Named to Honor the Support and Generosity of Stanley and Jenny For Helping Assure the Future of the KICC.



Once again, we thank the Margulies family for their commitment to Jewish values, culture, and an ongoing active Jewish Community here in our inclusive Florida Keys home.

A Sephardic Service

We don't often get a whole new service experience. Dana Grace gave us that by bringing us a host of new melodies and insights. Now, Joseph Shabathai will bring us his tradition of a Sephardic service. We already know one difference: they get to eat corn, beans and rice on Passover. (They also have different traditions for Sukkot.) Let's see what this service is like. Thank you, Joe, for another new experience. (Please see Joe's article on page 20 about his lewish experience growing up in the British Colony of Aden, in today's Yemen.)

Hurricane

A poem by Gloria Avner

Princess Moonfeathers said hurricanes are necessary to pull earth's hair Turtle Island's tropic swamps coral reefed and rocky need the scalp massage weed the weak trees make room around the others' roots to let nutrition in

full-blooded 96 year old Cherokee Indian done with hiding in the white man's world away for Labor Day 1935 buying supplies in Miami rides out the big one in her little boat

sees the ruins first hand next day men dead in trees clothes blown off bones black with blood two hundred WWI veterans grateful to be working gone

twisted iron rails spikes in turquoise waters

key deer visit her a miniature six point buck a doe two fawns in rapt communication vibrations of our drums and one coral rock mark the spot

Our Garden Survived Intact

There aren't too many places in the Keys showing no damage from Irma. The grounds of KICC are a mess of debris and downed tree limbs. (The building is fine.) But one place that suffered no damage at all was our beautiful and precious Meditation Garden. No bricks, memorial trees or even benches were uprooted or overturned. It is as it was before the storm, though it does admittedly have some areas that need a little raking. The Beth/Stanlake gazebo, which is

currently serving (as it does each year) as the KJCC sukkah, is undamaged, as is the orchid pergola. Even the sign welcoming everyone to the Garden is fine. We can't know for certain, but we're told that we're also the only place in the Upper Keys where flowers are blooming, in the landscaped portion of the parking lot. (Okay, maybe they're wildflowers, but honey gets made from them, too.) Also, Count tells us that no water washed onto the property, unusual for anything Oceanside. Thank you, mangroves.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KICC, call Gene Silverman, 305-664-3316.

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KICC section. Call Beth Hayden 305-773-0067.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

ONEG SHABBAT OR DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225 or e-mail her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

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

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, 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.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KICC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial to provide them to Haiti, where they are desperately needed.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.





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

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

In Memoriam October 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of In Memory Of		
Perren Gerber	Stephen Berman	Fanny Grossman Bernard	
By Gloria Avner	By Sylvia Berman <>><>><>>	By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Gertrude Widlan	Audrey Bloom	Steven V. Calev	
By Norbert Birnbaum <><><>>>>>	By Marc Bloom <>><>><>>	By Barbara A. Calev	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Arnold Tomor	Abraham Kanowsky	Harriet Feder	
By Barbara A. Calev	By Wes & Rita Conklin	By David & Suzi-Sara Feder	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Natalie Field	Nettie Fishman	Muriel Catanase	
By Carol Field <><><><>>	By Eina G. Fishman	By Jane Friedman <>><>><>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Stanley J. Goodman	Simon Skolnick	Joseph Elson	
By Jamie & Laura Goodman	By Susan Gordon	By Mrs. Marty Graham	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Fanny Elson	Lilian Goldenberg	Leonard Weiser	
By Mrs. Marty Graham	By Mrs. Marty Graham	By Andrew & Randi Grant	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Henry Walter Isenberg	Leah Kamely	Michal Kamely	
By Patricia Isenberg	By Yardena Kamely <><><><>	By Uri & Liliam Kamely <><><><>	

In Memoriam October 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of In Memory Of	
Michal Kamely	Rebekah Levy	Ron Levy
By Yardena Kamely	By Yardena Kamely	By Beth Kaminstein
<><><><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Esther M. Klein	Neel Christensen	Eliza Christensen
By Harvey & Judith Klein <><><><>	By Nancy Kluger	By Nancy Kluger
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sidney Blum	Rosie Kleinfeldt Blum Krilov	Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf
By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	By Stanley & Jenny Margulies
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Joel S. Cohen	David Frank	Rosalyn Rose
By Lynn Nobil	By Linda Pollack	By Skip Rose
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Bradley Schocket	Patty Silver	Maurice Singer
By Jeffrey Schocket	By Jeffrey Schocket	By Lee Schur
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Jon R. Singer	Morton I. Singer	Solomon Felder
By Mary Lee Singer	By Mary Lee Singer	
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Joel S. Cohen	Saunders G. Cohen	Carol Steinbock
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Stephen Steinbock

In Memoriam October 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Herbert S. Weihl	Sarah Wernicoff	Doran David Zinner
By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl <>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Donald Zinner <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Donald Zinner <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Audrey Bloom	Harriet Feder	David Frank
By Marc Bloom <><><>>>>	By David & Suzi-Sara Feder	By Linda Pollack
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Perren Gerber	Michal Kamely	Carol Steinbock
By Gloria Avner	By Yardena Kamely <>><><>>>>	By Stephen Steinbock

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 KICC is non-denominational, but we too have incorporated the Misheberach prayer into our Friday evening service, after the dvar Torah (Torah talk.) We maintain a list of long-term and shortterm 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.

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



SISTERHOOD SPONSORSHIP **OPPORTUNITIES:** ONEG \$60





SHABBAT DINNER \$300

YOUR ONEG OR DINNER SPONSORSHIP WILL BE PUBLISHED IN CHAI-LIGHTS AND KJCC EMAILS AND ANNOUNCED FROM THE BEMA.

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a yahrzeit, birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice.

For Onegs, Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks. Desserts may be provided by Sisterhood or by You, the Sponsor.

Please send your donation with accompanying information to:.

KJCC Sisterhood

PO Box 116

Tavernier, FL 33070

We truly appreciate your generous support. For further information contact Joyce Peckman joycepeckman@gmail.com - (732) 447-5225







SisterhoodSusan Gordon

n ordinary times. KICC Sisterhood would have had our monthly meeting as planned L on Wednesday, September 6th. But the times during that first week of September were anything but ordinary. After days of watching Irma's march towards South Florida and preparing emergency supplies, the day on which we were supposed to have our meeting turned out to be the day we received notice of mandatory evacuation. The women of KICC Sisterhood soon scattered, with families and pets, to head in many different directions, our primary goals then being personal and family safety while securing homes and belongings as best we could. I wanted more than anything for everybody to be safe. We all stayed in touch by phone and text and e-mail as best we could. No one knew how badly our homes or our synagogue would be affected or how long the aftereffects would last. We had long-distance discussions about what we would do if the synagogue was damaged or had no power. How could we possibly have a dinner or even a service if we had no lights or air-conditioning? We could only make decisions moment by moment, and from a distance. One decision made early as the storm approached was to cancel Shabbat and Selichot services.

While I was gone, some people started returning. I felt it was important to have a Friday night service at the KJCC for those people who stayed throughout the storm or who had managed to come back despite the curfews. We had canceled activities before we knew what damage might occur. Amazingly, KICC did not lose electric power, and that suddenly made things possible that we could not have foreseen when we canceled. I want to thank all the people responsible for opening the synagogue, conducting services and carrying on our Jewish KJCC traditions. You tried to bring normalcy and comfort back to us with Shabbat observance and continuation of the onegs we love so much and are so important to our functioning as a Jewish community. We needed the opportunity

to come together in gratitude.I am sorry that we were not able to have the



homemade brisket dinner we have become accustomed to enjoying on Erev Rosh HaShanah, but these were unusual and stressful circumstances.

Still, it was a delight to get together before services that night in the social hall and see everybody hugging, sharing stories of where they were during the storm, and wishing each other a sweet new year as we blessed and ate our apples dipped in honey.

I would also like to thank all who contributed to the two excellent Rosh HaShanah luncheons and snacks in the break between services on such short notice. Sydney! Faye-Davis and Kathy Shabathai were tireless in their organizational abilities and in the kitchen. Mary Anne Pearl came through at the last minute with all sorts of food preparation and help for Carla, Barbara and Richard Knowles did much shopping as well as major food preparing. Marc Bloom, honorary Sisterhood member, made his famous herring and sour cream. Jane Friedman, our amazing Sisterhood Vice-President, made sure we had a variety of healthy and delicious foods. Thanks to the efforts of many Sisterhood members, the whole Rosh HaShanah experience was a nourishing as well as spiritual success.

With Erica Lieberman-Garrett back from Toronto to coordinate Sisterhood's efforts for our break-the-fast feast at the end of Yom Kippur, we will have created a fitting conclusion to a holiday season unlike any other. The beginning of 5778 will be locked into our collective memory as a completely unique experience.

Whether we are praying together, socializing, making food, or breaking bread, it is this spirit of helping one another and loving one another, even in a time of crisis and confusion, that gives my heart joy, knowing that I and all of KJCC Sisterhood are part of something greater than ourselves. L'Shanah tovah to all.

Chai-Lights October 2017 13

Photo Gallery

The top three photos here were taken at the oneg on August 18th. Top left shows Jan Price offering a perfect view of the homemade brownies she had baked that day and brought to be consumed (they were) that evening. The other two photos are of **Barbara and Richard** Knowles, sponsors of the evening's oneg.





Steve Smith joined Jonah Gross (above and right) as trumpeteers with the Coral **Shores Pep** Band at the football game on Friday, September 1st.





Our Bernie Ginsberg has decided to retire again. (He thought he'd done it once before, right before he moved to

the Keys.) He's holding a cake given to him by Rich and Mindy Agler, at left.



(Suzi's in the back seat) wave while on summer musical tour in the southeast. Unfortunately, Hurricane Irma changed those plans. She also did in Dave's office/trailer at home (at far left), though he says nothing irreplaceable was lost. The photo below shows a group of LDS Church members from Boca who fanned out all over the upper Keys to help with debris clean-up for anyone who





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 happ 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, keusjewishcenter.com.

World Jewish Report Medina Roy

An Historic Decision

Israel's High Court recently issued a groundbreaking ruling, finding in favor of Batya Kahana-Dror, an Israeli lawyer, to become the director of Israel's rabbinic court, a position that up until this ruling was available exclusively to men. In 2014, Kahana-Dror applied to become the rabbinic court's director but was rejected. She was told that the position was open only to candidates who have served as religious court judges or who are qualified to be municipal rabbis - both jobs currently available to men only. She. along with two civil rights organizations, petitioned Israel's High Court. In mid-August the Court found in her favor, saying that while religious jobs are exempt from antidiscrimination laws, the director's position was an administrative one and as such must be open to both men and women. The Court felt that the job should be open to anyone experienced with arguing before the rabbinic court or any lawyer with a relevant background in Jewish law. Kahana-Dror said that the ruling was "...an important achievement in the struggle for the rights of women in the Rabbinical Court system" and that this decision would also "strengthen the values of Judaism and democracy." (www.tabletmag.com, 8-17-17)

In the Aftermath of Charlottesville

Bryn Mawr College, a private college located in suburban Philadelphia, announced that it is placing a year-long moratorium on the use of the name of M. (Martha) Carey Thomas, a founder and past president (1894-1922) who was a known racist and anti-Semite. Both the library and the great hall are named for her. During and before her tenure as college president. Thomas actively worked to bar Jews from entering Bryn Mawr, both as faculty members and as students. At the end of Au gust, College President Kim Cassidy wrote a

letter to the Bryn Mawr community saying that

Thomas "had a profound impact on opportunities for women in higher education, on the ... identity of Bryn Mawr, and on the physical plan of the campus." Cassidy went on to say that "[Thomas] also openly and vigorously advanced racism and anti-Semitism as part of her vision of the College." A working group of faculty, students, staff trustees and alumni was formed to review and make a determination as to what to do about the name on the buildings. Bryn Mawr has 1,346 undergraduate students. Two hundred - some fifteen percent - are Jewish. (www.forward.com, 8-29-17)

United Hatzalah's "Wonder Woman"

Despite resistance from her ultra-Orthodox community, Jerusalem family therapist Miriam Ballin became a medic. Following that, she started a psychological first aid unit. At the end of August, the Houston-born native - she still has family and friends there - left her husband. a family physician at Hadassah Medical Center. in charge of their five young children as she headed to southeast Texas. Ballin, 33, and six other Israeli mental health professionals went there help locals cope with the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey. They are experts in their field and have lots of experience responding to local emergencies, including dozens of terrorist attacks. Ballin is head of the Psychotrauma Unit of United Hatzalah, a mostly ultra-Orthodox volunteer emergency service based in Jerusalem. She spearheaded the creation of the unit in 2016 during a wave of Palestinian violence to provide psychological support to those experiencing traumatic events. The unit has some 200 members, made up of medics, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who have been trained by Israeli experts on the psychology of crises. They have responded to

dozens of situations, including terror attacks, wartime trauma, severe injuries and car accidents, suicides, forest fires and other natural disasters. Hurricane Harvey is their first experience with flooding. There are many first responders and medical professionals on the ground, but with so many people displaced, psychological support is sorely needed. "The provision of psychological support in the acute stages of trauma, from incident to seven days, is something we're leading the world in," said Dov Maisel, United Hatzalah's vice president of international operations. Ballin and her team coordinated with local and federal officials on the ground as well as leaders of the Jewish community, which has been especially hard hit. American Jewish donors many in Houston - funded the trip. Ballin's group is not the only Israeli rescue team in Houston, Members of the Israeli humanitarian NGO group IsrAID rushed to Texas to provide supplies, remove debris and lead stress relief and recreational activities. (www.ipost.com, 8-31-17)

AclarTech's Motto: "Know Your Fruit"

Avi Schwartzer was extremely disappointed with the fruit he picked from his backyard. As a computer scientist working as R&D manager at Hewlett-Packard in Israel, he was sure there was a tool or an app to be able to determine, on the spot, a fruit's quality and ripeness. Doing some research, he discovered many scientific instruments, each providing little pieces of this puzzle, but not quite what he was hoping to find. So in 2016, he and partner Ruby Boyarski founded AclarTech in Ness Ziona, a suburb of Rechovot. Together they developed the AclaroMeter, a device welcomed especially by farmers, wholesalers and retailers. The two men combined two unique made-in-Israel tools: AclarTech's proprietary algorithm plus Consumer Physics' SCiO handheld molecular sensor in order to create the AclaroMeter. "We put a software layer on top of the SCiO hardware. You could compare it to GPS and WAZE; you cannot build WAZE without GPS," explained Schwartzer. (WAZE is the Israeli-produced free traffic and navigation app.) SCiO reveals internal attributes of

the fruit such as sweetness and dry weight. The device "crunches that data, along with smartphone camera images of external attributes such as color and size, to display a quality and ripeness 'grade' for the fruit (or cluster of fruits) instantaneously." All data, as well as additional statistical information and reports, are available online for analysis. Schwartzer believes that inaccurate information as to when to pick produce leads to a yearly loss of half of all fruits and vegetables grown commercially. AclaroMeters are now being used by Carmel Wines, the national fruit-quality regulation board, the Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural research at the Volcani Institute - which supports Israeli agriculture research, focusing on plant sciences, animal sciences, plant protection, soil and environmental sciences, food sciences, and agricultural engineering. (The Institute was founded in 1921 by Yithak Elazari Volcani, for whom it is named.) AclarTech plans to market the AclaroMeter all around the world. "Our vision is to improve the efficiency and quality of fresh agricultural produce along the food chain, from the farmer to the table of the consumer." said Schwartzer. "Our goal is to be the standard for fruit quality and ripeness." (www.israel21c.org, 8-30-17)

In Honor of Elie

A bipartisan bill, named for the late Elie Wiesel, whose purpose is to improve the United States' response to emerging or potential genocides, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of June. The Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2017 was introduced by Representatives loe Crowley (D-N.Y.) and Ann Wagner (R-Mo.). If it becomes, law, it will ensure that the official policy of the United States is to consider the prevention of genocide and other crimes a matter of national security.

The bill also establishes an interagency Mass Atrocities Task Force and encourages the Director of National Intelligence to include information on atrocities in the annual crime report to Congress. "From the Holocaust to South Sudan, from Burma to Syria, the world has witnessed far too many genocides and mass atrocity crimes," Wagner said. "...the fact that over 65 million people are currently fleeing preventable crises makes clear that the U.S. government must improve its response to these conflicts." (www.jta.org, 6-22-17)

In Memoriam

- * Yisrael Kristal, a Holocaust survivor from Haifa who was recognized in 2016 by the Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, died in August, a month before his 114th birthday. Born in Zarnow, Poland, Kristal moved to Lodz in 1920 to work in his family's candy business. He maintained the business after the Jews of Lodz were forced into a ghetto by the Nazis. where his two children died. In 1944 he and his wife were deported to Auschwitz, where his wife was killed. Kristal moved to Haifa in 1950 with his second wife and their son and continued working as a confectioner. When he turned 113 in 2016, he along with about 100 members of his family, celebrated his bar mitzvah. 100 vears after he missed it due to World War I. (www.jta.org, 8-11-17)
- * Sheila Babs Michaels, feminist and social justice activist who is credited with popularizing the title Ms., died in July. She was 78. In 1961, 22-year-old Michaels was living with a roommate in New York and happened to notice a piece of mail addressed to her roommate using "Ms." Michaels, thinking it was a typographical error, had been looking for an alternative title to "Miss" and "Mrs.," as she hated having her identity defined by her marital status. "I was looking for a title for a woman who did not 'belong' to a man," she is quoted as saving. Gloria Steinem popularized the term and in 1971 used it as the title of the progressive feminist magazine she founded along with Dorothy Pitman Hughes. Michaels did not coin the term "Ms." According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "Ms." appeared as far back as 1901.

Michaels attended the College of William and Mary but was suspended for her political and racial opinions while she was on the college newspaper's editorial board. She was one of the first women to run the field offic-

- es for the Congress of Racial Equality and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the volatile 1960s. In 1963, she worked to organize the historic Civil Rights March on Washington, helping to write the speech for iconic civil rights leader John Lewis, now a Congressman from Georgia. Over the years she interviewed many civil rights leaders. leading to the establishment of an oral history archive that is currently stored at Columbia University. During her lifetime, Michaels also worked as a New York City cab driver. (www.jta.org, 7-11-17)
- * Margaret Bergmann Lambert, Jewish athlete who was barred from the 1936 Berlin Olympics because she was Jewish, died at the end of July. She was 103. Known as Gretel, Bergmann became a superior athlete in the 1920s and 30s, excelling in the high jump. A month before the Olympics, she won a meet against some of the best German high jumpers: her best of 5 feet, 3 inches tied a German record and was good enough to win the top spot on the Olympic team. The Nazis insisted that she compete in the trials to impress foreign dignitaries, who suspected that the party's anti-Semitic policies would tarnish the competition. But just a few weeks before the opening ceremonies, Bergmann was bounced from the team, keeping her out of the games. She left Germany in 1937 and settled in New York, where she began to compete again. But she never forgot the disappointment of what happened in Germany. She won the U.S. women's high jump and shot put championships in 1937 and the high jump again in 1938. Bergmann was inducted into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at the Wingate Institute in Israel in 1980. In 2004, HBO aired a documentary about her called "Hitler's Pawn." (www.jta.org, 7-26-17)

Did You Know...

★ Helen and Maurice Kaye, a British Jewish couple - he's 105, she is 104 - recently celebrated their 83rd wedding anniversary, becoming what is thought to be the country's longest married couple. The two met when Maurice was a traveling salesman for his father's clothing business. They have been together for 87 vears. (www.forward.com, 9-1-17) >

THE UNEXPECTED SHABBAT

By Gloria Avner

hat do you do when the strongest hurricane in more than half a century comes barreling toward your island community with winds over 100 mph and projected storm surge of 10 feet, where most everything is not much higher than sea level? You get out of harm's way. You hunker down. If you're president of KJCC, you send out a notice that that coming weekend's activities will be cancelled, including Shabbat

services. People in our congregation had intelligently fled to safety in places as far away as New York. the Carolinas. Illinois, Georgia, Texas and Alabama. We were our own diaspora.

But then, slowly, unusual things started to happen.

Midweek, before any residents were allowed to return to their homes. Count's son Chris, an FKEC Electric Co-op lineman, was allowed in to the Kevs to work. He called his dad to tell him the news: "Dad. KICC has power!" The phrase "a light unto the nations" came immediately to my mind. (As did Ner Tamid, the everlasting light, and that cruse of oil which prompted the eight-day Chanukah miracle.) Our synagogue was being looked after. We had power: lights, air conditioning, refrigeration and running water. The next day, Upper Keys residents were allowed back in. Count cleaned the ceiling insulation bits and iguana gifts from the sanctuary



floor, cleared the driveway of fallen palms and tree debris, and suddenly we had choices. A conversation between Susan and Gloria in diaspora led to a decision to re-open the syna-

> gogue for Friday night services despite the cancellation. We did it because we could and should. At our core, we are a lewish house of worship. We had power and we needed to be open to our community, a place for prayer, refuge



and mutual comfort. Sam Vinicur, who stayed, agreed to open the building and prepare for the service. Late Thursday night emails and text invitations were sent to members we thought might be back. It was listed on Facebook. Sam called Kim Chesher, who with several colleagues was running a pirate radio broadcast out of the Sun103 station to help the community with vital information, to ask that she announce that KJCC would be open for services and that all were welcome. and she did. The response was beyond lovely. Thirty-six e-mails were sent out. Fifteen people came - more than a minyan, more than we expected.

Sam led the impromptu, informal service, with lots of help from Rabbi Rich Agler. (He and Mindy had returned the day before.) Jeffrey Schocket brought cake, fruit and challah. Our wonderful friend Carla also shopped for oneg treats and came to help. Rabbi and Mindy Agler, along with Mitch Harvey and Linda Perloff, Scott and Mary Anne Pearl, Steve Steinbock, Marc Bloom, Richard and Eve Knowles, Jane Friedman, Jan Price, and Kathy Shabathai were all present. The *mish*pocha was able to say Kaddish. Our record of saying the final Kaddish in honor of those who originally owned our Holocaust Torah remained intact.

Rich Agler handled the impromptu *d'var Torah* in the manner of one of his informal Saturday service discussions. He started the discussion by asking two questions: What had made people want to come? And did they have any different feelings once they actually were present? Almost universally, our members talked about gratitude. Everyone knew things could have been much worse. They wanted to say thank you in community. to feel the strength coming from this group gathered to observe our most important and family-centered holiday.

To the second question they replied how good it felt to have a feeling of normalcy, to be, despite the wreckage and work that lav ahead, sitting together on erev Shabbat and celebrating the completion of creation and observing

"Almost universally. our members talked about aratitude."

God's designated Day of Rest. Everyone was happy to be there. With living through danger and suffering came a vulnerability that forged strong bonds. Rabbi Agler talked for a few minutes about the parashah for that Shabbat. "Choose life" was the theme. Everyone knew that next up would be the High Holidays. We may in retrospect experience the 5778 rituals as more normalcy, but in our minds and hearts they will forever be deeper, more profound, steeped in gratitude for the simple gifts of life, our Jewish heritage, our Jewish community, and each other.



A Lifetime's Passage to Judaism

From Aden to the Keys and Memories of an Orthodox Father

by Joseph Shabathai

nyone who has been to Sephardic service will know that it sounds chaotic compared to the Ashkenazim services you are probably familiar with. The congregation all seem to be praying at once and

individually at the same time and the noise level is often quite surprising. Men are separated from women and they are the ones who lead the service. the women being relegated to a secondary role. The tunes are often quite different and some may say not very melodious compared to the often operatic quality of the Ashkenazim chants.

My family originated in Aden, a British colony that is now a part of Yemen. Aden had a bustling Jewish community through the ages from Biblical times. They would be considered Jews of the Mizrahim - the East - as opposed to Sephardic lews who originated in Spain and North Africa. The community's lives there were centered on Jewish tradition and there were

many synagogues to serve the community of several thousand. Girls were matched to their future husbands and married soon after puberty, their essential duties being to produce children and raise them in the Jewish tradition. I recall my mother teaching me the Shema and insisting that it was recited at bed

time. My mother married at the age of 15 and my father was 20. Well, you can see what the result was (along with my three sisters)!

When I attend Chabad services in Zurich (which I do most Friday evenings and Satur-

day mornings while I am in Switzerland), I am reminded of how my parents and the communities of the East prayed for centuries. The Rabbi (and his large family) at the Chabad in Zurich is actually from New York - a New Yorker - and the congregation is a mixture of many origins. There are lews from Israel, Turkey, Iran and other parts of the Middle East and Africa as well as Ashkenazim Jews from Germany, Europe and of course Switzerland, All pray in unison, the service is entirely in Hebrew and follows the Orthodox "Siddur," reading of the parsha and haftorah.

Since my father's death almost two years ago I have attended services and lewish life has become more important for me. In the first vear after his death there was of course Kaddish to recite. In a typical service at

the Chabad Kaddish is recited maybe 4 or 6 times during the service, not just once. When my father was alive I would attend services with him from time to time. He laid tefillin every morning and observed traditional customs such as Friday night dinner with the family and going to shul on Saturday morn-

"I would have liked my father to now see how observant I have become since his death and I hope he would be proud of me...I can hear him now as I recite many of the prayers he would have recited himself."

ings with me in tow. We kept kosher in the house and kept the Shabbat. However I was not very interested and to some extent I ridiculed the whole thing, especially after I had completed my bar mitzvah and discovered other attractions in life facing a young man in his teens.

I would have liked my father to now see how observant I have become since his death and I hope he would be proud of me as I actually have done something he would approve of. I can hear him now as I recite many of the prayers he would have recited himself.

While the experience is somewhat different, Kathy and I enjoy coming to shul in the Keys. We enjoy being part of the community and feel "at home." There is no pretentiousness, as they say we are all *mispacha*. Some of the tunes to the prayers are similar to the Orthodox services, while the general composition of the service is similar, especially at the festivals, with minor adaptations. The prayers have been the same for centuries and whether it's Sephardic or Ashkenazim the essentials are verv similar.

A good Yom Tov to all and Shana Tova.

The Great Synagogue of Aden

The Magen Abraham ("Shield of Abraham") Synagogue, sometimes referred to as the al-Milama'l-kabira ("the Great Synagogue"), was built in 1858. The synagogue was financed by Menahem Messa, a leader

in the Jewish community in Aden and David Sasson, a Jew from Bombay. The floors of the building were made of alabaster marble stone, the ceilings and windows of breathtaking stained glass. The central section of the synagogue contained a marble bima. The Torah Scrolls, kept in a huge Ark, were decorated with crowns and gold or silver pomegranates. Silver lamps hung from the ceiling in front of the Ark. The synagogue was built to hold around 2000 worshippers, and by tradition faces north, looking toward Jerusalem. By the end of WWII, after several pogroms in the city, only 1,100 Jews remained in Aden. By the mid-twentieth century the population had shrunk to 830.

Jews had been among the earliest settlers of Aden, a major commerce port and hub



on the southern part of Red Sea. astride the trade routes to India and the far east. In 1489, in Jerusalem, Rabbi Obadiah di Bertinora met Jews from Aden. He wrote archly to colleagues that they knew nothing about Talmud.

but were well versed in the writings of Rabbis Alfasi and Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides). Records in Israel show that Jews had settled in Aden as early as the Mishnaic period, the second and third centuries C.E. Tombstones have been found in lewish cemeteries in Aden dating back as far as the twelfth century. In the same period lews in Aden became important in international trade. The wealth they developed enabled them to support yeshivas in Babylonia, Egypt and even for hardy types willing to brave the hardships of living in the backwaters of Palestine. Occasionally numbering as many as an estimated 8.500. the Jews of Aden lived there in relative tranquility, supporting as many as seven synagoques, until Arab riots upon the founding of the State of Israel in 1947. >

Sukkot:

Seeing Stars Through a Temporary Roof and Feeling the Fragility of Material Comfort

by Gloria Avner

If by some minor secular miracle you are reading this on October first (yes, there were a few production challenges), you know today is the day after Yom Kippur, the Sunday before Sukkot, the day we at KJCC traditionally take our many-years'-worth of decorations, student-made posters and plastic fruit out from under the *bimah* and string them up in Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake's pergola, the one in our Meditation Garden they dedicated to their respective parents, transforming it magically into our lovely, livable KJCC Sukkah. Ladders and hammers and scissors, oh my.

Palm fronds (*schach* in Hebrew – Rabbi Agler's favorite throat-clearing word) are laid on the roof for sporadic see-through ceiling cover. Fruit, coffee, baked goods and a testrun of our three species *lulav* and aromatic *etrog* blessings – while we shake all of them together in the seven sacred directions (the four cardinals, above below and within) – will complete the morning. Children come to help us, the adults enjoy the "doing" of it, and we always like to tell the story of our ancestors living in these open-walled "booths." But there is something more this year, a *Mah Nishtana* moment. Yes, something big is

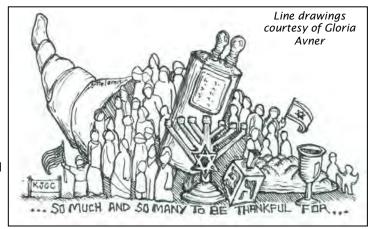
I am writing this just as the big physical difference is about to make itself known, but even before the big winds and waves hit. I feel it in my core, the non-pretend knowledge that we humans are much more vulnerable than we think, no match for the power of nature. As you are reading, we will have just finished hours of Yom Kippur recitation specifying "who by fire and who



by water," the many ways of meeting our maker. As we are hunkerina down. before and during the storm, most of us many miles from home because we have been told and shown that

our homes, solid as they appear, all brick and glass and stone and steel, with solid roofs that do not allow the starlight in, might not be strong enough for the wind and rain and waves that are to come. Material security is overrated, God tells us. As you read this, you know in your bones how true it is.

By building and dwelling in fragile huts for eight days, we are reminded both of the huts lived in by agricultural workers during autumn's harvest season in Israel and the make-



different.

shift temporary dwellings of our biblical ancestors as they wandered in the desert for 40 years after fleeing Egypt. The structures remind us of our journey to nationhood, a time when we were totally dependent on God for guidance, safety, and nurture. The holiday is known as both The Holiday and z'man simchateinu, the time of our rejoicing. It is one of the three pilgrimage festivals mandated in the Torah when the best of the harvest was to be brought to the Temple as sacrifice. This year our sacrifice will be our prayer of gratitude for survival. (Prayer being the Juda-

ism-saving replacement for sacrifice the rabbis gave us when, courtesy of the Romans, there was no longer a Temple in Jerusalem to journev toward.)

We re-enact a time when we were homeless wanderers. This is not ordinarily a reality we would wish upon ourselves. And yet we celebrate this as a time of supreme jovousness. This year we get it, from the inside out. We are happy to be alive, despite the work of cleaning up after Irma, after lost power, lost possessions, struggle with insurers and the myriad challenges of life not as it ever was. And yet we are joyous. We are here.

"Sukkot returns us to a time in Jewish history when the entire nation was homeless and wandering. In the desert, the ancient Israelites often asked neighboring nations for assistance in their travels, but were often turned down. To show that we have learned from the travails of the past, it is traditional to invite others to share a meal in our sukkah as we remember how central compassion must be in a world where material things so easily come and go." (A quote from the web site My Jewish Learning.) There is also a commandment in the Torah for each person to take the fruit of a "goodly tree," later interpreted to be an etrog (citron). Together with it, one must collect certain tree branches and rejoice before God. We take a palm branch and connect to it myrtle twigs and willow branches. There are beautiful narratives in rabbinic literature that discuss the symbolic images of etrog and lulay (as the combination of the palm, myrtle, and willow is collectively known). They include parallels to the Jewish matriarchs and patriarchs as well as to the body and soul of each individual Jew.

One of the more poignant images involves seeing the *lulav* and *etrog* as symbolic of different kinds of lews within our community.

> each of value yet each expressing their Judaism differently. On Sukkot we metaphorically unite all Jews and celebrate the fact that although we are different as individuals, as a nation of shared values we are strong and unified. "Come join us," we say to the ushpizim, the strangers who visit us. There is a tradition that those who come are actually our forefathers as well as Moses and King David. But we must welcome all strangers who come a meal in our temporary house under the stars. Come ber 5th and walk out with us to our Sukkah to participate

to us and invite them to share to services Friday night. Octo-

in ceremony (ironically heralding the beginning of the rainy season, but in Israel, thank goodness). Eat a handful of olives. Then go inside for an even more nourishing repast, all thanks to Sisterhood, who also provided a wonderful feast at the end of Yom Kippur.

It is new to some of us to feel so vulnerable. What a way to be transported back to the daily reality of our ancestors over forty years of desert wandering. And yet we are filled with gratitude. As we give thanks for the true abundance which is ours, our human resilience, compassion for others and the strength of our Jewish community, let us joyously share our celebration with God. >

On Tribes:

A Rosh HaShanah 5778 Talk by Rabbi Richard Agler

As everyone who has ever attended one of Rabbi Agler's services or presentations knows, his style is to engage everyone with a variety of approaches — humorous, pointed, historical, ethical — but there are always serious ideas underneath being conveyed. We didn't expect to be publishing this October issue on quite the schedule that emerged. But one benefit was that part of the High Holidavs — Rosh Hashanah — had happened. For topicality, and because not all of you had the opportunity to hear Rabbi Agler's talk on the first day of Rosh Hashanah in person, we asked him if we might reproduce the text here. He agreed.

want to take a little survey here. If I were to ask, "Are you an M.O.T.?," how many know how to answer? If you don't, M.O.T. was once, and maybe still is, slang for "Member of the Tribe." The question means, "Are you, or is he or she, Jewish?"

Tribes are an important part of life and most of us belong to several of them. Besides being part of *Am Yisrael*, the Jewish people, we may be "members of the tribe" of our home city or state. Are there any proud NY'ers here? Washingtonians? Chicagolanders? Bostonians? Floridians? All tribes. We may be members of our favorite sports teams' tribes, too: Mets, Red Sox, Cubs, Dodgers, Giants, Heat, Dolphins. We have tribal identity based on where we

live. As we tell everyone when we go off the rock, "We're from the Keys!" There's some cachet there. (Though I'm not so sure since last week.)

We are members of our professional tribes: teachers, doctors, accountants, therapists, attorneys, salespeople, shopkeepers, artists. And we belong to other tribes too: fishermen, musicians, sailors, Facebook friends, Mah Jongg players, book clubbers, volunteers, people in recovery, etc. We are M.O. *many* tribes. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

Tribes are important in the Torah. There are the 12 tribes of Israel, but also Ammonites, Hittites, Girgashites, Jebusites, Edomites, Hivites, and that's just in the holy land. According to the Bible, each of seventy nations is allotted a parcel of tribal land. Today those seventy are over 190 countries, and though there are exceptions, and it may be changing somewhat, most of them still look at themselves as a tribal homeland.

Tribes are a source of identity, but they are also a source of conflict. In the Middle East there are Sunni, Shia, Kurd and Alawite — enmeshed in what seems like endless war. In the Balkans, Orthodox Serbs, Bosnian Muslims and Croatian Catholics have been nursing grudges and spilling blood since the 14th century. In India, it's Hindu versus Muslim.

Today in much of Western Europe, it's the natives vs. the newcomers. In Israel there is not only the tribal conflict with the Arabs, but also Ashkenazim vs. Sefardim, Religious v. Secular, Left v. Right, and more. In Kenya, tell someone what tribe you belong to and they can probably tell who you voted for. Believe it or not, it's similar in America. Give a political consultant your age, occupation, education, address, the make and model of the car you drive, and they can predict pretty accurately

who you voted for.

All this is because we are tribal creatures. It's Rosh Hashanah, the time for new beginnings. And my sad prediction is that we will not stop many, if any, of the tribal conflicts that currently consume our world—though that remains our Messianic hope. But per-

haps we, in this room, can distance ourselves from the negative tribal behavior we engage in that causes us harm. For starters, maybe we can be less suspicious of members of other tribes, at least when we don't know very much about them.

The hurricane may have taught us a lesson on this. Everyone in America who watches a news or weather channel thinks they have a fair idea about what happened in the Keys. But many of us heard from dear ones who saw those accounts and, to be honest. were more worried than they needed to be, especially about us in the Upper Keys. We're grateful that they care, but thankfully for most of us, it was not that bad. The

reason they think it was, is that their impressions came from the media, mass media and now social media. And the reason it looked so bad, as we all know, is that the worse it looks, the more people will pay attention.

In situations like this I like to remember the words of Will Rogers: It isn't what we don't know that gives us trouble, it's what we think we know that just isn't so.

And we can apply this bit of wisdom to our tribal relations. When we get most of our information about them from the mass media, social media, or even the government. there is a good chance that much of what we think we know just isn't so. I'm a proud M.O.T., but I've spent a good amount of time

crossing tribal lines. And maybe the most important thing I've learned is while there are bad people everywhere. most members of other tribes, even those we may be suspicious about, are for the most part no less decent than we are, and want the same things from life that we do: to raise a loving family, earn a decent living, fulfill their God-aiven potential and live in peace with their neighbors.

My experience is that this is true locally, nationally and internationally. But so often when we encounter a tribe. or a member of a tribe, who is different, either ethnicallv. religiously, politically or sexually, we do not respond

as if that were the case. We do not respond with higher human or Jewish values, such as, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19: 18). All too often we respond with prejudice, resentment or even hostility. And this is a sin — it is a sin against them, it is a sin against us, and it is a sin against God. We understand that acting tribally is natural. Tribes are our comfort zone.



"Birds of a feather" and all that. But going tribal can also hurt us. And sometimes we go there because we are being played. Political demagoques and their partners in the media love to pit tribe against tribe, not for our betterment or edification, but for their power and profit. They are masters at pushing our tribal buttons and firing up our lizard brains. And way too often, we fall for it. We are not stupid, but we are susceptible. We may not fall for everything but we manage to fall for plen-

And if you're thinking, "No not me," there are several multi-billion-dollar corporations, to say nothing of political parties, who are more than happy to let you continue to think so. The purpose of the High Holydays is for us to become more than we have been and better than we are. If we are going to accomplish that, we may need to rewire some of those tribal circuits.

How to do this? Many people say the answer is to teach tolerance and understanding. If only we can educate people, goes the refrain, they will learn to think differently, and better. I am a believer in education and also in better thinking. But in this case, they're not enough. When it comes to changing attitudes and behavior, *doing* different is much more effective than thinking different.

As it happens, Judaism teaches that it is actions that shape character, more than the other way around. Of the 613 commandments very few of them deal with what we should, or shouldn't, believe or think. The overwhelming majority are about what we should do—or not do.

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For example, we will never appreciate how meaningful it is to give tzedaka - charity until we actually give it. We can think about it all we want; we can imagine it feels nice, but until we reach down and extend ourselves on behalf of another human being, we will not understand the power it has to transform us. Likewise Shabbat. Until we actually rest on Shabbat, however we understand the term - and there are many, even entry-level ways to understand it - we

will never appreciate what a great gift Shabbat can be.

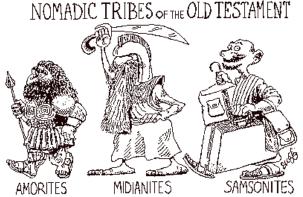
Similarly, until we study Torah, it may sound like a decent enough thing to do, but we will not be able to grasp how it can uplift us.

And as a final example, take swimming. We can stand by the side of the pool, listening to the instructor all day long, but if we don't get in the water, we'll never learn how to swim. I like that last one because according to the Talmud, parents have three responsibilities to their children:

- 1) To teach them right from wrong;
- 2) To give them the skills and education they need to earn a living; and
- 3) Teach them to swim. (Kiddushin 29a)

Okay, the first two we get, but seriously, swim is #3?! The commentators wondered about that, too. They ultimately said that the

Talmud wasn't talking about learning to swim in a river or the ocean. It was saying that a child needs to be taught to swim through life. And just like in the pool, the only way to do it, is to be immersed in it. Again, most of the time in Judaism, it is good action that leads to



ty.

better thinking, not the other way around.

So let's go back to our tribes, and for the moment, to Charlottesville, Charlottesville raised a lot of critical issues but I'm going to focus on just one. As we remember, neo-Nazi and other racists marched through town, brandishing their Tiki Torches from Pier One. chanting anti-Semitic and other hateful slogans. I cannot prove, but I am willing to bet, that the wannabe storm troopers shouting, "Jews will not replace us" did not know many,

if any, lews. I feel safe saying this because it would be in keeping with the well-known pattern. Where Jews live in free societies, our neighbors, as a rule, are happy to have us alongside them. It's in the places where we don't live, where people don't know us, that anti-Semitism is highest.

This tells us something important, namely that most of our neighbors abandon the tribalistic teachings that may have taught them to think less of us after they get to know us. This did not happen because of more education or better thinking. It happened

because the act of living with us gave birth to new understanding. It also happened because Catholic and Protestant leaders got to know our leaders as people instead of as religious or theological abstractions. And this happened because of programs of outreach and dialogue, sponsored by groups like the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the World Jewish Congress and others. Nationally, internationally and locally, lived experience enabled our neighbors to overcome their tribal prejudices and allowed them to accept that we are every bit the mostly decent human beings they are. thank you very much. So good for them. But this is our holy day, not theirs. What about us? What actions can we take that will help us break free from our tribal prejudices? And let's not pretend that we don't have them.

We do, religiously, socially and politically. We are grateful that most political leaders in America no longer stand in front of anti-Semitic mobs and flatter them in order to gain power. But many of them do demonize other tribes. And sometimes, I'm sorry to say, we go along with it. Especially when we don't know better or, sometimes, thank you Will Rogers, when we think we do but really don't. As people who have been on the receiving end of this equation far too often, we lews should understand better than anyone how

> dangerous this is societally and how wrong it is morally. Just as it is true that most people who get to know Jews like Jews, most people who get to know (insert the name of any minority tribe here) get to like them too. As someone recently put it, people who know luan and Muhammed generally like Juan and Muhammad.

> Or at least they don't hate them simply for being luan or Muhammad. If Juan or Muhammad is a ierk, fine, we can hate them all we want. (No, sorry I can't say that. We can hate their jerky behavior all we

want.) Similarly, people who know people with alternative gender orientations generally overcome whatever prejudice they may have towards people with alternative gender orientations. All told, in places where there are many Juans, Muhammads, and LGBTQ communities, people vote to welcome other luans. Muhammads and LGBTO communities. And where there are few or no Juans, Muhammads or LGBTQ communities,

We can understand it. Fear of the unknown and dislike of the unlike are always with us, ready to be exploited. And when they are, back to tribal conflict we go. The Prophet Malachi said it as well as anyone ever has, "Have we not all one Father, has not one God created us all?" (Malachi 2:10) Those words are inscribed on the walls of countless synagogues. Probably because we realize that we

people more often try to keep them out.

But this is our holy day. What about us? What actions can we take that will help us break free from our tribal prejudices? And let's not pretend that we don't have them.

need them staring us in the face. When we lose sight of the fact that we are all children of the One God, when we act as if we are only members of tribes, whether those tribes are religious, political or social, we are cheating ourselves and our fellow human beings. And yes, that's a sin, too.

Reb Shlomo Carlebach, you may know the name, was a Hasidic rabbi and also a singer, musician and guitar player. He passed away in 1994. Synagogues around the world make use of his melodies. As do we. One of the ways in which Shlomo was unique, and there were many, is that he could cross any tribal boundary. Not only in the Jewish world, which is difficult enough, but in the wider world as well.

Once he was visiting a prison, somewhere in America. There might have been a Hasidic Jew or two inside, but the overwhelming majority of the population were members of other tribes. What should he say? What would he do? How could he connect? His repertoire was basically Hebrew folk songs and prayers from the siddur. Not exactly the playlist for this congregation. He played a little music but then stopped. He got off the stage and went to one prisoner after another, and offered a hug. Just like that. And after overcoming some suspicions, tribal and otherwise, they started hugging back. In short order everyone was into it. Picture the scene. I don't know that I could have pulled this off. But I know Shlomo could.

As he continued on his way down the line, one of the prisoners whom he had hugged a few moments earlier, ran back to him. He told Reb Shlomo, "If someone had hugged me like that ten years ago, I wouldn't be in here today." Reaching beyond our tribes and seeing one another's full humanity, in a world that all too often encourages us to deny it, is not only powerful, it can be lifechanging. For all of us. We need to be able to do it – better than we do now.

We'll continue the theme next week. L'shana tovah.

-Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

Some Information about tribes you might not have at your ready disposal:

In January of 2015 the U. S. Government's Federal Register listed 566 names of tribes that are officially recognized Indian "entities." In July that number increased to 567 with federal recognition of the Pamunkey tribe in Virginia.

Think language is tribal, or that tribes always speak the same language? Well, American Indian (Amerindian) languages do not belong to a single language family, but to 25-30 small ones. Research is difficult because so few true native speakers remain. But we do know that there are some 25 million native speakers of more than 800 surviving Amerindian languages. The majority of these live in Central and South America. In Canada and the U.S., only about a half million speakers of a native tongue remain.

Okay. Now you know how many official tribes there are in this country. How many do you think there are in India? (Forget how many languages they speak. Unlike in this country, there are many official languages of India.) The Constitution of India recognizes 645 distinct tribes. In Kashmir alone, a name many of us recognize, here is a small sampling of the tribal names: Bakarwal, Balti, Beda, Bot or Boto, Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin (no, not that Shin, probably), Changpa, Gaddi, Garra, Guijar, Mon, Purigpa, Sippi.

ROSH HASHANAH 5778:

A Very Different New Year

he machzorim, our High Holiday prayer books, were ready. The Margulies Family Sanctuary was sparkling clean, and Torahs, tables and flower vases were clothed in traditional white. Then our people started to arrive, more than 60 of them. You'd think we had not seen each other

in years. The grins were huge. Hugs were intense, and many eyes were filled with tears, not of sorrow, but of gladness and gratitude. Mishpocha

greeted mishpocha as long-lost best friends and family. even though most of what was lost was, in Rabbi Agler's words in one sermon, "just stuff." There had been the possibility of human loss, of course, and our hearts hurt for the islands not so far from us where true life loss was huge. but it did not hap-



At left, Cantor Michael Dzubin, in his third year alongside Rabbi Agler on the High Holiday bimah, offers our first L'Chaim of the new year.

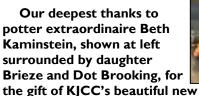
pen among us, and that was enough for the people

> present, most of whom had just returned to the Keys a few days prior to services, to feel a touch "melted"

with gratitude to be together.

When we moved past the hugging into the

Social Hall for our symbolic ritual beginning the new vear with sweetness. we first lit our Yom *Tov* candles to mark the official begin-



custom candlesticks, shown at right on the Erey Rosh Hashanah table.



ning of the first day of Rosh HaShanah, 5778, the only one of our holidays to begin in the dark, at the exact moment of New Moon. The room erupted with singing during the lighting of candles. more full and with more participating voices than ever before. And

oh, the light! Beth Kaminstein arrived iust in time with her aift of two tall white-and-rose beautifully handmade candlesticks that will usher in our *chagim* from this day

forward. Each of us then dipped a slice of apple in honey and tasted the auspicious start to 5778, the New Year. We admired and sampled the other symbolic foods that start our New Year celebrations off just right - pomegranates with their seeds em-

of Mitzvot in the Torah. as well as dates, figs and carrots, all having significant meanings beyond the foods' ac-

tual names. Though Hurricane Irma had caused us to cancel our traditional Erev Rosh HaShanah dinner, it could not dampen the sweet-tasting enthusiasm of our attendees. We were all glad to be there, listening to the comforting words of Rabbi Agler, differentiating

Cole Silverman, shown at left with mom Jane, seems to have grown eight inches since last Rosh Hashanah.

between "stuff" and what was truly precious to us - family.

> community, and our Jewish heritage.

Rabbi Agler had confessed to us the previous

Erev Shabbat, at our first (and somewhat impromptu) post-Irma gathering

on September 15th, that the themes he'd been preparing to talk about over the High Holiday period suddenly, in the wake of our overshadowing

bout with nature, needed some fine-tuning at the least and possibly major overhaul. He said, while laughing, to please prepare to be dealing with "a rabbi on roller skates."

Fast forward to Wednes-

day night. Erev Rosh Hashanah. Though he did somehow manage to keep his main themes in-

tact over the next few days. Rabbi Agler did address what was by then on everyone's heart and mind and what was tugging at everyone's emotional stress level. He invited







everyone there to strike up a conversation with God. (He began with "Dear God," and then paused. Looking around the congregation, he then resumed. "Now take a minute and fill in your own blank." Then he invited anyone who wished to share aloud

what they'd just said privately. The results were both predictable and startling. Many spoke of their gratitude, for life and family and surprisingly habitable dwellings. Others spoke with compassion for those who had not fared well. There were a few humorous comments, too, which interestingly I can't remember, though many spoke of fleeing the storm only to find that it managed to follow them.

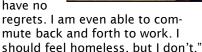
And then Rita Bromwich raised her hand. "I

lost my house. It was destroyed. But, dear God, thank you for all that happened after that. My daughter's family took me in. My son

surprised us and drove all the way from Texas to help. My grandsons made sure I was comfortable. They checked on my husband in the nursing home. They cleaned my property. They showed me the

יתות אל משת לאכור העוום ב

meaning of family. Thanks to them, I have no



Our matriarch. Pauline Roller. at 102, wouldn't have missed being there for the world. She loved her embraces by the Silverman



ing on Erev Rosh HaShanah and even more thrilled to have an *alivah* on Day One, which

Susan felt was a special honor to her parents. The hugs to Pauline went on and on, including one from a one-time member we had not seen in twenty years.

On Day One, by Torah service time, we were happy to have almost as many people in seats as the evening before. We knew that many people were not back from their "exodus" yet and we knew that many had to be at home to meet with insurance adjusters. We had no prob-



lem having enough people to accept the honors of aliyahs, ark openings, readings of blessings for Israel, the United States, and on our congregation and calling out shofar notes. We thank all who generously took part. We



offer special thanks to those who went beyond the call of duty. Bernard Ginsberg not

only

chanted the *maftir* on both days but also served as *gabbai* to Cantor Dzubin as he chanted the *Parashah* for all *aliyahs* and also blew the *shofar* at all times it was

needed. Sincere thanks to Mitch Harvey as well for being our *Koheyn* on *Rosh HaShanah* Day One and Day Two, not just reciting Torah blessings for the first *aliyah*, but for delivering the blessings of the *Kohanim* to the con-



gregation on both days as well.

And speaking of blessings, one of the greatest during this initial period of Rosh HaShanah is the hearing of the shofar blast. It is meant to wake us up! And thanks to our two shofar blowers we were all supremely blessed to

hear the sounds so clearly and movingly. Bernie has been blowing shofar for us for years. And for the last three he

has been joined by one-time Bar Mitzvah boy from our own Hebrew School, Jonah





Gross. No one in the sanctuary for Day One or Day Two will ever forget that seemingly endless mournful but exhilarating

blast our trumpet-playing High School student Jonah gifted to us on Tekiah G'dolah.





Rabbi Agler's sermons were poignant, particularly his rabbinic examples

contrasting the angry zealousness over unimportant things that leads to destructive behavior and creates a hardness that is impenetrable to reason, with an attitude of love and kindness which opens the way to lis-

tening and righteous behavior. The theme of behavior being more important than belief

would come up again and again throughout the *Yamim Noraim*, the 10 Days of Awe. Sisterhood may

have cancelled our *Erev Rosh HaShanah* brisket dinner to avoid causing stress to our members without power and water and energy to cook, but they more than made up for it with the juice and cheese snacks on both days and the very elaborate, beautifully staged, delicious and filling luncheons on both days after *Musaf* services. Special kudos to Richard Knowles for his beautifully rolled lox platters and the tuna salad made to Barbara Knowles's exact

specs. Keep healing, Barbara. Richard is a treasure. We also treasure the super hard-working Jane Friedman, Mary Anne Pearl, Sydney! Faye-Davis, herring

man Marc Bloom. Linda Perloff (maker of a million ruggeleh), Luz Levine and her famous

mandelbrot, and the tireless Kathy Shabathai. By the time you read this,

Susan Gordan's wonderful Sisterhood team (yes, Marc is an honorary member) will have produced equally

spectacular results for the post-Yom Kippur fast feast. Seriousness and joy, study and celebration, sorrow and delight, follow one another in Judaism as the night the day. >



We love the symbolism of the round challah used only at Rosh Hashanah time, above. A year is round, with cyclical seasons...



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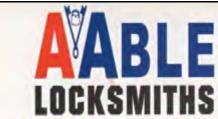
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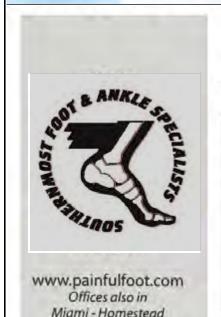
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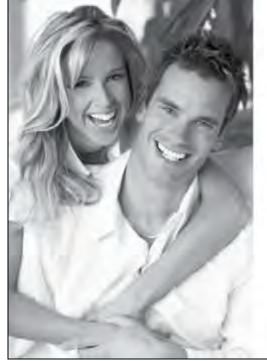


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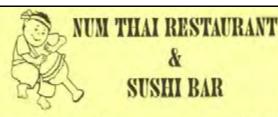
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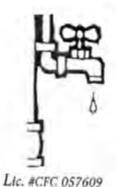


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Briskets in the slowcooker for the New Year feast I like that I am part of a world-wide confederation of women humming to ourselves hands smelling of garlic

— Gloria Avner

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November 2017

12 Cheshvan - 12 Kislev 5778

This Year's Yom Kippur Revisited - page 19 Rabbi Agler on Tribes, Part II - page 29 Honoring KJCC's Military Veterans - page 43

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November 2017 12 Cheshvan - 12 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
Names denote leaders of Friday services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30 p.m.					Joyce Peckman Mah Jongg Group	
5 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9 Sisterhood Challah-Making 6:00 p.m.	10 Gross Family Shabbat Dinner Honoring Veterans 6:00 p.m. Michael Kaufman	11
KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	13	14	15	16 Sigd - Ethiopian Jewish Holiday	Erica Lieberman- Garrett Sisterhood	Torah Service w/ Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m.
Rosh Chodesh, First Day of Kislev	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner Gloria Avner & Marc Bloom	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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

President's Message Beth Hayden

The last issue of Chai-Lights "high lighted" (sorry. my bad) Rosh HaShanah at the KICC as we gathered after Irma. For Yom Kippur, KICC was back almost to full strength with some 80 in attendance. The services were beautiful, led by Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin. High marks to Cantor Dzubin who, despite being ill and continuing to fast, performed most ably. Our thanks to both for a meaningful and beautiful Yom

Erev Yom Kippur also saw the formal dedication of the Keys Jewish Community Center's Sanctuary as The Margulies Family Sanctuary. Stan addressed the congregation with brief remarks the following day during the Yom Kippur service. Stan and Jenny's generosity ensure that the KICC will be alive and well for many years to come. We are enormously grateful for their support and dedication to the KICC. We are very fortunate to have such generous and sincere benefactors who believe in our mission and importance in providing a most unique place of lewish worship, education and activity. As we are fond of saying, we are the only synagogue between Homestead and Key West in the 130 mile archipelago of our beautiful Keys.

Then we celebrated Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Wow - we are a



busy tribe. I remember

how, in Jerusalem, the first "tiftuf" (sprinkle) of rain came during Sukkot. Never enough to be unpleasant, just a gentle sprinkle of droplets making soft sounds on the palms of the sukkah. I was absent from you after Yom Kippur since I was hosting the youngest son of my dearest friends who made his first trip from Jerusalem to the Keys. We planned this trip many months ago but who anticipated Irma? Everywhere I planned to take him was closed. The beautiful Kevs that we all love so much were covered with debris and garbage. Like many of you, I had some significant damage to my home - nothing that was not repairable, but who could get anyone here to repair? Evervone was busy with big. expensive jobs. I finally found someone who did great work and charged a reasonable price - if you need repairs - let me know, will be happy to recommend this gentleman. Gershon, my much anticipated quest, is very Israeli and very resilient - he walked - for hours in the Keys - and biked and kayaked and was very happy. He has agreed to come again when we are not recovering from a major hurricane. Hopefully - hope is a good thing. We are KJCC strong! —B'shalom. Beth

Nosh

Challah-Making Revisited

Remember what a good time we had learning how to make our own challah from scratch the last two years? Looks like it is time to refresh our skills, especially those of us who never do it

at any other time or in any other context. So. come to KICC on Thursday night. November 10th at 6:00 p.m.



Please RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com by November 6. All challah ingredients and instruction (and of course some nutrition to get us through the process) will be provided by Sisterhood for a donation of \$10.00. Any member wishing to make her or his own challah is welcome to attend and join the camaraderie. (Please see the ad on page 10).

A Season of Rabbi Agler Services

Once again we are grateful to Rabbi Agler, our KICC Resident Scholar, for offering to lead monthly Shabbat morning services in high season. Most of our mishpocha are either here then or on their way. Renew old friendships. Come and be inspired, especially if you missed KICC High Holy Days. The engaging talks, the interactive give-and-take of lively discussion, the informality and warmth of Rabbi Agler's style of leadership are all excellent reasons to show up at KJCC for the following Saturday mornings, when services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. See you on November 18th, December 16th and January 27th. You'll be glad you came. And of course there will be refreshments, a kiddush, afterwards. Bring old and new friends. We often hear that Rabbi Agler's Torah discussions are the Judaism people

wished they'd had the chance to experience sooner.

Honor our Veterans: A Shabbat Dinner

This year we'll honor the military veterans among us with respect and an excellent dinner. Circle November 10th on your calendar. Veterans Day is coming and we want to show our appreciation in more than words. Sisterhood is organizing a fleishedicke (meat) dinner to be held at 6:00 p.m. in our Social Hall before Shabbat services. Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett (hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-393-1162) to coordinate your dish and volunteer to help set-up (this part, with all the decorating, is often the most fun and one way Sisterhood members get to know one another and deepen friendships). See the article about our KJCC Veterans on page 43 and the Shabbat dinner ad on page 42. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$18.00. There is no charge for veterans or children under 13.

Oneg Sponsors for November 2017

November 3rd - Mah Jongg Group, in memory of Tom Klipper.

November 10th - Michael Kaufman, in honor of brother Jonny.

November 17th - Sisterhood

November 24th - Gloria Avner, in celebration of her birthday. Marc Bloom, in honor of his anniversary.

The KICC offers its deepest condolences

to **|ane Friedman**

and her family on the death of Sandra Schulz and Auntie Guadalupe Salgado

November Anniversaries

	Years
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie24
I4th	Donald & Nancy Zinner30
23rd	Marcia Kreitman & John Hawver3
26th	Roger & Danna Levy50
27th	Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea14
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies
28th	Joseph & Leslie Reamer24
28th	Sam & Leslie Janowitz20
29th	Louis and Linda Ulman36

A Kabbalah Weekend at KJCC

Kabbalah is the most misunderstand part of the lewish tradition. Usually referred to as lewish "mysticism," Kabbalah was once under an ancient prohibition which restricted those who could learn it to only men over the age of forty who are married, fully observant and experts in every other aspect of Judaism and Halachah (Jewish law). In the year 1540, the prohibition was lifted for the basic principles of Kabbalah. (But not for the more esoteric and powerful teachings.) The 20th century has seen an awakening to learn about Kabbalah, not as mysticism but as the spiritual teachings of Judaism.

KICC will be sponsoring an Introduction to Kabbalah Shabbaton over the weekend of January 12-14. The Shabbaton will be led by KJCC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Executive Director of the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast and innovator of both Tikkun HaYam and the actionoriented Scubi Jews program. "The Torah tells us how to practice Judaism...the Kabbalah tells us why," says Rabbi Rosenthal. All members of the KICC are welcome to attend the Shabbaton. The material is cumulative, so you need to plan for the whole weekend (Friday night after services and all day Saturday and possibly Sunday). There will be breaks throughout the day and lots of food, but come prepared to be amazed (and inspired and nourished) at all the things you never learned in Hebrew School.

November Birthdays

2nd	Brian Boruszak
2nd	Jeremy M. Schur
	Madalyn F. Tobias
	Katherine Shabathai
	Herbert Grossman
	Zoey Barrett
	Joel Stein
	Michele Lindenbaum
	Nico Wilbur
th	Cathy Dutton
13th	Marilyn Greenbaum
13th	Tami Antelman
I4th	Larry Wolfe
I4th	Rae Wruble
l6th	Lorelei Alexander
17th	Jason Orans
18th	Diana Loi-Kamely
18th	Ross Alexander
19th	Georgia Landau
19th	Michael E. Schur
22nd	Gloria Avner
22nd	John Luis Greenbaum
24th	Arthur Lee Willner
24th	Will Travis Pollack
	Nancy L. Cohn
26th	John Douglas Greenbaum
	Nicole Hudson
29th	Benjamin Rakov

Lee Schur Needs Our Calls

Lee needs to know that we are thinking of her. She has been a creative contributor to KICC life for many years, and 15 years ago was the first to suggest we have a women's seder. As many of you know, Lee has had a rough year. First came the collision with a 16-wheeler, followed by lots of hospital and rehab time. Now she has another issue, making it impossible for her to walk without a walker, and soon she will not be able to live alone. A call or card would make her day. 312-415-9554; 2655 W. Balmoral St., Chicago, IL 60625 or leesboat@aol.com

The Retiring Dr. Ginsberg

This time Bernie really is retiring from the practice of medicine. "I need time to pursue my other interests," he says, fun hobbies like sailing, fishing, astronomy and Ham radio. Bernie has interest in intellectual pursuits, too - yes, he really is thinking of going for a PhD in Physics, as much for the stimulating conversations with young people on the cutting edge of science as for any piece of paper or degree. (Maybe he could convince them to offer a PhD program in kibitzing, and that life experience counts.) He recommends that those of us who have been his patients for years (and we are many) think about transferring to Dr. Miguel Diaz. He works in the same office and is an excellent physician. We don't know whether Bernie will miss doctoring, but he will certainly miss the young med students he so enjoyed mentoring. We also know that his patients will miss him. Zai gazundt, Berneleh. We're glad we'll still see you at KICC.

Israel Trip on Track

Scott Pearl says we now have dates for the 2018 Israel trip. Departure will be Wednesday, May 2nd, in the early afternoon, with return trip scheduled for around midnight, Sunday, May 13. Rabbi Agler is in touch with Arza World, working on a schedule and price for the trip. So far, 27 people have expressed interest. For more information or to be included in the list, write Scott at smpearl@gmail.com.

The Jewish Way of Giving Thanks

Though we like to feast, have family over and enjoy a long weekend as much as anyone, Thanksgiving Day is just one of thousands of seri-

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Bianka Kirschenbaum,

Mother of Medina Roy, as she celebrates her 102nd Birthday May 23, 2017

by Muriel & George Swartz

Yahrzeit Plaque

Maryon Walters Gould

September 25, 1925 - September 29, 2016

Beloved Wife, Mother, Nana, Nana Bubbie

ous daily thank-yous for Jews. In our world, the mundane and the spiritual/ceremonial is a neverending process. It starts in the morning when we open our eyes. "Modeh ani l'fanecha" is the first prayer young Hebrew School students learn. "Thanks I give to you, living and eternal King, that you have returned my soul to me with compassion." As we know from Rabbi Agler's morning services, the day also starts out with a list of seemingly mundane things for which one praises (and thanks) God. This list includes opening one's eyes, standing straight and having clothing to wear. In this way, a person has a constant sense of the need to be grateful for all aspects of one's life. Add to that the three services that observant lews practice every day, the many thank-yous in each Amidah and every Kiddush, Kaddish, psalm, and blessing over food, and prayer for healing, and a thousand suddenly seems too small a number. We say thank you much more than we say please. And, perhaps because of how much we love to eat, we do a long exuberant one (Birkhat hoMazon), after a meal. The best part of the way we give thanks, and the most different from other cultures, is that we sing it, with joy and vigor. Happy Thanksgiving!

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Pauline Roller

In celebration of her 102nd Birthday July 4, 2017

by Muriel & George Swartz

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Dorothy & Ron Horn**

by Linda Pollack

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of L.R. Coltman

by Barnet Coltman

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KICC

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

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KICC section. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067.

CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, for annual rates.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

GIFT SHOP: We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, or email her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, 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 Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

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.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial with a project to provide empty medicine bottles to Haiti where they are needed.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, P.O. Box 1332, Tayernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund or General Fund.



In Memoriam Kovember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Eugene Agler	Loretta Messer	Harold Goldstein
By Richard & Mindy Agler <><><><>	By Marc Bloom <>><>><>><>>	By Joan Boruszak <><><>><>><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Robert Scott Coltman	Edward Deutsch Davis	Dr. Alvan Field
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Sydney! Faye-Davis	By Carol Field
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Lillian Skolnick	Donald Graham	Susan Ban
By Susan Gordon	By Mrs. Marty Graham	By Franklin & Judy Greenman
<><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Helene Tulsky	David Jacobs	David Kamely
By Patricia Isenberg	By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	By Yardena Kamely <><><><>>>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Sol Levy	Jacob S. Raub	Fanny Kluger
By Beth Kaminstein	By Harvey & Judith Klein	By Nancy Kluger
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Ethel Hankin	Deborah Krissel Cannon	lise Doellefeld
By Richard & Barbara Knowles	By Michael Krissel	By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Benjamin Margulies	Murray Pincus	Tillie Pollack
By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies	By Linda Pincus	By Linda Pollack

In Memoriam Kovember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Abraham Travers	Harry Brownstein	Selma Moore Sachs
By Michele Riley	By Pauline Roller	By Joseph & Susan Sachs
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Seymour Schocket	Shirley Schulberg	Albert Kaminsky
By Jeffrey Schocket	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Shirley Singer	Florence Cohen	Martin Lewis
By Lee Schur	By Jules & Nettie Seder	By Robert Silk
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Albert Silverman	Phillip Silverman	Ida Cohen Sachs
By Morton & Gene Silverman	By Morton & Gene Silverman	By Morton & Gene Silverman
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Rose T. Steinberg	Marianne Cimkowski	Bertha Swartz
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	By Stephen Steinbock	By George & Muriel Swartz
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~		2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Samuel Tallent	Kenny Temkin	Dick Jacob
By Lillian Tallent	By Robert Temkin	By David & Pat VanArtsdalen
<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><><><><><>
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of
Esther Gold Willner	Diana Wolfe	Morris Mazur
By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner	By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe <>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memoriam Kovember 2017

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Katy Kram Eve W. Zinner **Eugene Agler**

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow By Donald Zinner By Richard & Mindy Agler <><><><><><><><><><><><</p>

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Florence Cohen Robert Scott Coltman Benjamin Margulies

By Jules & Nettie Seder By Barnet O. Coltman By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

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

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

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

KJCC Sisterhood Challah Making

Thursday November 9, 2017 6 pm in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall



Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in the 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 Veterans Dinner on Friday, November 10th, we will eat and enjoy the fruits of our learning.



Please rsvp by Monday, November 6th, to Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippie jap@hotmail.com.



Sisterhood Susan Gordon

ctober has been a busy month for the KJCC Sisterhood, beginning with a bountiful Break-the-Fast dinner on the evening of September 30th, following a full day of Yom Kippur prayer. The dinner was well attended by 80 members and quests. Most of the food was lovingly prepared and donated by members of the congregation. Thank you to all who contributed. This was the first dinner event where we were able to enjoy the generous donation from Wes and Rita Conklin. of our much needed flatware. Thanks to the Conklins, we will be able to serve 97 guests, all with beautifully matching silverware!

We held our monthly Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, October 1st. Although we had to move the meeting time to thirty minutes earlier, I am happy to say that we had 12 women in attendance! Following the Sisterhood meeting, we decorated the Sukkah, in preparation for the upcoming Sukkot celebration, held after Shabbat services on October 6th. It's always a treat to leave the sanctuary as a group. and enjoy Kiddush together, gathering in the Sukkah under lantern, star and moonlight!

Sisterhood had one week to prepare for our now annual "Simchat Torah Chocolate Extravaganza," which was celebrated on October 13th. Thank you to Barbara and Richard Knowles for allowing us the use of their magnificent chocolate fountain! What a treat it is to dip fresh fruits, cakes, pretzels, and even marshmallows into a fountain flowing with delicious, decadent dark chocolate! Thanks also to Sisterhood Vice-President Jane Friedman and Treasurer Erica Lieberman-Garrett for purchasing supplies and organizing this wonderful event.

The women of the KJCC are always busy planning special events, to make our gatherings enjoyable for everyone. All female members of the KICC are invited and encouraged to join us during our monthly meetings, which are held on the first Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. If you are reading this before

November 5th, please plan to attend the Sisterhood meeting on November 5th. I would be thrilled to add another table to accommodate more women!

The first half of November will bring two fun events to the KJCC. First, on Thursday evening, November 9th, at 5:00 p.m. you will have the opportunity to learn how to make challah. The cost to participate in the challah bake is just \$10.00 - a fun activity not to be missed! On the following evening, November 10th at 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood will host a special Veterans Day Shabbat Dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$18.00 per person, with no charge to veterans, whom we are honoring. Please send your RSVPs to Erica Lieberman-Garrett at: hippiejap@hotmail.com. She will be taking reservations and coordinating the food for this meat dinner. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy the brisket that we missed out on at Erev Rosh Hashanah this year! Many thanks to Linda Pollack for designing lovely flyers for each of these events.

If any KICC members are in need of post-Hurricane Irma 'person-to-person' assistance. Sisterhood would like to help. If you have a need, please contact Terry Willner-Tainow by email. at twtainow@gmail.com.

The response for Oneg sponsorships has been outstanding, and greatly appreciated. We now have every Oneg Shabbat during November and December sponsored. However, if you have a special date during these months which you would like to sponsor, we are happy to have multiple sponsors on any given date. Please contact Joyce Peckman, Oneg Chairperson, at iovcepeckman@gmail.com.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months as our "Snowbirds" return. We are beginning to put the challenges of Irma's impact behind us. Clean-up has been tough, but we are tougher! >

Photo Gallery



In the top photo, extended family gather with Jon and Terry Willner-Tainow on the Jersey shore just before the winds and storm surge of Hurricane Irma came to call in the Keys. At





World Jewish Report Medina Roy

A Wound That Never Heals

In early October, some 30,000 people participated in a women's peace rally in Jerusalem organized by the Women Wage Peace organization. The participants - both men and women - were marching to demand an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as gender equality representation in peace negotiations. "Palestinian families and Israeli families have lost their loved ones and been left with a wound that does not heal...," a former Israeli Arab member of the Knesset, who lost a son in a July terror attack at the Temple Mount, told the crowd, "I call on [Abbas] and Netanyahu - enough! Sit already! We want peace! Listen to our cry, it comes from our hearts." The rally was the culminating event of a two-week-long "peace walk" that began in Sderot in the Negev. It then passed through the territories and Israel proper with thousands of Israeli and Palestinian women participating. Women Wage Peace was founded three years ago following the 2014 Gaza War. It now has 24,000 members. Their simple and direct message is this: "We will not stop until there is a peace agreement." The organization is the fastestgrowing peace movement in Israel in recent years. (www.haaretz.com, 10-8-17)

Halachically "High" High Holidays

A Ouebec company recently became the first in Canada to receive kosher certification for its medical marijuana. The certification was given on Erev Rosh HaShanah to the Hydropothecary Corporation, a medical marijuana producer based in Ottawa. "According to the Torah, according to the Talmud, this is something that if we are able to help [sick people], that is my obligation," said Rabbi Levy Teitlebaum of the Vaad Hakashrut, a kosher certifier in Ottawa. In 2016, Montreal kosher certifiers said that medical marijuana needed kosher certification because it is in gested. Certifiers in Toronto said it didn't



because it's being used as medicine. (We're shocked -shocked! - that English and French Canada would disagree about something.) (www.jta.org, 9-25-17)

Eat a Purple Potato

Researchers at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science have discovered how to produce betalain pigments in both plants and flowers that don't normally have them. Red-violet and vellow betalain pigments contain healthy antioxidant properties. According to Professor Asaph Aharoni of Weizmann's Plant and Environmental Sciences Department, antioxidant activity is 60 percent higher in betalainproducing potatoes and tomatoes than in average ones. Betalain pigments also protect plants against gray mold, which causes crop losses worth billions of dollars every year. Using this research, scientists were able to turn the fruit of a tomato purple with the leaves remaining their normal green. The pharmaceutical industry also may benefit from this research; when plants begin manufacturing betalains, they convert the chemical tyrosine into L-dopa, a starting point for the production of drugs such as morphine. (www.israel21c.org, 8-23-17)

SOLD! For \$1.895 Billion!

Mexichem, a Mexican industrial group, has agreed to buy an 80 percent stake in Israel's Netafim, the world's largest drip irrigation company. The deal is valued at \$1.895 billion. "The conditions of the agreement maintain Netafim's Israeli identity, with a commitment to keep the company's core activities in Israel for many years," Netafim CEO Ran Maidan said. Founded in Kibbutz Hatzerim in 1965, the company pioneered the drip irrigation process and is now the leading global supplier of smart irrigation solutions, which are helping millions

of farmers around the world. The company has 17 manufacturing plants employing 4.300 workers in over 30 countries. Mexichem is a global leader in plastic piping and petrochemicals. (www.jta.org, 8-8-17)

New App for College Students

Gail Schenbaum Lawton, a Hollywood producer, helped create an app that stores information and provides other services college students might need in the event of an emergency. Her college-age daughter Alex's thumb was nearly amoutated in an accident. Once in the emergency room, Gail was unable to contact Alex during her hospitalization. The app - *Umergency* - is free for college students and \$7.99 a year for family members. It has the ability to quickly alert emergency contacts. GPS location tracking, and a directory of local emergency services. It can also save insurance information along with a pre-signed medical consent form. Umergency's website estimates that approximately one in four college students end up in the emergency room each year. (www.forward.com, 10-3-17)

"He Lived Like a Dog Being Hunted"

Israel's Mossad agency recently released three volumes of documents on the attempts to capture Josef Mengele, the infamous Nazi doctor known as the "Angel of Death" who performed sadistic medical experiments on Jewish inmates at Auschwitz. The documents were given to Yad Vashem, Jerusalem's Holocaust Memorial and Museum, by the Israeli intelligence service and have now been made available to the public. The files detail a number of unsuccessful attempts at capturing Mengele, who, like so many other former Nazis. fled to South America after World War II. Some 5.000 made their way to Argentina alone, aided by President Juan Peron, whose government established escape routes for them through Spain and Italy. Among those who made it to Argentina was Adolf Eichmann, one of the primary organizers of the Holocaust. (Eichmann was kidnapped by Israeli intelligence in 1960 and brought to Israel where he was tried and executed.) Mengele lived in Buenos Aires for some ten years before moving on to Paraguay in an attempt to avoid detection. He drowned in Brazil in 1979. His remains are used for instructing medical students in Sao Paulo University. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 9-5-17)

A Game Changer for Kenya

Some 102 Kenyans have benefited from a year-long internship program at Israel's Arava International Center for Agriculture and Training, acquiring advanced knowledge in agriculture and food production. The southern Arava region is hot and dry with an average yearly rainfall of only one inch. Nothing can grow there without intervention. The center was established in 1994 to show students from developing countries the sophisticated agricultural technologies used in Israel, Despite the lack of rain, the Arava region has some 500 farming families who produce 60 percent of Israel's fresh vegetable exports and 10 percent of its cut flower exports. GreenArava is an Israeli company currently managing the irrigation project in Kenya. where farming relies on erratic rains and where three million people require food relief. (www.the-star.co.ke, 9-4-17)

A Glaring Omission

A plague marking the opening of Canada's National Holocaust Monument is scheduled to be replaced because of complaints that the original one "conspicuously and curiously did not mention Jews," said Martin Sampson, of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs. He said the government was very responsive to the complaints, acknowledged the error and agreed to correct it immediately.

The plague stated that the monument commemorates the "millions of men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust and honours the survivors who persevered and were able to make their way to Canada after one of the darkest chapters in history." But the plague failed to mention that the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, purposeful extermination of lews by the Nazi regime. The monument forms the shape of a Star of David and includes interpretive panels. These panels

do highlight that the Jews were the target of Nazi ideology and that some six million were murdered along with millions from other groups. The monument, which took ten years to build and cost more than \$7 million, was unveiled at the end of September. Until then Canada was the only Allied power to fight in World War II that did not have a national Holocaust memorial. (www.thestar.com, 10-5-17)

In Memoriam

- * Mikhail Klein, celebrated Jewish pianist, collapsed and died on stage in early October while he was performing his own composition in his hometown of Irkutsk, a city in Siberia located near Russia's border with Mongolia. He was 72. He was performing with the Irkutsk Philharmonic Orchestra before hundreds of people. Klein was known for his renditions and interpretations of works by Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, Brahms and other great composers. He himself was a prolific jazz composer. In 1987, Klein was awarded the prestigious title of Honored Artist of Russia. (www.forward.com, 10-6-17)
- * Monty Hall. host and co-creator of the long-time television game show "Let's Make a Deal," died at the end of September. He was 96. He had suffered a heart attack at the end of June. Hall appeared in over 4,500 episodes of the show - it has been on the air since 1963 - and hosted it for 23 years until 1986 and for a short time in 1991. Hall was born Monte Halparin in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Orthodox Jewish parents. He wanted to be a doctor but couldn't get into medical school because of quotas placed on Jews. During the course of his life. Hall helped raise some \$1 billion for charity, spending about 200 days a year fundraising and doing charitable work. (www.forward.com, 10-1-17)
- * Edie Windsor, whose fight for marriage equality ended with a historic Supreme Court victory in 2013, died in September. She was 88. In 2009, Windsor was denied a spouse's exemption when her wife, Thea Spyer, died. Windsor was forced to pay federal taxes on Spyer's estate even though their Canadian marriage was legally recognized by the State

of New York, where they resided. Windsor took her case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a narrow ruling, the court decided that the federal government must abide by the laws of individual states in its dealings with couples from those states. Windsor's case set the stage for the ruling two years later that removed all barriers to equal marriage rights. At that time, Roberta Kaplan, Windsor's lawyer, delivered a sermon at Beit Simchat Torah, Windsor's synagogue in Manhattan - founded to serve the gay community - stating that the victory was a landmark for Jews in particular. "The Jewish Theological Seminary (ITS), for the first time in its history, submitted an amicus brief in a court case... urging the Supreme Court to strike down DO-MA as unconstitutional," Kaplan said. (DOMA is the Defense of Marriage Act. In 1996, DOMA denied federal benefits to partners of gav individuals.) Former President Barack Obama marked Windsor's passing saying, "I thought about all the millions of quiet heroes across the decades whose countless small acts of courage slowly made an entire country realize that love is love - and who, in the process, made us all more free." (www.haaretz.com, 9-13-17)

Did You Know....

- * Jewish billionaire Mark Cuban, 59, owner of the National Basketball Associations *Dallas Mavericks*, said he is "considering" running for president in 2020. Cuban appears regularly as an investor on the ABC reality series "Shark Tank." (www.jta.org, 10-4-17)
- * Cornell Tech, a joint venture between Cornell University and Israel's Technion Institute of Technology, recently opened in New York City. The \$2 billion high-tech campus is located on Roosevelt Island. Former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg spearheaded the project while he was in office. He personally donated \$100 million towards its construction. (www.forward.com, 9-14-17)
- * Israeli gymnast Artem Dolgopyat, 20, making his very first appearance at a world championship, won a silver medal at the World Gymnastics Championships in early October in Montreal, Canada. His win marked the best finish ever by an Israeli at the worlds. (www.jta.org, 10-8-17) >

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

In Memory of

Pollack, Linda

Dorothy & Ron Horn

Chai-Lights

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara Bofshever, Joel & Toby Rose, Skip Smith, Steve & Barbara Willner, Arthur & Johanna

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Yahrzeit

Blum, Laurie Blum, Laurie Boruszak, Joan D. Boruszak, Joan D. Harvey, Mitchell & Linda Perloff Herson, Jerry & Barbara Temkin, Robert

In Memory of

Mollie Lawent **Burton Margolis** Iim Boruszak Lillian Goldstein **Beverly Harvey** Nathan Herson Charlie Temkin

Yizkor Book

Avner, Gloria Bernstein, Paul & Barbara Bofshever, Joel & Toby Bolton, William & Donna Calev. Barbara Chasteen, Dale Conklin, Wes & Rita Davidson, Foster Faye-Davis, Sydney! Horn, Susan

Contributions to KJCC (cont.)

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Yizkor Book

Kaminstein, Beth Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Margulies, Jeff & Cheryl Rakov, Neal & Cathy Rose, Skip

Yizkor Book (cont.)

Schocket, Jeffrey Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Singer, Mary Lee Smith, Steven & Barbara Starr, Adam & Judy Willner, Arthur & Johanna

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Yom Kippur Our Day of At-One-Ment

n Kol Nidre eve we listened and we watched. Four of our expresidents stood on the bimah, three of them held our Torahs in their arms and Cantor Michael Dzubin chanted with intense feeling, despite his bad cold, the familiar melodic repetitions cancelling our vows. The sanctuary was close to full, as it would be the following day. Some of the deepest listening we did was to Rabbi Agler's talk on "Our Tribes - Part II. (Hear it again, or for the first time, by reading the reprint in this issue on page 29.) When we left the sanctuary that night, the one time in the year when we do not proceed into the Social Hall for food and shmoozing, we were well into our fast and contemplation of important issues.

The next morning, we'd file in slowly through *Shacharit's* Yom Kippur morning

Shabbat preliminaries leading up to Torah Service. We would not sound the shofar on Yom Kippur this year because it is not permitted on Shabbat. Rabbi Agler's Torah talks again were mesmerizing. Cantor Dzubin conquered his cold with



Cantor Michael Dzubin and Rabbi Richard Agler prepare to begin Kol Nidre services, at top. Above and right, photos from the hall outside the sanctuary just before sundown.



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beautiful Torah chanting, assisted ably by Bernard Ginsberg. By the time Bernie began the Yizkor service we had a substantial congregation, particularly considering how many of us had not yet returned from evacuation. The Yizkor was particularly moving and emotional this year. Perhaps it was Rabbi's story of his friend who thought he had 14 months more to live

so there would be plenty of time for that final talk, when

in fact the friend did not have fourteen days. Do we prepare for our ultimate transition by hitting the highpoints of adventure and pleasure and crossing them off our bucket list? Our wise men think not. Better to create something that will live after you. Maybe it was our fresh encounter with our fragile selves and mortality that made the words go so deep and our dear departed seem so near. Maybe it was the fast, thinning our skins so we were more permeable to raw emotion and that which was truly important.

We had a few breaks. We received the blessings of the Kohanim (thanks once again to the generosity and dedication of Mitch Harvey), and



A long and spiritually exhausting day (the rabbis understood just how much to ask of us and how far to stretch us to lead us toward understanding) concludes with the Neilah service and a reading of the story of Jonah. It's time for Sisterhood's break-the-fast.

our day flowed blissfully onward. We sat in informal discussion (our "fast" talk, according to Rabbi Agler) in the sanctuary, opening up to topics like how do we keep the

feeling of Yom Kippur alive all year? (Rabbi's short answer: "We don't. So sorry. But what we do is do our best to make a difference.") From

auestions

and answers, we moved on to music, the poetry and deep belly sounds of Leonard Cohen. Nyan Feder assisted at the CD player. David Feder had downloaded the songs. Who knew words on a piece of paper could have so many interpretations? We delved into poetry analysis and voiced what this Jewish philosopher/troubadour had bared his soul to share with us, in both pain and pleasure. (But never very far from pain.)

The afternoon went by so quickly. Soon it was time for Mincha (afternoon service) and

more Aliyahs (thanks to one and all who performed their honors so well and humbly). And then it was time for the story of Jonah and the Neilah service. We could see the sky beginning to turn dusky through the stained glass windows. More confessions and softening of our hearts with fists came next and a last ren-



At the end of Yom Kippur, in a sound that goes past our conscious mind and deep into our souls, Bernie Ginsberg and Jonah Gross together blow two of the KICC shofars. A final long blast and services are completed.

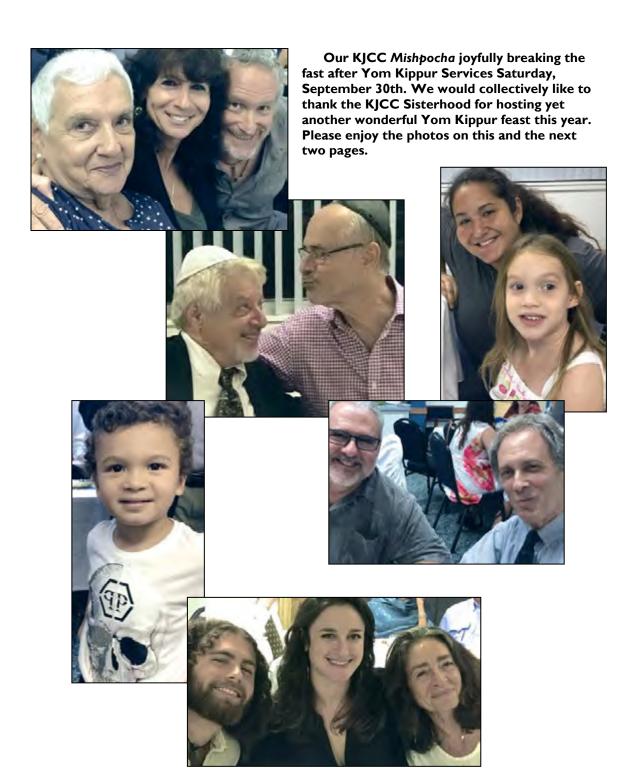
Since Yom Kippur also took place on Shabbat this year, Rabbi Agler called all the children present to come forward in a darkened sanctuary just before the break-the-fast to join him and Cantor Dzubin in the brief and lovely Havdalah service.

dition of Avinu Malkeinu. Yom Kippur was almost over. We were ready to be judged and sealed in the book of life. Bernie Ginsberg and Jonah Gross held Shofars to their lips and let out the final Tekiah G'dolah. Wake, UP! It was a long, loud and wonderful cry.

ith the sky a dark blue and the sanctuary lights turned low, Rabbi Agler invited all children present to join him. He lit the multi-wicked candle for the short, sweet Havdalah service that would allow us to bid goodbye to both Shabbat and Yom Kippur. After we smelled the spices, blessed the wine, doused the candle, and sang Eliyahu HaNavi, our fast was over.

The day had been rich with meaning. It was time to shake Rabbi and Cantor's hands, say a sincere thank you and move on to Sisterhood's spectacular Break-the-Fast. Look at the

happy, uplifted. satisfied faces! (On this and the next three pages.) The food, coordinated by Erica Leiberman-Garrett. was generously prepared by our own members. It was so abundant we had four different serving lines. Every one of the 80 seats was full. Mishpocha had made a mitzvah and we were feeling spiritually (and gastronomically:-) renewed, ready for whatever 5778 has in store for us. >





Breaking-the-Fast (cont.)...



Sukkot: THE Holiday

We Prepare and then We Celebrate





nce upon a time, Sukkot was *THE* most important Jewish holiday in our iconography, known as "the time of our greatest rejoicing." Last

year over twenty people, at least four of them under four years old and a few around eight or nine, arrived at 11:00 a.m. on the Sunday after Yom Kippur to decorate the KJCC sukkah, climb ladders, hang plastic fruit, drink coffee, and put up lulav and etrog posters made by previous years' Sunday School students. This year we were seven.

We were doing what we have always done, gathering on the first Sunday after Yom Kippur to prepare our three-walled shelter with the fresh palm frond, see-through roof (in Hebrew, Rabbi Agler's favorite throat-clearing word in the ancient language – schach), but once again, in this year of weather intensity

and disruption, things were different. People were tired. Yom Kippur had barely ended the night before. Sisterhood had just had a meeting earlier that morning. Our services had been happening days in a row and had been deep, engaging and meaningful. People's agendas were filled with visits from insurance adjusters and the physical labor of putting homes, yards and lives back in order. Bless Marc Bloom's daughter, Rachael Bloom, and her daughter, Maddie, for making seven



people into a three-generation group. As always, it was fun.

Then came our official Sukkot celebration. right after services on October 6th, the third night of Sukkot as well as Erev Shabbat. Now we had our people, and it truly was joyous. It felt good to crowd into and overflow the Alan Beth/ Candy Stanlake Parents' Memorial Pergola/sukkah. We had just enough light from our three little battery-powered lanterns (which seemed later to delight Sean Kaufman; look at that shining punim - his radiant face).

Once we said Kiddush over our wine and HaMotzi over our round New Year's challah, we had the privilege of saying the blessings over dwelling in the suk-

kah and over the lulav and etrog as Rabbi Agler shared teachings with us. His first teaching was about holding the four species high, in victory, and in all directions, with all of victory's special connotations given the circumstances of our last few weeks. Remember, before the storm, we had not known if we'd even be able to have High Holidays or a shul in which to celebrate them. We acknowledged our fragility, not just of our houses, but also of our lives. And then Rabbi Agler







spoke of the meaning of the four species. We passed around and, by gently scratching, inhaled the delicious aroma of the *etrog*.

According to rabbinic teaching, that aroma is analogous to good deeds, and one of the branches is analogous to study, and the plants are like people. Some did good deeds and were wise, some were wise but did not do good deeds, some were neither,

and yet, when held together, the four species made (and now symbolize) a strong and powerful people. We fulfilled the mitzvah/

commandment of eating at least an olive-sized amount of food in the sukkah (as well as some actual olives) and then adjourned indoors to the social hall for more celebration, the



in memory of Laurie's grandma and eating the world's best desert leftovers, still fresh from High Holidays, courtesy of our generous members. We may be fragile, but we are also hardy, and we show up for mitzvahs. \diamond

—Gloria Avner



On Tribes - Part II

A Yom Kippur 5778 Talk by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

If you did not get to hear Rabbi Richard Agler's talk on September 29th at this year's Erev Yom Kippur, here it is again. His voice comes through loud and clear. We in the sanctuary were mesmerized the first time we heard it and now are moved again. It has been a month since he made the following suggestion: "Maybe we can devote the rest of this, our most holy day, to identifying the common humanity that We and They always share, no matter what tribes we may belong to, be they ethnic, religious, political or social, to embracina the Prophet Malachi's teachina and one another in the year ahead. Because seriously, friends, the fate of the nation may be at stake.' We are grateful for Rabbi Agler's permission to share this. His other talks and sermons for all of High Holy Days 5778 are available at: rabbiagler.files.wordpress.com



d like to continue the conversation on tribes that we began on Rosh Hashanah. We'll start with a question about us and them. You don't have to raise your hands, and feel free to define those terms any way you see fit. Ready? How many people think that the main problem is "us?" How many people think that the main problem is "them?"

Most of us have had conversations on the subject during the past year. And if we haven't had conversations, we've certainly thought about it. So even without raising hands, we know the consensus. They are the problem. Maybe us a little bit. But it's mostly them. If by some chance the majority of your conversations during the past year have centered on how most of the problem is because of us, I'd like to hear more about it. You must be part of a remarkable tribe - Canadians maybe, or even Jews on Yom Kippur. ;-)

Most people believe that they are the prob-

lem. Rudyard Kipling put it this way: "All good people agree, And all good people say, All nice people, like Us, are We. And everyone else is They." That is pretty much the template for tribal thinking. And it has been around since long before Kipling. We could do worse than to add it to the Al Chet prayer: "For the sin we have committed against you by blaming them."

As we said last week, we *like* being members of tribes. They give us identity and protection. And we can belong to several at once: social, economic, recreational, educational, professional, religious, sexual. We want our tribes to thrive and survive, because they are our culture. They are where we feel at home. They are core to who we are. But we also saw how they can make us narrow. They can make us more wary of outsiders than we need to be. They can make it too easy to think, "Everyone else is They." There is not a culture in the world that does not have a word for goy.

And it's never a complimentary word.

Countering our tribal instincts is the Prophet Malachi's declaration, "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?" (Malachi 2: 10.) While it's one thing to hear those words, it's guite another to build a society based on them.

Author Benjamin Moser recently published an essay entitled, "How the Bible is Misread." According to Moser, the Bible is not about sex, abortion, contraception, gay marriage or any of the other things that always seem to be

dragging it into the headlines. He claims that it is ultimately a book about the wavs in which a nation can be lost. I've studied my share of Bible and his thesis is more than defensible. For example, the Bible frequently repeats the commandment to care for the



The Holy Books of three different faiths: Left - The Christian Bible; center - The Muslim Quran; at right - The lewish Torah.

widow, the orphan and the stranger; in other words, for those who are most vulnerable. Because societies are weakened and nations are lost when members of powerful tribes follow their natural tendencies and take advantage of the members of weaker tribes. In today's context, the widow, orphan and stranger include the low-wage worker, the uninsured, the immigrant and anyone denied equal opportunity or equal treatment under the law.

Putting our Own Nation at Risk?

If ancient Israel was lost in part because the weak were exploited by the strong, it is fair for us to ask on Yom Kippur: are we putting our own nation at risk in similar fashion? As we are all aware, America is becoming not only more unequal but more partisan and ves. more tribal as well. It has been this way for a while but it may be reaching a high point, or

better, a low point, today.

We've learned a lot along this journey. mostly that we don't like it. We're not happy when our national conversation is poisoned. We don't like it when America is reduced to a gaggle of squabbling tribes. The motto of our great nation is "E Pluribus Unum - Out of many, one." It is not, "I can't hear you over the sound of my own shouting."

We've also learned that asking partisan politicians to set aside their tribal lovalties, to say nothing of those of their donors, and

work to fashion us into a More Perfect Union, is to ask of them somethina that seems beyond their grasp. We elect them to run a functioning and noncorrupt government, and what grade would we give them on that?

Moreover, creating a truly great society reguires more than politics, even successful politics. It requires philosophy, literature, the arts. sciences. faith.

Politics may occasionally produce a Lincoln, a Roosevelt, a Kennedy or a Churchill, but most often it is about which tribe gets what, when and how. And if they could even do that fairly and well, most of us would take it. Part of the reason they don't may be that many of them benefit when we are divided.

There was an essay in the Scientific American this year called Black Lies. White Lies and Blue Lies, by Jeremy Adam Smith. "Black lies," he says, are blatant falsehoods, statements that anyone can fact-check and see that they are not true. We've all heard our share of them. "White Lies" are the ones we tell to spare people's feelings. "Great haircut!" "Beautiful performance!" "It was nothing you did." Many of these are actually permissible



Jewish and Palestinian Muslim demonstrators, mostly women but also including those supporting them, march en masse in Israel demanding that their governments and leaders on both sides finally achieve peace.

according to Jewish law, but that's a topic for another day.

Then there are blue lies, which Smith describes as lies that people will believe if they reinforce their tribal identity. For example, "The Yankees stink." It's a blue lie but any Red Sox fan will sign on to it. On some level they know it's not really true, but it feels so good to shout it, especially when you're surrounded by thousands of others shouting the same thing. As blue lies go, that one is fairly benign. Everyone knows it's a game, everyone gets to vent their frustrations and most of the time, no one gets hurt.

Not all blue lies are so harmless. The Nazis told them about Jews, by the ton. Many Germans knew they weren't really true. But they didn't bother to fact check - probably because it felt so good to shout them alongside thousands of others shouting the same thing. And we know what happened next.

Similarly, the KKK in America. Basically everything they ever said about African- Americans - not to mention Catholics. lews and others - were blue lies, false but nevertheless reassuring to the tribe. Their blue lies gave a sense of identity, acceptance, and of course superiority. They shared them at cross burnings and torchlight rallies, where they became gateway drugs for much worse.

Even the "good guys" sometimes tell blue lies. When the U.S. government set up intern-

ment camps for German-Americans during WWI and Japanese-Americans in WWII, they told the rest of the country how dangerous those people were. In the years since, we've wondered how that could have happened. It certainly wasn't the ideal America. But it was the tribal America.

Almost anywhere you look, people in or aspiring to power have used blue lies to demonize some of God's children, typically the less powerful, for their own advantage, But when those lies take root, it is to the detriment of everyone. Societies eventually collapse under the weight of too many falsehoods. If they are not stopped, the nation will be lost. But in the meantime, both for the folks telling them and for the folks swallowing them, they are not a bug; they're a feature. As we saw last week, better education and better thinking are not strong enough to extricate us from all this.

...Therefore I Am...

Descartes famously said, "I think therefore I am." but a book called "The Knowledge Illusion" by cognitive scientists Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach claims that most of us actually think very little - at least as individuals. Most of the thinking we do engage in is groupthink. Groupthink can be a good thing.



A close-up view of Israeli and Palestinian women wearing white and marching arm-inarm, with tightly clasped hands in linked and shared humanity as they demand action by both their respective governments.



It enables us to share, create and cooperate. More than our independence, it is interdependence that has allowed human civilization to flourish and grow. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and we cooperate with those who live with us.

But groupthink has its own limitations and one of them is it deceives us into thinking that we are making up our own minds. There's a scene in the Monty Python movie, "Life of Brian," set in first-century Judea. A huge crowd of would-be disciples wants Brian to be their Messiah. Brian wants no part of it. He tells them: "You don't need to follow me. you don't need to follow anybody! You've got to think for yourselves! You are all individuals!" The crowd hears this and responds as one, "Yes! We are all individuals!" The moral of the story is that suspicion, fear and blue lies can drive people into tribal shells. And those shells will not crack no matter how much truth-telling and sweet reason we bring to bear.

Dov Seidman runs a company which advises corporations on leadership. He concurs that thinking by itself, group or individual, is not enough to break us free from the negative effects of tribalism. According to Seidman, we need to get from "I think, therefore I am" to. "I care, therefore I am; I hope, therefore I am; I imagine, therefore I am. I am ethical, therefore I am. I have a purpose, therefore I am...'

All well and good. But if our present cultural moment is better described by, "I belong therefore I am" and "I am a member of a tribe. therefore I am." we have our work cut out for us. When I was in the full-time rabbinate, we

tried to do some of this work. We set up a number of programs that challenged people to reach beyond tribal boundaries and overcome at least some prejudices. (My own included.) We actually had some success. On occasion we not only managed to create greater understanding, but also friendships and even long-term relationships across fairly heavy tribal lines. And there was relatively little thinking involved.

A number of our initiatives were with Muslims. We had the Anti-Defamation League vet our prospective partners, and after we got okays went ahead. Most of the people in our community were supportive but, predictably, there was some pushback. "What are you doing, Rabbi? Don't you know who these people are? They are playing you for a dupe, just like the Ouran tells them to do! You are being naive. These are our enemies. Haven't you read their book?" And so on.

Believe me when I tell you that none of those folks had studied the Quran. None of them had even studied much Torah, which is relevant because anyone who deals with sacred texts understands that when trying to interpret them, what is literal is only the surface meaning.

But never mind that. Their primary sources were forwarded e-mails. Facebook feeds and the like. In other words, everything that they thought they knew came from within a nar-



Does any one tribe have a monopoly on wishes for peace and hope for the future? Is it possible for us to crack long-established and hardened tribal shells?

row tribal framework. And our partners on the other side heard similar. "Jews? Don't you know you can't trust them? They'll say one thing to your face and do another behind your back. Just like they've done to the Palestinians. Just as they've done throughout their whole history. Haven't you read their book?" Etc.

new hoping, new imagining and even new working together. The tribal boundaries were not erased but they were not nearly as imposing as they were before.

There will always be some bad apples. Just like there are bad Christians (see Charlottesville) and bad lews. But associating every Muslim with ISIS, Al Qaeda or Hamas is like

linking every Jew to the Protocols of the Elders

A number of years ago the Conservative

Jewish movement added a verse to the Birkat

hamazon, the Grace after Meals, in some of

its prayer books: Harachaman, hu yavi sha-

lom bein b'nai Yisrael u'vnei Yishmael - Mav

the All-Merciful bring peace between the children of Israel and the children of Ishmael, i.e.

And why not? We're fools not to at least

make the

effort. Did

iust last weekend a

vou see that

Modern Or-

marched as

grand mar-

shal in the

NYC Muslim

Day parade?

True! If we

can break

thodox rabbi

the honorary

of Zion or Mein Kampf.

"...we sat down together, broke bread and got acquainted."

So instead we responded, at least to those who were open to the possibility of conversation, as follows. "Okay, I hear what you're saying. But tell me, 'How many Muslims do you know personally?" " Most of the time the answer was none. So I would then suggest they speak to fifty Muslims and we could continue the conversation after that. Our Muslim counterparts said the same thing with their people. And because we knew that some people might not be able to find fifty

Muslims, or fifty lews, we arranged a series of programs, at the synagogue and at the mosque, where we provided them for one another. At which point everything really became quite simple.

Thou shalt not avenue. Nor bear any grudge Against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor

> Leviticus 19:18 Torah

And do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the poor, the neighbor who is near of kin, the neighbor who is stranger, the companion by your side.

between the Jews and the Arabs.

Surah 4:36 Quran

The Golden Rule

Love, Harmony, Friendship, Kindness, Peace.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

> Mark 12:29-31 Bible

as thyself.

down tribal barriers like these, we can break down a lot of them that are nowhere near as strona.

Maybe we can devote the rest of this. our most holy day, to identifying the common humanity that We and They always share, no matter what tribes we may belong to, be they ethnic, religious, political or social, to embracing the Prophet Malachi's teaching, and one another, in the year ahead, Because seriously, friends, the fate of the nation may be -G'mar tov and I'shana tovah. ♦ at stake.

There was no need for propaganda or reeducation. After some introductory words, we sat down together, broke bread and got acquainted.

It didn't take long at all for people to get out of tribal mode and into normal human being mode. And from that perspective it became clear that we were not nearly as different from one another as we may have first thought. This new activity led to new understanding. The new doing led to new thinking. In time that was followed by new caring and

Chai-Lights November 2017 35



The Jewish Holiday Most Have Never Heard Of

Speaking of tribes, as we have been doing since Rosh HaShanah, even within our own culture we are multi-tribal, well beyond the multicultural differences between Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Mizrachi traditions. I had thought there were no Jewish holidays in November this year. I was wrong. There is an Ethiopian Jewish holiday called *Sigd* (an Amharic word — related to Aramaic?). The State of Israel officially recognized this holiday in 2008. Ethiopians who wish to observe it are entitled to have the day off from work. It is celebrated on the 29th day of the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan* unless that day comes on Shabbat, as it does this year, and then it is celebrated on the previous Thursday, November 16th.

This holiday, first observed in Israel by Ethiopian immigrants in 1980, happens exactly 50 days after Yom Kippur and begins with climbing to the top of the nearest high mountain in re-enactment of the moment in our history that formed us into a people. The trek is in memory of Moses' receiving the tablets with the commandments on Mt. Sinai and is a rededication to our voluntary covenant with God. There's an intriguing parallel to the 49-day passage from Pesach to Shavuot, but on the other side of the calendar – in spring, where this holiday happens in the fall. There is fasting, praying, a special kind of processional bowing, community repenting, and celebratory feasting at the end of the day, marked by special highly spiced food that Ethiopians caution Israelis to "take in slowly." The ritual prayers are all carried out in a special ancient language called Gez, which fewer and fewer non-elder Ethiopians speak, much to the distress of those elders, as Ethiopian youth become more integrated into Israeli culture.

The language may change, and the young people may gather to perform circus acts like tumbling and eat hamburgers and hot dogs, but most everyone still wears white and the holiday remains alive, sounding not only vital and spiritually important, but very similar in its activities to the way our own variations of the tribe observe other holidays. Long live Sigd and the greater tribe that celebrates it. —Gloria

Simchat Torah, Shtarkers, and

Holy Rolling: Part One

here was a lot going on at KJCC on Friday, October 13th. (And nary a trace of triskaidekaphobia.) Not only was it Erev Shabbat service time, led beautifully by Joyce Peckman, but we were observing Yizkor (thank you, Bernie Ginsberg) and celebrating this year's Simchat Torah as well. Yes, all on the same, wonderfully alive and tender and so very KJCC-esque evening.

Luckily for us, given that a big part of the Simchat

Torah ceremony involves seven repetitions of blessings. chanting. singing and dancing while carrying all three KICC

Torahs around the sanctuary each repetition (hakaffot), we had some special shtarkers with us that night - young, strong people capable of carrying weight. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Scubi Jews just so happened to be there and happily added their grinning, capable energy.

Ten Hillel students from assorted Florida



Rabbi Richard Agler points out an unusual feature of our Holocaust Torah to two of the Hillel Scubi Jews, top. Can you see the enlarged Bet in the center photo showing the Torah's first word?

universities had just arrived. They would be bunking with us for the weekend. Most of their time here would be spent

"Diving for Debris" and doing coral

reef rescue work. But this night they would not be cleaning up the oceans for Rabbi Ed's innovative *Tikkun HaYam* (repair of the oceans) program. They'd be attending services with us, dancing with our Torahs, and, in a postscript to the evening, helping Rabbi Richard Agler unroll and air out our recently repaired and re-kashered Holocaust Torah, a regular



maintenance procedure recommended to us by the scribes who had done the extensive repairs. It was the perfect time to do this, since we also had to re-roll the Torah back to the beginning so the cycle of reading could begin again in new year 5778. (See that one very large, initial letter? That's the

first letter of the first word in the first book of the Torah, Genesis. It is the second letter of our alphabet, the Hebrew letter Bet, beginning the word *B'reishit*, which is usually translated as "in the beginning.") And do you see those words with the dots over them?

That is the only place in the entire 80-some foot length of our hand-scribed, 600,000+ Hebrew character *Torah* where such a phenomenon occurs. The rabbis' explanation is to make us know this word grouping is unusual and important. Pay attention. Something special is happening here. The words are part of a phrase saying that God's mysteries are God's and not in the ken of mere mortals.

Friday October 13th saw regular services, plus a Yizkor service, plus the joyous marching and singing of Simchat Torah, and all that was before the oneg even began. Which on-

ly included again this year Sisterhood's wonderfully decadent "Simchat Torah Chocolate Extravaganza." The oneg was sponsored by Mitch Harvey and Linda Perloff in honor of Mitch's birthday, top right.



Sean Kaufman, below, learns about Simchat Torah with one of KJCC's school Torahs (made of paper) along with grandpa Michael.





this new KJCC tradition, together with KJCC Executive Vice President and Ritual Chair Gloria Ayner.



At right is Or Greenwald, a Florida Atlantic University Hillel staff member, who was part of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Scubi Jew contingent here for Simchat Torah. Or is Israeli. He said he'd never been allowed to actually handle and be

part of re-rolling a Torah before. He was very moved and said that his father back in Israel would kvell to see him so involved. Well, here's the evidence, Or, with our compliments.

Holy Rolling: Part Two, Havdalah

And Foretaste of an Upcoming Shabbaton



aturday night at KJCC, immediately after sundown, was full of interesting activity, too. Lots of young Hillel guests had just

had an animated discussion at a home-cooked dinner in the Social Hall. At the appointed hour. KJCC members began to arrive. Together, young and younger and not-soold, we stood and listened and sang as Rabbi Ed Rosenthal graciously led Havdalah, the lovely. short ceremony of the



heart and senses - the brilliance of the three-

stranded candle burning brightly, the sipping of wine denoting joy, the passing around of the spice container so everyone can smell and experience the sweetness of the earth, the group singing of prayers of gratitude and hope - celebrating the return from the sacred of Shabbat to the beginning of another secular week. Then something else special happened. All of us.

student quests and KJCC members and even a couple of young Jewish dive instructors living in the Keys, gathered around a table to be regaled by a talk led

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. He hadn't really founded Scubi Jews as a social club, an activities group, or even just a conservation organization. It's really, to him, all about lewish spirituality. Since the current Torah portion is B'reishit. it was the perfect time for him to explain the deeper meaning behind his passionate work of Tikkun HaYam, repairing and caring for the seas. He led us through the seemingly simple and direct early passages at the beginning of Genesis talking about the moments





After Havdalah. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal regaled all present on why he believes the text of Genesis shows God's special relationship to the world's seas.

when God created everything. But, as often is revealed upon careful reading and study. the passages aren't simple at all. There is one passage that has come to mean so

much to Rabbi Ed, the one stating that "the seas belonged to God." To Rabbi Ed the seas are not just a place of alternative earth life to be explored and exploited. They are a truly sacred place. He led us through the many ways the text supports and

guides us to this perspective on water. It was all beautiful

and stimulating and enriching. The only sad part was that more of our KICC mishpocha was not present. But those who weren't there are in luck. (Those who were there can tell vou how much in luck vou'll soon be.) Because Rabbi Ed will be back at KICC in January to lead a

weekend's Shabbaton on Kabbalah, at which point he'll go even deeper (pun intended) into his understanding of the intimacy between God and the oceans. &

Though Rabbi Ed lives and works in Tampa, the only shul he actually belongs to is KICC. He often teaches multi-

part Kabbalah courses to his Hillel college students, a gift he'll also be offering KJCC members in January.

After Havdalah, A Taste of Kabbalah...

e had just re-rolled our Holocaust Torah back to the beginning, to God's act of creation. It made perfect sense to sit down after Rabbi Ed Rosenthal (here leading one of his Scubi lew reef-repair dive trips) had led Havdalah and ask him to offer a drash on one of his favorite portions, the first chapter of Genesis, B'reishit. We did not get very far beyond verse eight but we all talked and explored and listened

for hours. As you'd expect, the conversation was animated. Rabbi Ed really did start at the beginning, pointing out how every Hebrew letter serves also as a number and every Hebrew word has a numerical value. (The study of these values and word equivalencies, called gematria, is a significant and centuries old branch of Kabbalah.)

Starting with the Bibles' first seven words - B'reishit barah Elohim et haShamavin v'et ha'Aretz – we were treated to a depth of dis-

cussion worthy of experienced metaphysicians, an insider's view of complexity well beyond the usual (and probably incorrect) translation: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." We barely got beyond the fifth word, shamayim (heavens), when the concepts became startling. For years, Rabbi Ed has felt a special connection with the ocean through his work with Hillel and Tikkun HaYam (repair of the seas, a term he invented.) So when he points out that though we are talking only about the heavens and the earth, and the next verse talks about the spirit of God hovering over the water, it is

puzzling. Up to that point there had been no mention of water. Everything was without form

until the creation of light and darkness.

We puzzled through the second day, when God says there will be a firmament between the water above and the water below. That's when

the word *mayim* came to did not just refer to the heavens, but was a combination of two Hebrew words, sham, meaning "there," and mayim, meaning "water," which would have the word "heavens" then actually mean "the water there." We talked about land as the realm of man, and water being the realm of God. (It says in Psalms that "the sea belonged to God.") If you the Hebrew word Elohim.

the fore. What if shamayim take away the vowels from

you can see the possibility of it reading as el HaYam. Does this mean that God and the seas may actually be synonyms?

This is just a taste, and filtered through us, non-experts, just the beginning of exposure to this tradition of Jewish spirituality through a rabbi who has studied and taught it for years. Rabbi Ed's enthusiasm for his subject is contagious. We are extremely fortunate to be able to host this generous scholar and teacher who has offered to share his Kabbalistic learning with us over the course of a Friday night and two sessions on Saturday. \diamond



"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2)





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Maryon Gould

Maryon, of blessed memory, is our only WWII veteran here. She signed on to the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in 1943: it was the nation's first integrated uniformed U.S. service corps. She served as a nursing student at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. The Cadet Corps fulfilled an urgent need for nurses in civilian hospitals during World War II. Her daughter,

Cynthia Arsenault, sent us this note: "My mom was in the program from '43-'44. Unfortunately, she broke her back horseback riding and never graduated as a nurse. However, she was recognized by those supporting the Cadet Nurse Equity Act, which would have provided full veteran's benefits for the Cadets." Sixty years after her service ended, Maryon received a commendation award. Her trademark dignity.

Maryon Gould

grace and twinkling eves are obvious in her acceptance photo. The Cadet Nurse Equity Act has yet to pass Congress.

In the photo above, Maryon Gould receiving a Cadet Nurse Award in 2010. Just above, Skip Rose right before being drafted.

Skip Rose

I was drafted right before Christmas, 1950, and served until 1953. I intended to enlist in the Naval Air Force and become a navv pilot, and if it hadn't been for that girl I wanted to date over Christmas. I would have done it, and would not have received my army draft notice before the holiday and be forced onto a totally different path. I decided to apply for Quartermaster's School. My dad had a

> clothing store and I knew I could do a good job. My anti-Semitic company commander had a different idea. I was sent to Diver's School in Virginia where I trained to become an Underwater Salvage and Repair Man. We were the guys who went below to pick up the pieces when a plane crashed, a tugboat sank, or a destrover broke its anchor chain. We wore full metal helmets, canvas suits. and weighted shoes. The test

that got me the job was interesting. The officers in charge at Ft. Belvoir dropped the whole class into a deep dark tank of water and the ones who screamed became tenders. (They stayed out of the water and took care of the divers' oxygen lines.) The ones who didn't scream became the divers. They also cleared harbors for assaults and rescue missions. I was one of those. It was considered

dangerous. The two weeks I spent working off the coast of Korea, I was assigned a standing guard at all times in case my equipment was attacked. I served all over the planet, traveling by MATS (Military Air Transport Services) to places like Greenland, the Baffin Islands, Panama Canal, and Little Creek, Virginia. I was the only Jewish soldier in my unit, but I got along fine with my Irish commander and mostly Catholic cohorts.

(When asked what valuable lessons he had learned in the army, Skip replied with typical dry humor: "Don't eat anything gassy before a dive. There is no escape. And if you're going to be a diver, carry a spare salami. We were always hungry." Asked if he ever feared for his life or that he might not return home. Skip smiled, "Nah. when you're 21 years old, you're bullet proof." Lucky us.)

Jules Seder

the Army, from 1952- extra in an old film, is Jules Seder. 1955, would probably be useful right now. My last assignment was with the 511th Military Intelligence Unit as a speaker of Korean. After basic training, I was physician."

sent to the Presidio of Monterey Language School near San Francisco. Classes were filled for my first two choices, so I got my last: Japanese. (Turns out I was good at it and graduated first in my class.) Then I was sent to Japan for nine months to learn Korean – by having it explained in Japanese. Honest. It was a good time. Every weekend I was sent for by Jeep to play dinner music on the piano at Of-

> ficers' Clubs. While the regular band played before and after dinner, I would study my Korean language books. In Korea, I'd listen to interrogations and gather "intel," details of geography and village populations. What I remember most, though, were my Sundays in Tokyo. I

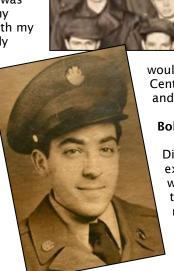
would take a bus to the Jewish Community Center, where they would make me eat lox and bagels. Cream cheese was optional.

Bob Temkin

Bob also spent most of his time at Fort Dix but not as a reservist. "It was a good experience. Luckily, we were in between wars. My biggest battle was the battle of the New Jersey Turnpike. At 18, I wasn't ready for college. In Georgia I went to Military Police School. The army made me into a man. It taught me discipline. When you can get up on a January morning at 5:00 a.m. with the temperature at five degrees below zero while

someone is screaming in your face and be totally ready for the day, that's an achievement. My mother went from saying I had ruined my life to admitting enlisting was the

best thing that ever happened to me. It certainly made me a better med student and physician."



Bob Temkin is shown with his unit

at Fort Dix. That's Bob in the cen-

ter. Just above, looking like a suave

The skills I gained in

Jeffrey Schocket

leff would have liked to serve at Fort Dix. Basic training was supposed to be regionalized: he would have been in a mix of New York and New Jersey guys like himself. Alas, he was sent to Ft. Campbell in Kentucky, the largest Army basic training facility in the U.S., along with lots of folks from Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama, All 2,500 of them were told they had to go to Chaplain's Hour, and then the Commanding Officer proceeded to

call out all the names of denominations, asking the enlisted men to stand when their group was called. All, with one exception, were Christian. Most were Southern Baptist. When leffrey was the only soldier still seated, the Commander blasted him, "What are you, an atheist?" The possibility that Jeffrey could be the only Jew on the whole base had not yet occurred to him. The good part was since chapel hour was reguired and there was no lewish chaplain or chapel on base, every Friday night and Saturday morning a car came to take Jeffrey to synagogue in Nashville. He smiles at the memory.



Airman Gunther Karger, 1951, Germany to Sweden to Biloxi, Mississippi.

The training I received in Military Schools was the best preparation for life one could have. It taught me how to deal with people of all different backgrounds and how to be both a responsible commander and a full human being.

Gunther Karger

Gus had had enough of working on his adoptive family's chicken farm in 1951; at 18 vears old, he enlisted in his adopted coun-

try's Air Force. Sent to Meteorology Research School in Biloxi, Mississippi, he became an instructor in airborne radar and navigation systems. He had two assignments, both fascinating. For one, though he was so young, he had to be given the rank of Brigadier General, a nonuniform Intelligence position; it allowed him to work in a group of 100, dealing with how to handle potential doomsday scenarios. The other, in communications, may have led to averting the Cuban missile crisis: giving commands to submarines to leak enough information to the Russians so they would know what would happen to them if they attacked. (Check out Gun-

ther's book detailing his life story; it's in our library). He served until 1955.

Carl Roy

Carl took his president's words seriously when he heard John Kennedy say, "Ask what you can do for your country," and enlisted in the infantry. He wanted to fight for his country. Still, when he stood at the threshold of the plane that brought him where he wanted to be, hit smack in the face with Vietnam's intense heat, humidity and smells, his first thought was, "Oh sh__! This is serious." It was serious. Even learning how to sleep was a challenge. Carl's unit did not dig foxholes. Tools were too heavy to carry on their con-

lim Williams

I probably served longer than any of our other veterans - 27 years, some in reserves and most on active duty. I attended Military School in Rhode Island, earned my Aviation Pilot license and became a member of the Army Air Corps. I got advanced training at Lackland AFB and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. The Korean War experience was a challenge to my men. In our small field outside Panmunion, we had 18 pilots and 16 planes, leftovers from WWII. Winter uniforms were rare and no one was used to such a cold climate. The battles with N. Koreans turned into war with China. I was with the 75th Fighter Wing; my job was to call in air strikes.

stant patrol duty. They slept on bare ground in the rice paddies. Eyes and ears had to be open at all times. Though there wasn't constant combat, there was always a level of danger. He learned not to resist, to exhale, to be on alert and yet to sleep. "At age 18, it is easy to adapt." Often, he was the man "on point," the riskiest of all positions. After seven months he was shot – twice. The second

time his femoral artery was severed. Carl was ready for his ticket out. He was brought back to the States, spent months in the Naval Hospital in Queens, and ever since has worked hard for causes benefitting veterans. We are grateful for Carl's leading role in bringing the miniature Vietnam Memorial wall to us in the Keys.

Stuart Smith

Stu was an army reservist at Fort Dix too, from 1966-1972. "They asked me my background. I said I was in finance. So they made me a cook." Stu laughed and proceeded to tell me about the five other guys (lawyers, bankers, and engineers) who also, after stating their field of expertise, got turned automatically, and inexplicably, into cooks.

Bernard Ginsberg

Bernie served from 1971-72 in the Health Service under future Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and was assigned as Lieutenant full grade to Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Md. "I learned a lot about human potential in the Service. There were these large rescue boats that were very hard to manage

in rough seas. They'd take a 20-year-old kid from an inner-city ghetto, make him in charge of it, and miraculously, every time he'd come up to the mark.

"I also learned how to improvise. One weekend, when all the high-ranking officers had gone on leave, I was the second-highest officer left, but with little to no experience of command. A general showed up by surprise

asking to review the troops. I and my buddy made it through, but only by my remembering the "close order drill" I had learned in Boy Scouts. Another thing I liked about The Health Service was its uniform. I was allowed to wear a sword. To

this day I belong to Jewish War Veterans. For years I enjoyed going to Mt. Nebo with Stu Sax and Jeffrey to put flags on the veterans' graves.

Count Zischka

I served from 1972-75...three years, 9 months, 18 days. I was 20 years old when I enlisted. I talked with a stutter, was a natural with a firearm and joined the Air Force. I knew I didn't want to be in the Army or Marines. I grew up in South Florida. I was too

Count Zischka is shown above in 1972 with his horse Tarzan — a half-Arabian, half English gelding — not far from his now-defunct Istanbul air base. Just above is 24-year-old Lt. Bernard Ginsberg, M.D. being greeted by his Public Health Service commanding officer.

smart to sign up for service in swamps. For a year and a half I was sta-

tioned in Turkey at an air force base near Istanbul on the Bosporus that no longer exists called Karamürsel. During the Cold War

Karamürsel was used for the purpose of intercepting Russian radio transmissions. The station contained a huge 500-foot-diameter antenna array we all called the Elephant Cage. I worked as a Morse code operator, intercepting code and relaying it, but because I was a natural marksman, I was also on my unit's defense team. We were widely respected, especially by the MPs. Later, when I was stationed in Japan for 18 months, a friend of mine intercepted code from Russia about an arms shipment heading for the Middle East to be used against Israel. My unit got a commendation for that.

Serving in the armed forces was good for me, a strong, young, somewhat crazy guy who knew no failure. I learned to talk without

stuttering there. And I learned that my moral code and sense of what was right and wrong was so strong that it didn't matter what anyone else thought of me.

Stuart Sax

When I was a kid we played soldiers in the empty neighborhood lots. It was post-WWII and when we played, we always won. Fast forward ten vears and I had a Selective Service card in my wallet and was in the ROTC program in college. We were now talking about soldiers being in the throes of the Vietnam War. Would our childhood

antics now dictate our futures? My summer of '66 was spent in boot camp in Kansas, practicing for real what we had imagined as children. It was a reality check; I realized that a few of my childhood friends were entering the military, voluntarily or via the draft. Other childhood friends got deferments, either legally or illegally. My grandfather served and

my father served, so I put on a uniform and I served.

My service in the military was the best of times and the worst of times. I developed a sense of loyalty, camaraderie, and organization. I also developed a love of country, total support of others serving, and a hatred of indifference and war.

I recently visited the Vietnam Wall exhibit here in Texas. It is a humbling experience, especially when I placed my fingers on the names of those friends with whom I played soldiers. In Peter, Paul and Mary's words, "When will we ever learn?"

Steve Steinbock

Steve served from 1964 - 1970 in the

Army Reserves. "It was a good experience. I had a simple job, stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. I was taught to be a dental assistant."

Tomar Gross

As a Navv brat from 7-13 years old, Tomar was raised around the world with the help of a rabbi. a chauffeur, a nanny and his visiting grandmother, while his father. Captain Gross, restructured failing Naval hospitals around the world. When Tomar was 18 he enlisted in the Navy. He started off as a fireman in the Nuke department on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and helped save the carrier from sinking when

a water main valve broke. President Clinton awarded him a medal for bravery. Tomar was involved in many conflicts, including the Gulf War, the Sarajevo conflict, Operation Denied Flight, and Provide Promise, from 1991-1994. He left the Navy with more medals than his father, a lack of trust in large crowds and a sharp eye for emergency situations. >



Stuart Sax reminiscing about his time in the army during Vietnam. His posting? He was a junior lieutenant in charge of an ammunition stockpile, not the job of his choosing.



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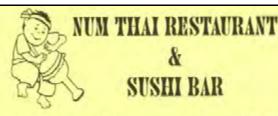
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December 2017

13 Kislev - 13 Tevet 5778

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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December 2017 13 Kislev - 13 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Beth Hayden Rita & Wes Conklin Steve & Jan Hartz	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Bernie Ginsberg Geri & Stuart Smith Susan Gordon	9
10	11	Chanukah First Night Candles	First Day of Chanukah	14	15 Barney Coltman & Gloria Avner Chanukah Dinner 6:00 p.m. Linda Pollack	Rabbi Agler Torah- Service 10:00 a.m.
17	18 New Moon	19	20	21 Homeless Memorial Service Noon Settler's Park	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner Steve Steinbock	23
31	25 Open House Chinese food & games 2:00 p.m 5:00 p.m.	26	27	28 Asara B'Tevet	29 Steve Hartz & Susan Gordon Beth Hayden	30

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the **Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha,

Thanks to all for Veterans' Day celebration and to Sisterhood for a wonderful Veterans' Dinner. Thanks to Mindy Agler for her post-Irma counselina.

Now KJCC prepares for Hannukah or Chanukah or HOWEVER you spell it. KICC will celebrate on December 15th. Please join us. See Susan's Sisterhood column and Chai-Lights for more information.

KJCC is also in the process of planning a trip to Israel. Israel is a wonderful place to visit and a tough place to live. Be good guests. I met a lovely British couple in the middle of Ierusalem trying to find a location. In Israel one learns when to admit one speaks English. If the English speakers are really rude, no help or assistance, but, like this charming British couple, of course, they were mine (my TRIBE) I needed to respond; they asked me, why is everyone so RUDE? I replied, well, it's like family you are not on vour best behavior. Not sure if that assuaged them but, hopefully, provided some comfort. Then I remember the Christian ladies on the bus who kept screaming louder and louder at the driver where they needed to go. Would I say anything? I finally stepped in because it was so embarrassing for everyone. They thanked me when we



Israel is a country for young people. Gershon was here just last month to visit. He is an Israeli vegan who iust finished his doctorate in law, he watched and looked at the damage we sustained here. As a visitor, he kayaked. We went on a catamaran that carried the kayaks - the captain told me, he's out of the boat - he's picking up stuff. Gershon came back with a kavak loaded with storm trash. How proud are we of these wonderful young people we grow?

Then there was enjoying our holidays which make so much sense in Israel with the weather. Every Sukkot, we would have a little tif tuf (sprinkle) of rain to let us know the seasons were changing. And the day I stood across from Ierusalem's "Old City" on Abu Tor and the wind swept through my hair and the heat was staggering and I thought, "Once, David stood here." And the wind and the heat blew over me and I knew I was home. You can never go wrong with a trip to Israel.

-B'shalom, Beth

Nosh

Israel Trip has Dates!

Dates have been set for the upcoming KJCC Israel trip (May 2nd to May 14th, 2018), and we also have the details of the full itinerary and a price tag inclusive of everything, even tips. Those lucky enough to go on this trip will have the same wonderful guides the first KJCC group had four years ago. Mike is a treasure trove of significant stories and font of politico/historical context, a perfect pairing with Rabbi Agler's expertise and informal teaching style. Those who go will celebrate two Shabbats in Israel. If you want testimonials on the value of this experience, ask those who went on the previous trip: Georgia Landau, Dave Mont, Natalie Dorf, Barney Coltman, Susan Ellner, Joyce Peckman, Medina Roy, and Gloria Avner will be happy to regale you with stories of their adventures and their most moving moments. You might also want to "read all about it" again beginning with the September 2013 issue of Chai-Lights. For details on this trip, contact Scott Pearl, smpearl@gmail.com.

New Art Discussion Group in January

How interesting would it be for you to be part of a discussion group that explores artists' lives and their work in depth? The idea behind this group, the brainchild of Beth Kaminstein, is to bring together interested KJCC members, Rabbi Agler, and an artist/facilitator to discuss specific artists who have both made an impact in the art world and also had a significant Jewish connection.

The first artist we'll explore is Chaim Soutine, a Russian Jew born in 1893 who died in 1943. He lived in Paris and was good friends with Modigliani (another Jew, but from Italy). Soutine's thick impasto technique (using heavy layers of paint so that brush and palette knife strokes are visible) distorted the subject for emotional effect in order to evoke moods and ideas. His very subjective paintings were inspired by Rembrandt and Chardin and gave way to the mid-twentieth cen-

tury abstract expressionists. We will explore the influences of his religious background on his artistic life as well as his work in the context of the artistic world. Plans are afoot for a series of three gettogethers, each time to explore a different artist.

The group will have its first meeting on Wednesday, January 24th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the KJCC. If you are interested, please contact Beth Kaminstein at 305-393-4013 or bethkaminstein@gmail.com. Links to reference materials will be provided, so all can read up on the artist in advance.

Rabbi Agler's Next Torah Service

Mark December 16th on your calendar. Come to KJCC that Saturday morning by 10:00 a.m. because you won't want to miss any of Rabbi Agler's last Torah learning service of 2017. It comes right in the middle of Chanukah and we are sure to be exposed to new insights on the holiday as we gather to explore, discuss, chant and study Torah. Our monthly Shabbat morning experiences with Rabbi Agler are always engaging and stimulating. But in mid-December, when we will also be welcoming back more of our snowbirds, the discussion should be especially lively and rich. (Yes, pun intended.)

Lotsa Latkas December 15th

Don't forget to bring your personal and family chanukiahs (and candles) to our Chanukah Celebration Dinner on December 15th at 6:00 p.m. It will be the fourth night of Chanukah, and when we dim the room lights and sing our blessings, the room will glow with that special candlelit brilliance we look forward to seeing each year. We will sing our traditional songs with some special musical accompaniment and eat our traditional foods, a dairy dinner replete with latkas of every description with all the trimmings, balanced out with creative, healthy vegetable dishes. Please call or write Mary Anne Pearl with your RSVP and to co-ordinate your dish to bring: map0728@gmail.com or by telephone at: I-954-655-4561. Many thanks to Linda Pollack for sponsoring this dinner, as she has done for more years than we can count. There will be no charge for KJCC members. (See the ad on page 8.)

December Birthdays

	Paul Hudson
	Rachel Levine
	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd	Marshall A. Field
3rd	Ashley Berk
3rd	Cammie Berk
3rd	Jackie LePree
	Jan Hartz
	Jodi Yeager
	Judith Klein
	Geri Smith
	Joseph Beth
	Stuart Sax
	Haley Borisoff
	Leslie Boruszak
	Franklin Rose
	Rhett William Casey
	harity (Bella) Greenbaum
	George Swartz
	Susan Greenbaum
	Renee Salant
	Sara Rose Friedman
	Laurie Blum
	Robin Margulies Juenger
	Sarah Boruszak
	Diana Lal
	Samuel Klimpl
	Ariel Fishman
	Bruce Forman
	Jeffrey Schocket
	Lilian Forbes
	Emelyn Anne Juenger
	Jonah Gross
	Lorena Kaufman
19th	Terry Willner-Tainow
	Alan Schulberg
	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
	Micah Silverman
21st	Roberta McNew
22nd	Laura Molly Friedman
	Stuart Smith
	Sydney Pomenti
	Steven Smith
	Claire Tallent
	Steve Kasinof

28th	Elaine Schulberg
28th	Emily Sherman
28th	Kayla Silverman
28th	Michael Klimpl
29th	Joan Stark
31st	Bob Pratt
31st	Michele Riley

Support Jane and Harry's Garden

You may have noticed increased activity lately in the garden begun two years ago as Harry Friedman's Eagle Scout Project. The project has evolved into a thriving KICC vegetable and herb garden. Right now, though, it needs some help to keep on growing, providing healthy, organic food both for the Food Bank at Burton Memorial Church (our next-door neighbor) and for our own delicious dishes at post-service onegs and Sisterhood dinners. Contributions of soil and vegetable seedlings would be most welcome, as would be monetary donations made to help repair the damages to the garden wrought by Irma. (Most of the picket fence border will need to be replaced.) Plants and soil can be deposited at the garden site, but please make sure to write us (geetavner@gmail.com) so we can express our gratitude for your help.

Welcome To Three New Members

Already their faces are becoming familiar. This month we officially welcome Chana David, who comes to us from Israel and now lives in Key Largo; Jan Price (who used to come with her husband Chanoch, of blessed memory) along with her handsome service dog, Luigi; and Beth Horowitz, who

December Anniversaries			
5th 7th 8th 10th	Years Gunther & Shirley Karger63 Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum7 Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs64 Linda & Bruce Pincus28		
llth	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner52		
llth	Jamie & Laura Goodman12		
I4th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen36		
18th	Larry & Deborah Weiss34		
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau6		

lives in Homestead. We look forward to celebrating many happy occasions with all three (and often four) of you.

Once More with Chinese Food

In the great time-honored tradition of "What do Jews do for Food on Christmas Day," KJCC will host its Second Annual Holiday Open House/Chinese Buffet and Board Game Extravaganza on December 25th, the day on which, in days of yore, most restaurants were closed. Drop a \$10 bill (or more) in the donation jar and we will order in. Enjoy a variety of delectable selections, including vegetable dishes and all the things we loved that disappeared quickly last year. There will be adult beverages, a poker table or two, Scrabble, Boggle, and a host of games running the gamut from intellectually challenging to downright silly. We'll be here from 2:00 until 5:00 or until people want to go home. Last year, the turnout was terrific. Of course we'll be thinking of Carol Steinbock and the many years she and Steve opened their home to all on Christmas Day. And can easily imagine her enjoying a hearty cackle at the morphing of the hospitality she put in motion. RSVP please to Donna Bolton, at Iton9993@bellsouth.net or 305-393-1351. The ad with details is on page 32.

Patty Silver's Unveiling

On Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 a.m., Patty Silver, of blessed memory, will have her unveiling ceremony performed at Mt. Nebo Cemetery in Miami. Jeffrey Schocket has extended an open invitation to any of us who knew Patty and would like to attend. Contact leffrey for details, directions, and possible carpooling arrangements at 305-407-7260.

This Year's Memorial for the Homeless

In what has become an annual event for our congregation and community, we will gather on December 21st at noon in Settler's Park, Tavernier to memorialize the homeless people who have died in the Keys between this winter solstice and the last. It is a solemn and moving

event with participants from many different faiths. Everyone will have opportunities to light a candle in a person's memory as we read names and ages. A prayer is said for each. We will be blessing men, women and children. There will be babies without names, veterans, and, if previous years' experience holds true, 80-year-old women who lived and died on the streets. We give them what we can: honor and remembrance.

This year, courtesy of Hurricane Irma, many more people, folks who used to have homes, have joined the ranks of the homeless we'll be praying for on this Winter Solstice, the shortest, darkest day of the year. In a tradition started years ago by Carol Steinbock, we will say Kaddish for those who have no one to remember them. Rev. Pam Feeser will preside.

A Musical Shabbat Treat on December 8th

Beth Hayden has had the FLKCA piano tuned. On Friday, December 8th, before Bernie's service, she will play one "moment" from Rachmaninov's "Six Moments Musicaux," composed in 1896. From Beth: "The piece I am playing is from Moments Musicaux, Opus 16, No. 3 in B minor. There are 6 pieces in the opus. The more I play this piece the more impressed I am with how well it is written and constructed."

Oneg Sponsors for December 2017

December 1st - Rita & Wes Conklin, in honor of Wes' recovery. Steve & Jan Hartz, in honor of Jan's birthday.

December 8th - Geri & Stuart Smith, in honor of their birthdays. Susan Gordon, in celebration of Rhett's 2nd birthday.

December 15th - Patricia Isenberg, in honor of Lilian Forbes' birthday. Linda Pollack, 4th night of Chanukah dinner.

December 22nd - Steve Steinbock, remembering Carol's Christmas.

December 29th - Beth Hayden, in celebration of Zap's 14th birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of **Ann Plutzer**

by Linda Pollack

BOOK PLATE

In Grateful Recognition of Donna Bolton

for her months of hard work preparing for a Rosh Hashanah dinner cancelled by Hurricane Irma

by Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KICC section. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067.

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, or email her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KICC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KICC, 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 Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

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.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial with a project to provide empty medicine bottles to Haiti where they are needed.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

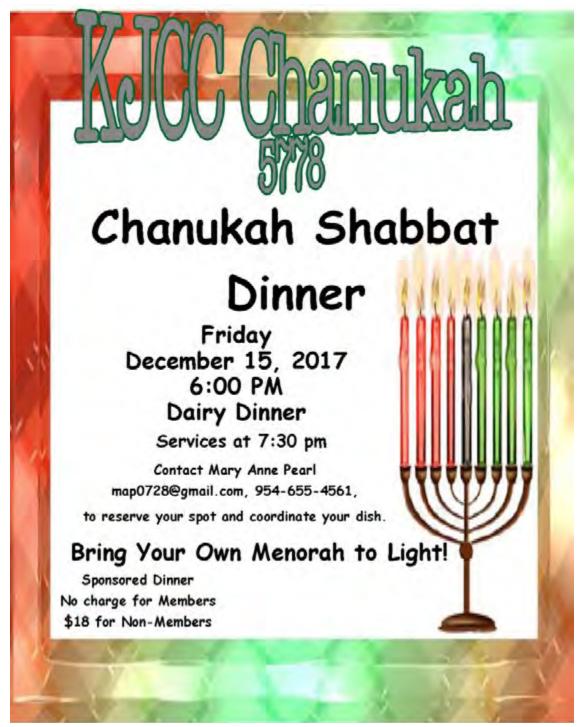
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KICC, P.O. Box 1332, Tayernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund or General Fund.

⊙n Memoriam December 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Alex Avner	Daniel Birnbaum	Joseph M. Bloom	
By Gloria Avner	By Norbert Birnbaum	By Marc Bloom <><><>>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Teddy Sharenow	Betty Abramson	Burton V. Boruszak	
By Marc Bloom <><><>>	By Joel & Toby Bofshever	By Joan Boruszak	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Julius Kohlenbrener	George Paul Tomor	Leatrice Tomor	
By Joan Boruszak	By Barbara A. Calev	By Barbara A. Calev	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Harriette T. Cline	Eva Levine	Morris Hitzig	
By Meredith A. Cline <><><>>>>	By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
David M. Orans	Sidney P. Finklestein	Harry Friedman	
By Carol Field	By Max Finklestein	By Jane Friedman	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Harry Wolfe	Stephan Ban	Sylvia Sarah Grossman	
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson	By Franklin & Judy Greenman	By Stuart Grossman	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Gary Kreitman	Fannie Zacks	Dinah Levy	
By John Hawver & Marcia Kreitman	By Jerry & Barbara Herson	By Yardena Kamely <><><><>	

⊙n Memoriam December 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
David M. Kaplan	Kurt Kluger	Charles Margolis	
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	By Nancy Kluger	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	
<><><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Sue Reiff	Claire Lempel	Clayton Allan Rakov	
By Roberta McNew	By Linda Pincus	By Neal & Cathy Rakov	
<><><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Ruth Greenwald	Raymond Martell	Rhonie Lee Klipper	
By Paul & Susan Roberts	By Skip Rose	By Mary Lee Singer	
<><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Sylvia L. Singer	Murray Blinder	Peter F. Steinberg	
By Mary Lee Singer	By Steven & Barbara Smith	By Richard & Sheila Steinberg	
<><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Steve Cimkowski	Bernard Swartz	Alex Avner	
By Stephen Steinbock	By George & Muriel Swartz	By Gloria Avner	
<><><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Joseph M. Bloom	Harry Friedman	Morris Hitzig	
By Marc Bloom	By Jane Friedman <>><>><>>	By Wes & Rita Conklin	
\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Eva Levine	Sylvia Sarah Grossman	Dinah Levy	
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Stuart Grossman	By Yardena Kamely	
<><><><><>	<><><><>	<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>	



Sisterhood Susan Gordon

isterhood is shifting into full swing now that we have entered what we refer to as "the season." I am so happy to see more of our members returning to their winter homes here in the sunny South!

We began the month of November with our monthly Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, November 5th. We finalized plans for two major events that were coming up within the next few days: the now Annual Challah Bake, and a special Veterans Day celebration and Shabbat dinner. A dozen women, plus our good friend, Count, enjoyed one another's company during the baking event, creating magnificent braided challahs while sipping wine and nibbling on delicious snacks! It was an evening enjoyed by all who participated. We took our creations home to finish in our ovens and, on the following night, we were happy to share our freshly baked challah with our fellow KICC members who attended the Veterans' Dav Celebration and Shabbat Dinner. We honored ten KJCC members, veterans who served in each of the many branches of the U.S. Military. The evening had a musical beginning, with a couple of patriotic melodies played on the harmonica by member and Air Force veteran Gunther Karger. All thirty-five attendees had a great time at the meat dinner, complete with mouth-watering, slow-cooked brisket! Many thanks to everyone who helped to plan, set up, and cook for our Veterans Day dinner.

We have a big Chanukah celebration coming up in just a couple of weeks from now! On Friday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m., please plan to attend the KICC Chanukah Shabbat dinner, which is being sponsored by Linda Pollack. There will be no charge - just a big mishpocha gathering for a delicious feast, celebrating a great miracle and the act of rededication. There will be Chanukah *gelt* for the children and even the grownups will be encouraged to play dreidel. We ask that you RSVP to Mary Anne Pearl by e-mail at: map0728@gmail.com or by telephone at:

1-954-655-4561. That will be the 4th night of Chanukah, so please remember to bring a



menorah (a chanukiah) to join together with other members in our group as we sing blessings and perform candle lighting. This will be a dairy potluck dinner, so when you contact Mary Anne, please ask what is needed so you can coordinate a dish with her. We look forward to a delicious and festive evening. Setting up and decorating the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall for one of our monthly Shabbat dinners (but especially for a holiday) is an especially rewarding activitv. It's creative. it's fun. and with a small group, it is one of the best ways we have to get to know each other better and deepen our friendships. If you would like to be part of this Chanukah set-up, please call me (305-766-3585) or volunteer at the next Sisterhood meeting.

Coming up next month, on Friday, January 12th at 6 p.m., KJCC Sisterhood will prepare a dairy Shabbat Dinner to mark the beginning of an all-day Saturday Shabbaton learning experience with Kabbalah expert and gifted teacher. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. The dinner is being sponsored by Joyce Peckman. Erica Lieberman-Garrett will co-ordinate the menu and will accept all RSVPs. There will be no charge to members.

The response for oneg sponsorships has been outstanding, and is greatly appreciated. We do have a couple of open dates during the month of January. We are also happy to have multiple sponsors on any given date. Please contact Joyce Peckman, Oneg chairperson, at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

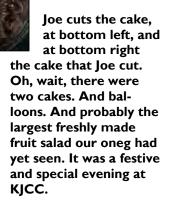
To all female members of the KJCC; If you are reading this message before Sunday, December 3rd, please plan to join us for the Sisterhood meeting at 10:00 a.m. Being an active member of Sisterhood is both rewarding and fun! ♦

Photo Gallery

The entire Shabathai/Ruzycki family was on hand on October 20th, as Joe not only led services but he and Kathy also sponsored the oneg in honor of Joe's birthday.

Brad and Julie are at top; at top right Cooper helps Joe with the HaMotzi. Kathy and Minnie are just below.







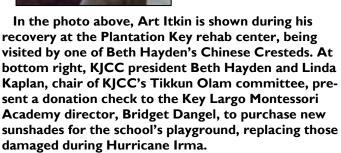
In the two photos at top, our own Lee Schur is shown being presented with a lifetime award from the Sisterhood of her "other" shul. Temple Beth Israel in Chicago. The presenters are the current co-presidents of Sisterhood.

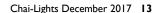
In the photo below, Beth Hayden is shown leading Kiddush after leading services on October 27th. In the center photo, Israel and Nissan Mayk (with Bernie) were briefly in town

> to tend to mom Bea Graham's home in Silver Shores, damaged by Hurricane Irma.









On Sunday October 29th several KJCC members were in attendance as Father Tom Graf performed his last service as priest at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Islamorada. We honor Father Tom, a very good

friend of KJCC and major force for interfaith peace in the Keys, and wish him god-speed. (Tom grew up in the Bronx, next door to a shul where his father was the shamus.)









The photos on this page are from the November 3rd service and oneg. Joyce had led services, and the Shabathai clan was back, this time sponsoring the oneg in honor of Kathy's

birthday. (The photo at bottom doesn't show it, but grandson Cooper helped with the candles. In case you're wondering, candle extin-

tants are al-

ways welcome at KJCC onegs without points being deducted.)





On this page, more photos from the November 3 oneg, also sponsored by Mary Lee Singer in memory of her brother. Mary Lee and Joyce are shown at top during the HaMotzi. Unlike some shuls, where the onegs often consist of stale Danish and tepid coffee, KJCC onegs always feature big smiles and coffee by bagelmon Marc Bloom or his able proteges.

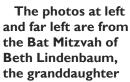






Congratulations to Susan Gordon's daughter, Rose Marie on her beautiful rustic wedding held in Tennessee. Their son Rhett, below, just about to turn two, was the ring bearer.





of Jules and Nettie Seder. Nettie, one of the great knitters of modern times, hand-made the tallit Beth is wearing. Nettie proudly tells us that Beth led the entire service herself and also chanted (flawlessly, of course) from the Torah.



Gunther and Shirley Karger, participating, as they do every year, in the Homestead Veteran's Day Parade. In case you have any questions, that Gunther driving and Shirley smiling at the crowd from the back seat. (They've been a team for over 60 years, in the beginning Gunther being a

Holocaust survivor and Shirley a teenaged U.S.O. hostess from the Garden District of New Orleans.)



Avner, Dave Mont and Georgia Landau — regaled toddlers at Key Largo Library recently with stirring renditions of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," "The Alphabet Song" and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." (You know, the classics.) At right is a rare photo of Sidney! Faye-Davis, captured by the evervigilant Gloria Avner.



World Jewish Report Medina Roy

Touchdown in Israel"

This past July, Robert Kraft, Jewish philanthropist and owner of the New England Patriots, led a group of 18 National Football League (NFL) Hall-of-Famers and their wives on a weeklong spiritual trip to Israel. A onehour film, "Touchdown in Israel," followed the football stars (Joe Montana, Jim Brown, Roger Staubach, Joe Greene, Eric Dickerson, Marshall Faulk and a dozen others) as they traversed the country. The film screened on the NFL Network in late October as part of the NFL Films Presents series. Their first stop was to coach a mix of Jewish and Arab high school students playing football in Tel Aviv. The group visited the typical tourist sites -Tel Aviv, Masada and the Dead Sea plus both lewish and Christian holy sites. Several players chose to be baptized in the Jordan River. (Former Patriot Andre Tippett was not among them. He had converted to Judaism in 1993.) The final evening saw each player reflect on the week-long trip. The trip concluded with the dedication of the Kraft Family Sports Complex, a \$6 million, 25-acre project in Jerusalem that includes the first full-size (American) football field in Israel. Kraft and his late wife honeymooned in Israel in 1963. They had deep ties to the State of Israel, often bringing people from different backgrounds to share the experience. (www.nfl.com, 10-18-17)

Museum Has Architect, Needs Funding

There's a plan to build a museum and visitor center honoring Albert Einstein at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The university, along with the Peres Center for Peace, has been trying to get the construction of the Einstein Museum going for a long time. The project began to fade away around the time that Peres' term as Israel's president ended because of a lack of funds. But the Hebrew University's desire to build a museum for Einstein and a place to house his archives per-





berg), designer of New World Center in Miami Beach and Daniel Libeskind, master planner for the redesign of the World Trade Center, were considered. They even met with President Shimon Peres, the guiding spirit behind the initiative. In the end, the university held a competition for the design of the museum and the Ierusalem architectural firm of Arad Simon's design was selected. The museum will be situated in Jerusalem's Museum Row. The cost of the building is expected to be \$5 million. The search for donors will begin soon. (www.haaretz.com, 10-15-17)

\$1.6M for Einstein's Theory of Happiness

A scribbled note written by Albert Einstein in 1922 on stationery from the Imperial Hotel Tokyo contained the physicist's theory on happiness. The note reads (in German) "A quiet and modest life brings more joy than a pursuit of success bound with constant unrest." It sold for a record \$1.6 million dollars at an auction in late October in Jerusalem. It was the highest amount ever paid for a document at an auction in Israel. A second note written by Einstein at the same time - it reads "where there's a will there's a way" - sold for \$240,000. The buyer was a European who wished to remain anonymous. Original estimates for the value of the document were between \$5,000 and \$8,000. The note was given to a Japanese courier in lieu of a tip. (It's not known whether the courier refused to accept a monetary tip - in line with local practice - or if Einstein had no change available to give the courier. Not wanting the messenger to leave empty-handed, he wrote two notes by hand in German.) Einstein was on a lecture tour in Japan when he wrote the note. He had just been informed that he was to receive the Nobel Prize for Physics. Reportedly,

Einstein told the courier, "Maybe if you're lucky those notes will become much more valuable than just a regular tip." (www.forward.com and www.theguardian.com, 10-25-17)

Coming Soon to a Trader Joe's Near You

Trader Joe's announced on its website that it will soon be selling Bamba, the popular Israel peanut butter puffed corn snack - it's 50 percent peanuts - made from just four simple ingredients - corn grits, peanut paste, palm oil and salt. Trader loe's confirmed that its Bamba will be made in Israel. According to Osem, the Israeli manufacturer of Bamba, 90 percent of Israelis buy the snack on a regular basis. (It's been said that Israeli babies' first spoken word is Bamba, before Ima or Aba.) The most interesting part of this: Scientists are coming to believe that Israeli babies being given the nutty treat so early might explain why so few Israelis have peanut allergies. A report had come out in 2008 with that tentative conclusion. Now, almost ten years later, the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases has reversed a recommendation to parents of allergy-prone children that they have their children avoid peanut products. The recommendation now is that (not a subtle change) parents feed peanut powders and butters to infants at age six months or even earlier if the child shows signs of allergies. Another factor for scientists? Allergy rates of Israeli Jewish children were compared with those of lewish children in Britain. The British children were ten times as likely to have peanut allergies as their counterparts in Israel. (www.forward.com, 10 -16-17 and www.nvtimes.com. 1-5-17)

A Moment of Dignified Defiance

Israel's Tal Flicker, 25, won the gold medal in judo at the *Grand Slam* competition in Abu Dhabi at the end of October. The martial artist, who entered the event ranked number two in the world, achieved the *Ippon*, Judo's version of a knockout and the highest score a fighter can achieve, with 25 seconds remaining. But standing on the winner's podium, no Israeli flag was flown for Flicker because the

United Arab Emirates (UAE), the host country of the event, did not allow for any representation of the Israeli team's nationality. (They claimed that this was done for the security and safety of the athletes. UAE and Israel do not have diplomatic relations.) Israel sent twelve athletes in all to the event; that policy meant no Israeli flag or symbol on their judo uniforms or ISR (Israel) by their names on the scoreboard.

The organizers also refused to play Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem, substituting instead both the flag and the anthem of the International Judo Federation (IIF). Ascending the podium, Flicker, in defiance, quietly sang Hatikvah himself. The moment went viral over social media. "Israel is my country, and I'm proud to be Israeli," Flicker said after the event. "The anthem that they played of the world federation was just background noise. I was singing Hatikvah from my heart...I'm proud of my country. The whole world knows that we're from Israel, knows who we represent." World Jewish Congress CEO and Executive Vice President Robert Singer had sent a letter to the IIF president prior to the competition requesting that he intervene, urging a reversal of the Abu Dhabi Organizing Committee to "protect the rights of the Israeli national judo team and keep the spirit of sport free of political discrimination. The Israeli team, as all other teams, should have every right to display its national flag and emblem, and sound its national anthem if victorious...the Israeli team has faced similar instances of official discrimination in a string of sporting events on the international playing field, including at this very same competition two years ago. These prohibitions subvert the very nature of camaraderie that sports federations such as yours strive to uphold...world sport federations have an obligation to safeguard the fair and equal treatment of all national teams..." (www.tabletmag.com, 10-26-17)

A Hero is Finally Honored

A Hungarian who helped Jews flee the Holocaust was honored recently with the installation of a memorial plaque in Budapest, the capital city. Emil Wiesmeyer's printing company produced fake passports for legendary Swedish

diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, helping save thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazi death camps. Wiesmeyer's company initially made some 4.000 of the basic passports. He followed that with an additional 20,000 more on his own to help Jews make it out of Hungary. In the 1950s, during Hungary's communist era. Wiesmeyer was persecuted and jailed. He died in 1967. Some 550,000 Hungarian Jews were killed in the Holocaust. (www.timesofisrael.com, 10-19-17)

A New. Precious Trove of YidLit

YIVO, the New York-based Institute for Jewish Research, recently announced the discovery of 170,000 Jewish documents that were thought to have been destroyed by the Nazis. Among the documents are unpublished manuscripts by famous Yiddish writers, letters written by Sholem Aleichem, a postcard by Marc Chagall and poems and manuscripts by Chaim Grade (1910-1982). poet and novelist, one of the important Yiddish writers of the post-Holocaust period. Founded in Vilnius - now Lithuania - YIVO hid the documents in 1940 after the German invasion. A Lithuanian librarian was the hero here, keeping and preserving the documents in the basement of the church where he worked. (YIVO moved to New York during World War II.) Most of the documents are still in Lithuania, but ten items are on display at YIVO, which is working with the Lithuanian government to archive and digitize the collection. Dani Dayan, Israel's consul general in New York said, "The most valuable treasures of the lewish people are the traditions. experiences and culture that have shaped our history. So to us, the documents uncovered...are nothing less than priceless family heirlooms, concealed like precious gems from Nazi storm troopers and Soviet grave robbers." (www.forward.com, 10-24-17)

Add Four More to the List

Four Jewish men were awarded Nobel prizes for 2017. They are:

* Michael Rosbash, 74, of Brandeis University, one of three American scientists to win the prize for medicine for the discovery of genetic mechanisms that govern the circadian rhythm, the day-long cycle that governs metabolism, hormones, brain activity and many other processes in animals. Rosbash's parents fled Nazi Germany in 1938. His father was a cantor at Temple Chabei Shalom Reform Synagoque in Brookline, Massachusetts.

- * Rainer Weiss, 85, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Barry Barish, 81, of the California Institute of Technology, for the discovery of gravitational waves (ripples in space and time that help scientists explore objects in space, predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago). Weiss was born in Berlin to a non-Jewish mother and a Jewish father. The family fled Berlin for Prague when Weiss was a baby because his father was Jewish and a member of the Communist party. After the Munich agreement in 1938, the family left Prague for the United States. American-born Barish grew up in Los Angeles, the grandson of Polish immigrants to the United States.
- * Richard Thaler, 72, professor at the University of Chicago, for Economic Science for his pioneering work in the field of behavioral economics. His research helps predict human economic decisions and helped lead to changes in public policy. (www.jta.org, 10-3-17 and www.forward.com, 10-2-17)

In Memoriam

★ Zuzana Ruzickova, Czech harpsichordist who survived three concentration camps and was liberated in April of 1945, died in mid-September, She was 90, Ruzickova was the world's first soloist to record Johann Sebastian Bach's complete works for keyboard instruments. She recorded them on 35 records between 1965 and 1975. In 2003. Ruzickova - a Czech Philharmonic soloist from 1979 to 1990 - received the *Order of Arts and Letters*, one of France's top cultural honors. Born in Plzen. Czechoslovakia, Ruzickova was deported to Theresienstadt and then to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen during World War II. After the war, she studied harpsichord in Prague and Paris. In 1956, she won a competition in Munich which started her career.

(www.israelnationalnews.com. 9-17-17 and www.washingtonpost.com, 9-28-17) >

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 Plate

In honor of

Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur

Donna Bolton

In Memory of

Linda Pollack

Ann Plutzer

Chai-Lights

Pincus, Linda Rose, Skip Smith, Steve & Barbara

General Fund

Brush, James Cohen, James Ginsberg, Bernard Rose, Skip Streamer, Donald & Eiss, Elynn Vollmer, Robert S. Weihl, Alfred & Sue Ann Williams, Jim & Rita

Meditation Garden

Shaw, Jonathan & Jill

Oneg Sponsorship

In Honor of Mitch's birthday

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis Mitch Harvey & Linda Perloff Joseph & Katherine Shabathai Wes & Rita Conklin Rosemary Barefoot Gloria Avner

Joe's birthday Wes' recovery Beth Hayden Gloria's birthday

Oneg Sponsorship

In Memory of

Stephen Steinbock Jeffrey Schocket

Carol Steinbock Patty Silver's birthday

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster

Ginsberg, Bernard Smith, Steven & Barbara

Silk, Robert

Scholarship Fund

Kaminstein, Beth Pincus, Linda

Tikkun Olam

Blum, Laurie Bolton, Donna Boruszak, Ioan Coltman, Barnet Peckman, Joyce Pincus, Linda

Tzeddakah

Pincus, Linda

Yahrzeit

Boruszak, Joan Grant, Andrew & Randi Isenberg, Patricia Isenberg, Patricia Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Riley, Michele Tallent, Lillian Temkin, Robert Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Yizkor Book

Calev. Barbara Davidson, Foster Horn, Susan Kaminstein, Beth Pincus, Linda Rose, Skip Smith, Steven & Barbara In Memory of

Harold Goldstein Leonard Weiser Henry Isenberg Helene Tulsky Len Roberts Abraham Travers Samuel Tallent Kenny Temkin Diana Wolfe

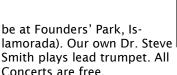
Eye on the Arts loyce Peckman

9 he arts can help heal the soul. We have local groups that regularly play at restaurants, but this column looks for other events, special goings-on that might entertain or enrich. Many of these events are not publicized before our deadline, so if you know of something in the works, please let me know for this column. You can contact me at Joycepeckman@gmail.com or 732-447-5225

Start strumming - If you have ever wanted to take on an easy instrument, consider the dulcimer - a folk string instrument that has been popular for centuries. There is a wonderful teacher in the Upper Keys who enjoys taking on beginners. Classes will be once or twice a month at the Key Largo library on Wednesday evenings. Contact Georgia Landau at 305-393-9885 for further information.

Art Guild of the Purple Isles is open to beginners as well as experienced artists. Come to the Key Largo library at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. Different teachers will share their skills, and you can interact with the artists, who are happy to facilitate. Check Art Guild of the Purple Isles' Facebook page or text Gloria at 305-619-0216 to find out what materials you will need to bring. You don't need to be a member to go, but for membership information or to download an application, you can visit www.artguildofthepurpleisles.com.

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.: Kevs Community Concert Band. "Not So Frozen" Holiday music with sing-alongs, student ballerina troupe, and a storyteller. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to the Murray Nelson Government Center, MM 102.5 bayside. We will be listening in the lovely outdoor park area behind the building with a panoramic view of the Bay. This will be the opening concert of the once-a-month winter series (and the only one in Key Largo; the others will all





6th Annual Baygrass Bluegrass Festival on January 12-14, at Founders' Park in Islamorada, features bands and performers from around the country. The hottest young musician this year is the amazing Billy Strings, and you won't want to miss Grammy Award winner Mike Compton. ICE uses festival proceeds to provide art, music, and dance scholarships to local students pursuing higher education in the arts. Stage lighting this year will be solar. Water filling stations will be provided by FKAA in the interest of working towards a plastic-free environment. Go to www.kevsice.com for details.

Florida Keys Concert Association - Begins January 15th - A six-week series with concerts on Monday nights in Marathon and Tuesday nights in Islamorada that includes a barbershop quartet, a little jazz, lots of classic and a night at the opera. Trio Solisti, who brought the house down three years ago, is coming back and, new to the Keys, Fandango, featuring musicians from around the world, brings their unique blend of Latin, Balkan and Spanish music. Individual concert tickets are \$30 or you can purchase the season for \$110. www.flkca.com

Mangrove Swamp Band open jam: Thursday evening, January 25, at Key Largo Library conference room. Contact Susan Gordon for more information, susangordon424@yahoo.com or 305-766-3585. With instruments ranging from fiddles to banjos, guitars, walking bass, hammered dulcimer, Irish pennywhistle (yes, that's our Susan) and squeezebox, the music is as varied as bluegrass, traditional folk and country. No charge. >





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



Sydney! Faye-Davis (305) 613-3010 Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585



ne of the best things about being a member of a lay-led synagogue with virtually no paid employees is that you get to create your own programs and develop your own traditions. From idea to execution, from total novelty to second,

Tradition!

Our (Now) Annual Challah Bake

third, and fourth annual events. we keep what we like and keep on tweaking until we make each event better. more fun, more

inclusive and ever more our own. This year Count Zischka joined in the activity. We've had male observers, kibitzers and photographers before, but Count was our first male participant in actual challah-making. (It was actually, in truth, the first year in which male members of KJCC were actively encouraged to participate. As I said, we evolve and tweak.) Long live the Sisterhood sponsored Annual Challah Bake. It may be messy - how could it not be, when each of the twelve participants has eight cups of flour















to wrestle with, not to mention lots of eggs, yeast, sugar, water and salt, which then have to be mixed with a combination of elbow grease and closed fists - but the

Challah!Mixing & Kneading

camaraderie, the learning, the mutual helpfulness, raucous humor, artistic creativity, and delicious results make it more than worthwhile. (And we were smart enough to safely place our good social hall chairs out of the way.)

We started our Challah Bake tradition years ago as part of a worldwide Shabbat event, with thousands of groups in hundreds of countries across all continents

hosting simultaneous events. Some of the programs in big cities included thousands of participants. But none of them could have had more heart than we had with our not-quite-baker's-dozen group. This year we chose to hold our event on a night with special meaning to us, a prelude to a Shabbat dinner at which we would honor those members of our congregation who had

















served in our country's military.

Special thanks to Sisterhood Vice-President Jane Friedman for her tireless assistance to all who needed physical help kneading, assurance that their

Challah! Braiding & Baking

yeast was bubbling the way it should, or a reminder that it was indeed time to give that big old punch to the risen dough so that it could rise again and be shaped into lovely large braids, spirals, and mini buns to be taken home and baked. Some would be shared with family and friends at home and some would be brought back the next day for our Veteran's Day

Shabbat Dinner (The report on that dinner immediately follows this one.) Maybe this coupling with Veterans Day will become a new tradition. By all reports, the challahs have gotten better and better. Ha-motzi lechem min haaretz. \$

-Gloria Avner

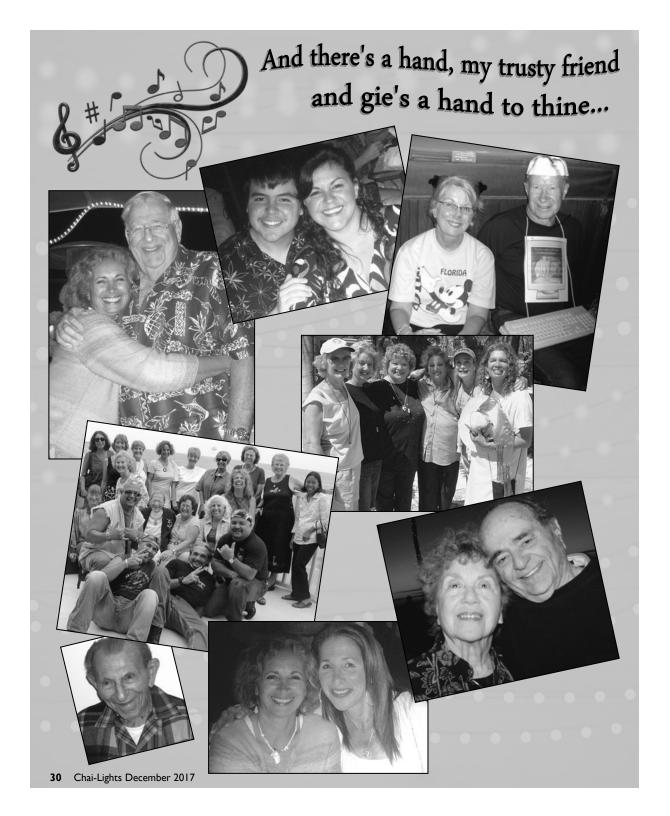








Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne...





The Keys Jewish Community Center Invites you to a Kabbalah Shabbaton*

January 12th & 13th, 2018

Friday evening and Saturday

Experience an Introduction to Kabbalah with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal in three sessions. Come prepared to be amazed at all the things you never learned in Hebrew School.

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal is the Executive Director and Campus Rabbi of the Suncoast Hillels of Florida's west coast. Rabbi Ed brings a lifelong passion for Jewish life and spirituality, Israel, the Jewish People and a special focus on God's unique relationship with the seas.

abbalah is the most misunderstand part of the Jewish tradition. Usually referred to as Jewish "mysticism," Kabbalah was under an ancient prohibition which restricted those who could learn it to only men over the age of forty who were married, fully observant and experts in every other aspect of Judaism and Jewish law. In the year 1540, the prohibition was lifted for the basic principles of Kabbalah. The 20th century has seen an awakening of interest about Kabbalah, not as mysticism but as the spiritual teachings of Judaism.

"The Torah tells us how to practice Judaism...the Kabbalah tells us why," says Rabbi Rosenthal. All members of the KJCC are welcome to attend the Shabbaton. You are also welcome to invite interested friends.

*What is a Shabbaton? A Program of Education and Celebration that usually takes place on Shabbat and sometimes over a whole weekend.

Here's how Rabbi Ed describes the course he's prepared for our KJCC Shabbaton:

"Life, the Universe, and the Nature of Everything"

The weekend schedule and syllabus:

Friday, January 12th -

- -6:00 p.m. Delicious Dairy Dinner
- -7:30 p.m. Frev Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Ed
- Approx. 9:00 Introduction and overview of the weekend's program beginning after the oneg, led by Rabbi Ed

Saturday, January 13th -

- Morning Session "Nothing is as it seems": 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
- 12:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Luncheon
- Afternoon Session "Turn on the Lights": 2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
- ~ 5:00 p.m. Closing / Havdalah Ceremony

(Rabbi Ed has also said that Sunday sessions will be available for those interested in further study.)

RSVP to Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com or 305-394-1702 Full program: KICC Members: \$36.00, Non-Members: \$50.00



KJCC 2nd Annual Holiday Open House, **Chinese Buffet** and Board Game Extravaganza



December 25th 2 pm - 5 pm





Enjoy adult beverages, Poker, Scrabble, Boggle, & more... \$10 donation

> Please RSVP to **Donna Bolton**

> > at:

lton9993@bellsouth.net or 305-393-1351

WE HONOR **OUR VETERANS**

Homemade Challah, Brisket, Music and Prayers

bv Gloria Avner

e love hearing our veterans' stories, seeing aspects of them we never knew - learning about the challenges they faced as young men (and women) and marveling at the humor and steadiness with which they met those challenges. And we are discovering more veterans among us than those we wrote about last month. Stanley Margulies has a good Navy story that I am saving up for next year. And at the service when we asked our veterans to stand and tell us their branch of



service, we found out that our old friend Humberto was a medic who served with the Marines in Vietnam, and that Bear, Rosemary Barefoot's husband, was also a Marine, and that Steve Levine had also

served our country.



All the branches of the U.S. armed forces were represented by our KJCC veterans. Gunther Karger, after escaping the

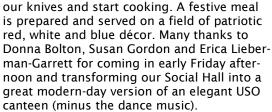
Nazis via the Kindertransport, served in the Air Force, as did Jim Williams. Jeff Schocket was in the Army. Bernie Ginsberg was in the Public Health Medical Corps. Stan Margulies was a Navy surgeon, and Skip Rose served in the Army.

On this particular evening, the service ended not with Adon Olam but with Gunther playing taps in honor of the fallen.



So how do we, who did not fight for our country or way of life, repay these men and

women? Of course at a minimum we say "thank you for your service" and mean it from our hearts, but it still seems so little in comparison with their sacrifice. So, in addition to saying thank you, we do what we do best. We break out the crockpots, sharpen



It was lovely starting the night with lighting Shab-

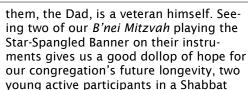
bat candles in our new handmadeby-Beth-Kaminstein candlesticks, and then listening to a medley of Armed Forces theme songs played by Air Force veteran and Holocaust survivor Gunther Karger on his harmonica. Our special dinner was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the

generous and talented cooks and bakers of Sisterhood.

Thanks, too, to the Gross family. We enjoy seeing a whole family of active members on our *bimah*, especially when one of



All the previous evening's challah-makers gathered at the dinner's beginning to offer the fresh-baked, homemade fruits of their labors to all. Is there anything more irresistible to the nose and palate than fresh-baked challah?



service. The prayer for veterans, read by Tomar, Jonah and Oceana's dad, was strong and meaningful. Gunther's soulful rendition of Taps at the end of the service (traditionally played at the end of a funeral for the fallen), touched us all and made for a fitting

conclusion to our evening. (Which of course was, in classic KICC style, was not guite over yet. There were still more delicious homemade treats to be consumed. Thank you, Luz Levine, and all who brought sweet things to the Oneg in honor of Michael Kaufman's brother Jonny's birthday.) >

Illuminating the Festival of Lights

Chanukah is a time of gift-giving, yes, but it's also full of symbolism, history, wonderful snippets of information and memories. And that's all before we even start on the latkas...

avocaethnologist, I studied world religions for years. As a practicing, en-

Hidden in the Candles of Chanukah:

Long Days' Journey into Light

by Gloria Avner

thusiastic Jew I look for answers to life's big questions in my own heritage. Every early religion found powerful teachings and created ceremonies of hope, appeasement, and gratitude in the time of shortest, darkest days. How could life go on if the sun did not return to warm the earth? I have read words from contemporary rabbis linking Chanukah to winter solstice, say-

before and after the shortest day of the year. Whether we are talking about bonfires or candles, it is all about light (and not just the oil or the latkas).

ing that, in our earliest

made for eight days both

days, sacrifices were

"Light" is a big concept. As an artist I am in love with light and the act of creation. Light against dark is what makes a painting come alive. My father, whose personal light went out 20 years ago on the eighth day of Chanukah, gifted me with light through his name. "Av" is the Hebrew word for father and "ner" means both candle and light. Every synagogue in the world has its ner tamid, or everlasting light.

The light of "viddishkeit" (yes, I know that

Yiddish itself had not then vet been invented) nearly went out when our Temple was desecrated by the Syrian Greeks of Antiochus IV's time. over 2100 years ago. The

primary goal was to assimilate (to Hellenize) if not annihilate us. Laws were passed making Torah study illegal. Disobedience was punishable by death. When the unlikely band of student warriors, the Maccabees, recaptured the Temple after fierce guerilla warfare against the powerful Greeks, they cleansed and

restored it. But to complete the dedication, (the meaning of the word Chanukah), they needed an additional seven days in which to replace the consecrated oil that had been defiled by the Greeks. With only one "kosher" vial left (indicated by its priestly seal), holding enough oil for just one day.

they needed a miracle (that, interestingly, would last the exact length of time of the Creation as told in Genesis).

We are all familiar with the historical events behind the "Great Miracle that Happened There" (Nes Gadol Hayah Sham). But where is the deeper meaning of the miracle? This is Judaism. There is always more.

Anyone who has ever prepared a Friday night parshah knows how many stories lie within each Torah portion and that within each story there are as many layers as we have time





and energy to discover. It does not surprise me as I look for hidden meanings in the light of Chanukah, that I am thrown back to "B'reishit," the beginning, the creation of primordial light.

When Adam and Eve came into being in the Garden on the sixth day of creation, light stepped beyond its bounds. There were thirty -six hours of intense, limitless light, says the teaching, (This teaching comes from the Zohar and Kabbalist understandings.) Adam could see from one end of the world to the other. Adam and Eve failed to do their mitzvot and were punished. The brilliant light that was visible for such a long uninterrupted time and distance was withdrawn, hidden away, saved for the righteous in the world to come. (" . . . light is sown for the righteous . . . " Psalm 97). The 36 hours of special light covered the (literal) day and a half time period from Adam and Eve's creation until they ate the forbidden fruit. We apparently were not ready for such brilliance.

How does this primordial light relate to Chanukah? Let's count the candles. Not the helper candles, or *shamashim*, with which we light the candles, but the Chanukah candles themselves. One plus two plus three plus four plus five plus six plus seven plus eight makes thirty-six. The twelfth-century Kabbalist. Rabbi Eliezer of Worms (an important medieval German city of Jewish learning), wrote: "the 36 candles on the menoral correspond to the 36 hours when Adam and Eve were bathed in The Primordial Light of creation." Today, as we kindle our lights in our own homes, he suggests we are calling forth a remembrance. if not a revelation, of that intense, now hidden light. The light was ours before the mitzvot were disobeved.

The mysterious expansion of light came to the lews rededicating themselves and their Temple to the practice of Judaism. They did not succumb to a culture that did not want

them to worship their one God in their own way. What was really won with the Maccabee's querilla warfare was religious freedom. The myriad meanings of the number 36 could fill reams, and range from double "chai" (the Hebrew word for life) to equivalence of the names of God to the amount of years it took Jacob to transform himself on his journey to the number of righteous souls in every generation who keep alive that spark of primordial light. We talk about Chanukah as a minor holiday, and vet there is an understanding that when the Messiah comes the only holidays that will still be celebrated will be Chanukah and Purim. The Sanhedrin declared Chanukah a holiday one vear after the event took place and it has been observed with candle-lighting ever since though Hillel and Shammai did have one of their many disagreements over whether to start with one and go up to eight or start with eight and go down to one. Hillel's school won.

The Kabbalists put it in terms of "Earth school." We are on this plane to learn to reach towards higher levels of consciousness. Chanukah lights act as antennae, a means of drawing forth holiness, the energy of the 36. As every day of Chanukah passes, the light increases. We place lit candles in our windows as a beacon to passersby, reminding the world that darkness can be illuminated. Divine Light will prevail. We are publicly unafraid to be different, to be a minority.

In the darkest period of winter, we are encouraged to look within, reconnect with the light of Creation by correcting behavior, observing mitzvot, rededicating our inner sanctuaries, and shining our light all around us. It is not surprising that Chanukah is the favorite holiday of children and mystics. As we enjoy our traditional foods, chant the blessings, sing our songs, and spin our dreidls. may we happily give and receive

both presents and Presence. >

On the Origin of Some Sephardic Hanukkah Customs

bv Yardena Kamely

Israel are round and filled with red iellv. Children like

related to the lighting of the menorah or chanukiva (candelabrum). The main difference between laws and customs is that laws stem from rabbinic interpretations of the Torah and the Talmud, which then filter down to the Jewish

people, while customs usually start with the people and filter up to the rabbis. Through customs, the Jewish people have shown their love for God and tradition and immeasurably enriched all aspects of lewish observance.

ost of

Hanukkah are

Israel

Hanukkah is celebrated in Israel just like everywhere in the Diaspora. The chanukiya is lit, prayers

are recited and everybody eats sufaaniot (iellv doughnuts) and levivot (potato pancakes), lots of them! Hanukkah is celebrated by attending a lot of parties. The children's

kindergarten, schools, the local synagoque, the community center, your neighbors, friends and family all host parties. Most Israelis attend two or more parties during Hanukkah. The children sing Hanukkah songs and have a

> little "liaht show." Since Hanukkah is in the middle of the winter, hot drinks like mint tea are served with doughnuts. The doughnuts in

to play with the sevivon (in Yiddish called a dreidl).

The only religious observance related to Hanukkah is the lighting of candles. Most

> households. even the secular ones, follow the lewish custom to place the chanukiva in the window where it can be seen by passersby.

Israelis like to walk through the streets of Ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods like Bnei Brak in Tel-Aviv and Meah Shearim in Ierusalem during Hanukkah. The sight of the

> lighted chanukiot in all the homes is beautiful.



While Jews no longer live in Kurdistan, many Kurdish lews still observe two unusual Hanukkah customs. One is about the giving of Hanukkah gelt. A week be-

fore the holiday, children lock the door to their room. Parents are allowed entry only after offering coins. The second custom was developed by Jews who were too poor to afford a chanukiya. They used eggshells as cups for wicks and oil, and children collected donations of flour and oil to make pancakes. Children would also prepare an effigy of Antiochus. While singing Hanukkah songs, they



would carry the effigy from place to place. On the last day of Hanukkah the effigy was thrown into a bonfire.

Syria

In Damascus, the children would collect food or money during the week and on the

last day of Hanukkah they would prepare three meals - one for their teachers, one for the poor, and one for themselves. After Hanukkah is over, a ta'anit dibur is observed; one "fasts" for a full day from conversation. This custom was observed to curb one's tendency to lashon hara (malicious gossip), especially during social occasions such as on holidays.



An antique, hand-cut brass Tunisian chanukiah, circa 1880, traditionally hung on the doorpost opposite the mezuzah.

only one night. The tradition of gift-giving among Jews living in Iran has always been popular during Purim. For *Norooz* (the Persian New Year), the Iranians have the tradition of receiving gifts from the elders. Since this holiday normally coincides with Purim, the Jews in Iran also followed the same tradition and gave gifts to the children on this occasion.

Tunisia

When there were still 1.500 Jews living in Tunisia, each family would hang its *chanukiya* on the doorpost opposite the mezuzah. The oil and wicks are homemade. Women do not do any work during the time that the

lights burn. The *chanukiya* remains on the doorpost until Purim.

> In Tunisia, the remaining lews celebrate the sixth night of Hanukkah as the Girls' Festival, in memory of the lewish her-

oines Esther and Judith. In French the festival is called La Fete des Filles. Esther saved the lews of Persia from destruction around 470 B.C.E. as told in the Scroll of Esther and as celebrated on Purim. Judith saved Jerusalem from capture by the Babylonians around 600

B.C.E. by walking into the enemy camp, tricking the Babylonian general, Holofernes, then killing him. (Judith's story is found in the Apocrvpha.) Both women performed their heroic deeds during the month of Tevet, so the festival was established on the first night of that month, which coincides with the sixth night of Hanukkah.



A young Tunisian Jewish woman, circa 1900.

Bukhara

Parents baked cakes for their children's teachers with gold and silver coins wrapped in the dough, while children collected their Hanukkah gelt in a decorative box, and used the money to buy study texts. Since Antiochus had ordered that Jewish books be destroyed, the reinforcement of Jewish learning was felt to be a particularly appropriate activity for Hanukkah.

Persian lews

Today, there are many Persian Jews in New York - in Great Neck, Queens and Brooklvn. Persian lews share many traditions with Afghani, Bukharian and Iragi Jews. Iranian Jews give gifts on Purim, not Hanukkah. While giving gifts on all the eight nights of Hanukkah has become one of the most common and popular norms for American lews. the tradition is fairly new for local Iranian Jews. Not having to compete with Christmas like most Ashkenazim. Iews who had been living in Iran did not give gifts for Hanukkah. In Iran they used to light candles, and maybe every family would have a special meal for

On the night of the Girls' Festival, Tunisian airls would receive gifts of special pastries. Isabelle, a French woman of Tunisi-



ابن دنان

אבן דנאן

an ancestry, explains the many traditional Hanukkah pastries of Tunisia: "Yoyos are round donuts. Makrouds are semolina pastries filled with dates and fried and dipped in a light orange-flavored syrup. Debla are made of fluffy dough, fried and dipped in light orange-flavored syrup. They look like ribbons and are very delicate. Baklava is a many-layered pastry baked with nuts, dates and cinnamon in between phyllo dough sheets. The pastries are moistened with honey syrup. It is not a typical Tunisian recipe but a recipe brought by Jews from Turkey."

Morocco

Though there are fewer Jews in Arabic countries than ever before, all over the world. Jews celebrate Hanukkah with lighted candles and deep-fried foods. In Morocco, the fundamentals are no different, though the details

are. In Fez, where the lewish presence dates back almost a thousand years, Moroccan Sephardim. like lews around the world, commemorate the event by lighting the chanukiya on eight consecutive evenings. Origi-

nally, the chanukiya was an oil lamp with eight small receptacles, each holding a wick made of hemp.

Hanukkah celebrations in Morocco center around children. Each night, as soon as the first stars are visible in the night sky, family and friends gather around the *chanukiya* for the lighting of the candles. Children are often entrusted with reciting the special Hanukkah prayers. In some families, the custom for Hanukkah also entails offering small gifts or coins to the youngest members of the family. In keeping with the spirit of the celebration, a

number of fried foods grace Sephardic tables. The most special are the Hanukkah doughnuts - in French, beignets de hanoukah - traditionally eaten on the third night.

Formerly, families who lived in the *mellah* (Jewish guarter) of Fez went from house to

house to savor beignets with a steaming glass of mint tea, the Moroccan national drink. Many hosts seized the happy occasion to open a bottle of homemade mahi-

va, a Kosher liqueur distilled from dried figs, dates or raisins.

Couscous, a staple of the Moroccan diet, also holds a prominent place on local menus. In Fez, Morocco's culinary and cultural capital, Sephardic cooks on the first night of Hanukkah prepare a couscous moistened with a rich, fragrant broth delicately scented with orange blossom water. They elaborately decorate the mound of steamed semolina with a dusting of powdered sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle its peak with fried almonds, and surround the base with a glistening ring of tender, caramelized onions.

> In Morocco, each family gathers all the remaining wicks and oil at the end of the holiday and makes a bonfire. No matter what we eat and how we celebrate, the ultimate meaning of Hanukkah revolves around light. >



The Aben Danan synagogue, built in the late seventeenth century, is one of the jewels of the Moroccan lewish culture and one of the largest synagogues in North Africa.

Blessings over Chanukah Candles

Light the shammus candle first; then recite the blessings while holding the candle. Do not light the other candles until the blessings are done! Light candles from left to right, per Hillel.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us

l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein) to light the lights of Chanukah. (Amen)

Blessing for the Chanukah Miracle

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh. (Amein) Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time. (Amen)

Shehecheyanu (Who Has Kept Us Alive)

This blessing is recited only on the first night of Chanukah.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh. (Amein) who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season. (Amen)

The Legend of the Lamed Vavniks, world-sustaining Tzaddikim and the Hidden Light of Chanukah

here is more to Chanukah than meets the eye. It is, of course, all about light, the Ohr HaGanuz (the hidden light) that goes all the way back to Day Four of Creation when the Sun and Moon appear. It is connected to a legend that explains why the world has not, as yet, self-destructed. The answer lies in the 36 candles we light over eight days of Chanukah. (For a deeper discussion of the *Kabbalistic concept of the significance of* 36 candles, please see Gloria's Chanukah article in this issue beginning, appropriately, on page 36.) Since early Talmudic times (2nd century C.E.), rabbinic tradition has held that the world can be sustained only if there are thirty-six righteous people, or tzaddikim, living in it - men and women who always do the right thing. Their compassion is huge and they help shoulder the burdens of those who suffer. When one dies, another must fill that tzaddik's place. We don't know who they are. They don't know who they are. The reason that the legend is so closely tied to Chanukah is because the holiday takes place in the month of Kisley. Within this word, we have Kis, whose root letters mean conceal. The two remaining letters are lamed and vav. Lamed stands for the number 30. Vav is the equivalent of the number six. Together they stand for the 36 tzaddikim, the lamed vavniks. They hold the weight of the world on their shoulders. Long live the special light of the Lamed Vavniks.

—Gloria

Rosh HaNikrah

Grottoes, Cliffs, and Self-defense

With a new KJCC Israel trip being actively planned, we thought you'd like to re-visit an entry of Gloria's for the Israel Diary that ran in the September 2013 issue of Chai-Lights. Her excitement at being there still leaps off the page after four years.

by Gloria Avner

I'm glad I was still in the middle of reading Michener's "The Source" when the Israel trip was already over. My mind could light up like an old adventure movie map when something I read connected to something I had seen but whose significance I had not yet understood.



Take flint, the substance that people have used to spark fires from ancient times. Picture sheer white limestone cliffs falling away to jutting outcrops of rock. The Mediterranean is crashing/splashing hard against the rocks, apparently hard enough for so many vears that crevices have turned to caves and under world grottoes are now complete with interconnecting winding walkways and a pleasantly deafening continuous boom of thunderous sound. The effect is surreal with the damp darkish surroundings, clear beautiful ever changing in/out whoosh of the water and almost blinding glimpses of sun and sky at the entrances of the caves. Joyce and I are moved to sing Naomi Shemer's song, "Eli, Eli" as we lean out over the water. The Israeli poet/composer lived not far from here, close to Caesaria. I too "pray that these things never end: the sand and the sea, the rush of the waters . . . "

We are walking back along the cliffs, mak-

ing our way to the cable car. We see, embedded in the white limestone, black nodules several inches long. This is puzzling even after our guide explains that these are flints, harder than the limestone, easily exposed. Flints, I think fire making and let it go. Not until I'm thousands of miles away again, reading Michener's richly documented and imagined tale of how civilization developed here. one culture at a time, do I get how significant this find must have

been, especially during that transition from cavedwelling hunter/ gatherer to conscious agriculturalist. It is all about tools. Rocks and flint. Held the right way, hit with the right angle of

pressure and pointed shards could be flaked away and attached to shaped wood. Voila. the arrowhead, spear point, knife, and scythe. Pretty exciting stuff.

Everything must have seemed so much easier, but better weapons also made life more complex and increased the need for better self and community protection, starting a never-ending cycle of escalation. Which brings us to the top of Rosh HaNikra. We've had our second cable car ride and are looking out over the lush curving coastline and brilliant blue sea below. After a break for Is-

raeli ice cream bars, we walk around the corner to stretch our legs and there we suddenly see a stretch of barbed wire and a sign that says "Closed Military Area! Photography Forbidden!" Oops! There in front of us is the Lebanese border. Right there! On our left, a sign painted on the wall tells how many miles to Jerusalem and how many to Beirut. Perpendic-

ular to the fence. across the street, is a perfect example of pre-independence British architecture (bare bones early ugly) and an accompanying high tower. "It's a security tower," says Mike Rogoff, our auide. "I've been inside it. Their surveillance equipment is so advanced they can monitor the whole seacoast, see a father and son fishing in a rowboat and tell what kind of bait they're using."

This highly evolved security system is the 21st century manifestation of flint. Tomorrow we'll be back to the days of hurling rockets and use of human intelligence (another

story, involving spies, infiltration, and strategic planting of sycamore trees as bombing targets) when we make our next stop and stand looking out from an abandoned Syrian outpost high above what is now the Syrian border. Age-old truths: Borders change. People fight to protect their territory. Soldiers die. We walk into the below-ground bunkers where the Syrian soldiers sought shelter from Israeli bombs when not in deadly hand-tohand combat with Israeli soldiers. We can barely see the sky at the end of the tunnel. Once more we are back to caves. >



Yes, the water really is that blue and the cliffs that imposing. Gloria and Dave Mont, above, walk the hewn path at Rosh HaNikra.



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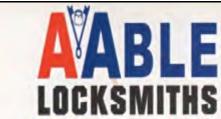
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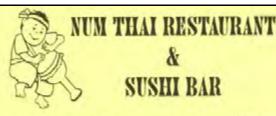
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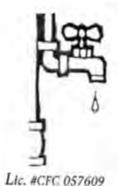


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