

# Chai~Lights



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January 2018

14 Tevet - 15 Shevat 5778

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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

# January 2018

14 Tevet - 15 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Blessing of the Fleet Beth Hayden	2	3 Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	4	5  Joyce Peckman	6
7  Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8	9	10 Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	11	12  Rabbi Ed Rosenthal  Shabbaton dairy dinner 6:00 p.m. <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	13 Shabbaton classes & lunch 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  Havdalah with Rabbi Ed 5:45 - 6:00 p.m.
14  KJCC Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	15  MLK Federal Holiday	16	17 Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	18	19  Steve Hartz  <i>Patricia Isenberg</i>	20
21	22	23	24 Mindy Agler 6-7 p.m.  Art Discussion Group 7:00 p.m.	25	26  Steve Steinbock  <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	27  Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00 a.m.
28	29	30	31 Mindy Agler 6-7 p.m. Tu BiShvat (New Year for the Trees)			

**2017 - 2018  
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## President's Message Beth Hayden



Shalom uvracha,

Thanks to all for a wonderful Channukah and a fabulous dinner. KJCC is now entering its "in season" busy time. We have many unique and wonderful activities planned for you, so please pay careful attention to Chai-Lights and the weekly announcements.

As I watched the Channukiyot being lit at our Channukah dinner, they brought to mind another similar symbol of our faith and culture, the menorah. So deeply is the symbol of the menorah ingrained in our culture, a picture of a menorah decorates the front cover of every Israeli passport. The artist Bezalel created the first 6-branched menorah from a solid block of gold. It is described in the Book of Exodus (Shemot) and in the Talmud. Six branches curve out from a central post. One of the best-known historical depictions of this menorah shape is found on a floor mosaic in Beit-She'an's ancient synagogue; of note is the clear depiction of the menorah's trident-like base. The first Temple, built by King Solomon in 1,000 B.C.E., housed not one but ten *m'norot* until its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C.E. Some 70 years later the second Temple was built and another menorah with 7 candle branches (the current form of the menorah) was created and placed within its

shelter. This menorah appears on the Arch of Titus in Rome following the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E. Even in this early depiction, the base of the menorah has changed from the original tripod shape to a solid base.

Today's menorah has 7 candle branches and usually a solid base (not the tripod shaped base of the original, historical menorah). What does the menorah symbolize in Jewish history and culture? Is it a symbol of defeat as depicted on the Arch of Titus? No. Long after the fall of Rome, the menorah has endured as a symbol of light to be spread throughout the world. The seven lamps of the menorah also allude to knowledge – six of the branches stand for human knowledge and the seventh center branch for Divine knowledge. The menorah is a reminder of the Temple, a symbol of renewed hope and redemption that Israel should be "a light unto the nations". And of course, the *chanukiyot* that we light are a derivative of the menorah. Eight-branched rather than 7 and now available in every form one can imagine and every material from wood to precious metals. Nevertheless, its origin is in the menorah.

Wishing you a healthy, happy secular New Year.

–B'shalom, Beth

# Nosh

## Rabbi Agler's Next Torah Service

We had 25 people attend our December "Chanukah" Torah service, and if you ask any one of them what it was like, you will get a unanimous, enthusiastic response about how stimulating it was and how much they learned as Rabbi Agler unwrapped a few verses of the familiar Parshah telling the Joseph story to reveal a whole, and much larger, pattern of the cycles in Jewish history. (This Parshah is always read around Chanukah, and Rabbi Agler showed us all the intricate ways the two stories are, for those who look carefully, connected.) Adding in how these patterns relate to our mandate to be a "light unto the nations" and to our ongoing struggle with assimilation made for one fascinating discussion. Each of these monthly sessions led by our generous Resident Scholar is engaging, enriching and irreplaceable. Try not to miss the next one, Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. It will start precisely at 10:00 a.m. (Breaking news...service dates through April are now set for February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and April 7.)

## Thanks to our Shabbaton Donors

We are very grateful to Joyce Peckman and Michael and Lorena Kaufman for helping to support our special *Shabbaton* program of learning about Kabbalah. Thank you to Joyce for sponsoring the Dairy dinner that will begin and set the tone for our *Shabbaton*. Michael and Lorena have our gratitude for helping sponsor the Kabbalah classes and teachings. Dinner will lead to a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, our gifted teacher for this program. The service will be followed, after the oneg, by Rabbi Ed's introduction to this special, concentrated course on Kabbalah, which will continue on Saturday. (See in-house promo and syllabus on pages 28-29.)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual KJCC Film Fest Begins

Our first film of this winter series begins on January 20<sup>th</sup>, with "The Women's Balcony." It is a

comedy and you won't want to miss it. (Actually, you won't want to miss any of this year's careful selections.) The second film is "A Stranger Among Us" and will be shown on January 27<sup>th</sup>. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we will feature "The Green Prince." We are grateful to our anonymous donor sponsoring half of this year's Festival and would welcome any anyone else who would like to contribute to this weekly high-season program and its delicious post-movie repasts. (Please see the poster on page 32.) Many thanks to Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee for preparing this thoughtful and entertaining program for us once again this year. All films begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be shown in the KJCC sanctuary on our beautiful a/v system. There is no charge, and guests are welcome. (It's a great way to introduce potential members to KJCC.)

## A Gift for You on Tu BiSh'vat

Think about where you would like to plant the young papaya tree that will be available for you to take home after services on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tu BiSh'vat begins on January 31<sup>st</sup>, but the trees will still be grateful that you are celebrating their New Year, and so will we. (Please see the article on Tu BiSh'vat beginning on page 46.)

## Pizza and Purim, the Whole Megillah

We will hold our annual reading of *Megillat Esther* (the Purim story) on Wednesday evening, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. Please bring masks and costumes if you have them. This is always a fun evening as well as a chance to perform the important *mitzvah* of hearing the *gannsa Megillah*. We'll have healthy food to eat as well as pizza and a movie. Medina's selection is "A Matter of Size," an Israeli film about a group who, tired being abused for being overweight, decide to become Sumo wrestlers. (Upcoming announcements will give us any additional info.) And of course there will be adult beverages, too. Among the other *mitzvot* of the holiday (to share a festive meal, to give gifts of food to our neighbors – in Hebrew *Mishloach Manot* – and to give charity to the needy), there is the commandment to drink until

## January Birthdays

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

## January Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Sanford & Nancy Yankow.....	27
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof.....	36
12th	George & Muriel Swartz.....	37
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg.....	24
26th	David & Pamela Marmar.....	32
27th	Michele & Ed Riley.....	44

we cannot tell the difference between the words of Haman and Mordechai. (We count on your discretion, of course, to make driving home safely your prime directive). Bring on the groggers!!! Come prepared to make noise. (Also...spoiler alert: there's tension, and some edgy uncertainty, but the Jews win this one and in the end survive.)

## KJCC Student Scholarships 2018

We are proud of the youngsters who have gone through our KJCC Religious School and wish to advance their educational goals. To this end, Joel Pollack, many years ago, established a KJCC scholarship fund, which still receive 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](http://keysjewishcenter.com) and download the scholarship guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application forms as of January 1, 2018. If you have any questions contact Susan Gordon [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com) or Gloria Avner [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com). Deadline for receipt of

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences  
to **Suzanne Sigel and Sydney Pomenti**  
on the death of Bill Pomenti,  
beloved husband and father*

completed applications is April 1, 2017, and awards will be announced before graduation.

### **Art Discussion Tackles Rembrandt**

The next meeting of the Jewish Art and Artists Discussion Group, with Rabbi Agler, will explore Rembrandt's fascination with and focus on Jewish subjects in his paintings. This group will be co-facilitated by Gloria Avner and Beth Kaminstein. Watch Tuesday's e-mails for the January date, yet to be determined. Links to specific paintings by the artist will be provided in advance so that everyone will be able to study first and then join in. Refreshments will be served. It should be a fascinating evening.

### **Opportunities for Holy Rolling**

On Friday night after services on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and after Rabbi Agler's morning service on January 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be unrolling and rerolling our two non-Holocaust Torahs with the help of Rabbi Agler. You are encouraged to be part of this important process of preserving our Torahs from degradation and mold by airing them out. (The *soferim* who repaired our Holocaust Torah say this is vital maintenance.) Our work is our insurance policy. None of us have ever seen these Torahs completely unrolled. Rabbi Agler always has interesting nuggets of information and insight on what we are looking at so this is bound to be a significant learning experience times two. This will happen at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Friday and at noon on Saturday, in the David Kamely classroom.

### **In Honor of Yardena Kamely**

Susan Ellner and Shirley Stein have been discussing the possible formation of a new, informal discussion group to deal with subjects like those discussed in Yardena's Hebrew classes with her students last year. Yardena, on our *mishabeyrach* list right now, needs all her energy for recovery, but she is thrilled by the idea. The group will probably meet at Shirley Stein's house on Sundays, but call Susan Ellner for more definitive information: 914-907-3993.

### **Kabbalah Shabbaton Registration**

This education program promises to be one of the most interesting, significant and comprehensive experiences we've ever brought to our congregation. Your \$36 donation covers the cost of a Friday night intro, all-day classes on Saturday and a lovely catered luncheon. Please send your check, payable to KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier FL 33070. Put "Shabbaton" on the subject line. Absolutely tell any of your friends who might be interested in this learning opportunity, but they'll need to hurry. Call 305-394-1702 to tell Medina Roy you are planning to come, since we need to order the food in advance. (Again, please see House Ad and Syllabus on pages 28-29 for details on this special event being taught by Rabbi Ed.)

### **Havdalah at KJCC**

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, all KJCC members are invited to observe the shortest, sweetest ceremony in all of Judaism: Havdalah (saying goodbye to Shabbat). As soon as three medium-sized stars appear, sometime around 5:45 p.m., we'll meet in the Social Hall, drink wine, smell spices, make light, chant blessings and say goodbye to our second souls, who have visited for the day. Then we'll douse our multi-wicked candle and sing Eliahu HaNavi. The ceremony will be led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who will have been teaching our Shabbaton participants about the inner workings of Kabbalah all day. Lucky us.

### **Oneg Sponsors for January 2018**

*January 5th* - Lynn Nobil, in memory of Joel and Sara Cohen.

*January 12th* - Joyce Peckman, sponsor of Shabbaton dinner.

*January 19th* - Patricia Isenberg, in memory of husband Henry.

*January 26th* - Steve Steinbock, in memory and honor of Carol's birthday.

## **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of  
**Robert Coltman  
and his grandmother, Eva Levine**

*by Barnett Coltman*

## **Sisterhood's New Book Club Begins**

Come to Linda Pollack's at noon on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, for a delicious lunch and discussion of "The Bee Season," by Myla Goldberg. Bring your suggestions with you for future books to discuss so we can choose our next book. For more information, contact Randi Grant at [rkgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpa@bellsouth.net) or 954-383-4320. Please see the House Ad on page 22.

## **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 KJCC 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 KJCC.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC 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 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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund or General Fund.*







# **KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**



## **Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018, 6:00 PM**

***FOLLOWED BY SERVICES AT 7:30 PM***

***LED BY GUEST RABBI ED ROSENTHAL***

***THIS DINNER IS OPEN TO ALL KJCC MEMBERS.***

***FOLLOWING THE DINNER, SERVICES AND ONEG, RABBI ED  
WILL INTRODUCE AN OVERVIEW OF THE WEEKEND'S  
PROGRAM AT ABOUT 9:00 PM. ALL PRESENT ARE INVITED  
TO ATTEND.***

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to reserve  
your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please reserve by January 8th.

hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162

Dinner sponsored by  
Joyce Peckman  
- No charge -

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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



Welcome to 2018, a new year filled, as always, with engaging Sisterhood-created activities meant to be shared and enjoyed by our entire KJCC *mishpocha*! For me, the most rewarding aspect of being President of the KJCC Sisterhood is seeing our members join together to share one another's friendship during our many celebrations. Socializing is an integral part of synagogue membership and a significant way to deepen friendships beyond coming to services and attending events. The women of our KJCC Sisterhood understand this, and we enjoy the camaraderie involved in planning events for everyone to enjoy!

During our December meeting last month, a dozen women were busy planning for the Annual KJCC Chanukah Shabbat celebration and dinner. We put together a 'mouth-watering' holiday menu, consisting of homemade latkes of all description with traditional toppings of sour cream and applesauce, but also everything you could want in a dairy dinner, literally from soup (yes, Medina's delicious black bean and tomato soup was there) to nuts! (donated by Barney Colman). We are fortunate to have among our members so many talented cooks who are happy to contribute special dishes for our celebrations. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Chanukah celebration: the women who helped plan, the members who contributed a dish, and the 'set up' crew, who decorated the social hall and created a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy. Most of all, we want to thank Linda Pollack, who generously has been sponsoring this Chanukah dinner for years so that all our members get to enjoy the bounty free of charge. Chocolate *gelt* and *dreidels* were available on every table, delighting our younger generation.

This month, on January 12th at 6:00 p.m., we will feast again. KJCC Sisterhood members will help prepare a dairy Shabbat Dinner to mark the beginning of the weekend Shabbaton learning experience with Kabba-lah expert and

gifted teacher, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. This *Erev Shabbat Dinner* is sponsored by Joyce Peckman; there is no charge to KJCC members. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-393-1162.

Sisterhood is happy to announce that we are re-instituting the KJCC Sisterhood Book Club. The first meeting will be held at the home of Linda Pollack, on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served. Please come prepared to discuss the book "Be Season" by Myla Goldberg. For more information, please call Randi Grant at 1-954-383-4320 or 1-305-664-9349.

Looking ahead to February, on Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the KJCC annual general meeting, Sisterhood will serve a bountiful Installation Luncheon to honor the newly installed KJCC officers and Board of Directors. If you plan to attend, please contact Nettie Seder by e-mail at ngseder@yahoo.com or call 1-305-852-7283. Nettie will take RSVP's and coordinate the menu.

The response for oneg sponsorships has been outstanding, and it's greatly appreciated. We have open dates during this month and February. We also welcome multiple sponsors on any given date. If you would like to sponsor an oneg, please contact Joyce Peckman, at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

The KJCC Sisterhood will hold its annual election and installation of new officers for 2018 during our regular January meeting, to be held on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. All female members of the KJCC are automatically members of the KJCC Sisterhood, and I welcome you to join us for our first meeting of 2018. Please come and be a part of a wonderful group of women. Group activities will add another dimension to your KJCC membership, while we get to know each other and develop new friendships. ♦

# Photo Gallery

All the photos on this page were taken during and after Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah service on Saturday, November 18th, his first of season 5778. If you're wondering, the shirt he's wearing is embroidered with the Hebrew letter *alpha* (yes, with its many multi-layered meanings.) It was wonderful to welcome Jules and Nettie Seder back from the Jersey 'burbs of Philly.



These photos are all from the Oneg after the November 24th service, sponsored by both Gloria Avner and Marc Bloom. Note the turkey Gloria made out of fruit. (It shows better in the bottom photo.)

And, yes, the gentleman in the photo upper right with Susan, sporting a face eerily similar to Gloria's, is her brother Mark.



## Keys Jewish Community Center



Soutine by Modigliani

Program: Art Discussion Group  
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: KJCC  
ARTIST: CHAIM SOUTINE

Chaim Soutine was a Russian-French painter of Jewish origin. Soutine made a major contribution to the expressionist movement while living in Paris.

The KJCC will be hosting a three-session discussion group on artists and their Jewish connections, the first of which will be a discussion about Chaim Soutine, a Russian Jew, born in 1893 - died in 1943, who lived in Paris between the two world wars. The group will be led by Beth Kaminstein as the facilitator and Rabbi Agler. Everyone is welcome and all reference links will be disseminated.

For more information about this series, please contact Beth Kaminstein - [bethkaminstein@gmail.com](mailto:bethkaminstein@gmail.com).



Landscape at Ceret with Red Trees by Soutine

November is always a busy month for our Gloria, for many reasons. The photos on this page were all taken during a dinner on the 21st at Num Thai celebrating her birthday the next day. (Note the nerf tiara.) Almost thirty showed up to offer warm wishes (and, of course, to eat).





**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**SHABBAT DINNER**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018**

**6:00 PM**

**SERVICES TO FOLLOW AT 7:30**

**~DAIRY~**

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

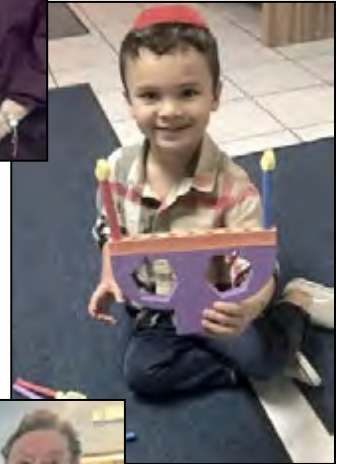


Contact:

Medina - [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com) - 305-394 -1702  
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.  
Please reserve by February 15th.

No charge for members in good standing  
Non-advertiser guests: \$10

**At the oneg on December 1st it was time to celebrate Jan Hartz's birthday. Husband Steve provided the cake and also led a rousing chorus of "yom hooledet sameach" (happy birthday). If you're counting, the cake had both seven candles and seven flowers.**



**One of the fascinating uncertainties about in-season services and onegs at KJCC is who might show up. The couple with Steve in the photo at left once lived in Key West. The gentleman's ancestor, he said, had been Key West's very first rabbi.**

**All the photos on this page were taken at the post-service oneg on December 18th. (Except for the photo upper right, where Erica and Susan lit the Shabbat candles at the beginning of services.) The oneg was sponsored by Geri and Stuart Smith in honor of their birthdays and by Susan Gordon in honor of grandson Rhett's 2nd birthday.**

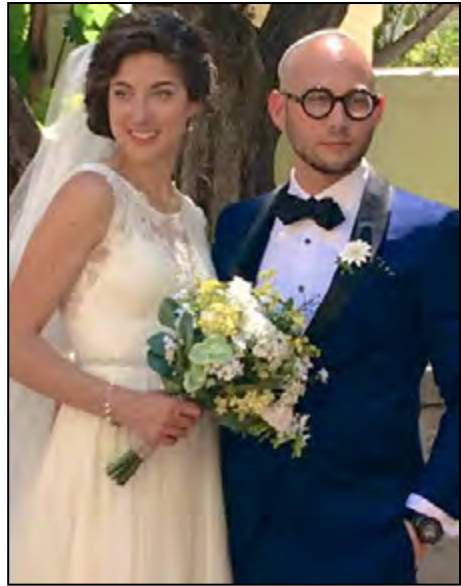


# Mazel Tov!

Kelley Greenman, daughter of Frank and Judy Greenman of Marathon, married Gadi Rouache in Los Angeles on July 2nd. It was a beautiful wedding, attended by family and friends, with a really great party afterwards. (If you would like to see pictures and videos, Google "Kelley and Gadi.")

Unfortunately, many of Gadi's relatives couldn't attend the wedding, living in Israel, so in December the newlyweds and their parents (and Gadi's three brothers) traveled to Israel to celebrate the marriage again. The Rouache family is Sephardic, from Morocco, and we enjoyed some wonderful Moroccan food as well as generous hospitality. Gadi has a large family and we met them in Tel Aviv, the Golan, and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Gadi's father hosted a 'Groom's Sabbath' where the family gathered to meet the new bride and groom in the family synagogue in the Old City.

The Rouache family was welcoming and gracious, and the couple was thrilled to see the entire family for the Groom's Sabbath. While in Jerusalem we were able to visit the market (the 'Souk') and the 'Wailing Wall.' It was a moving experience, although Kelley, the feminist, did not agree with the required separation of the sexes. — *Frank*



**Frank and Judy Greenman are long-time KJCC members. Their three daughters each made Bat Mitzvah at KJCC. Kelley, the beautiful bride, is their eldest daughter. Judy's father Stephen Ban, of blessed memory, was a Holocaust survivor. He and wife Susan were among the original founding members of KJCC.**

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## **Dinner Sponsorship**

Joyce Peckman

## **In Honor of**

Shabbaton dinner

## **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Vollmer, Robert S.

## **General Fund**

Krissel, Michael

## **Tikkun Olam**

Schur, Lee

Starr, Adam & Judy

## **Oneg Sponsorship**

Patricia Isenberg

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Steve Steinbock

## **In Memory of**

husband Henry Isenberg

Joel and Sara Cohen

& honor of Carol's birthday

## **Yahrzeit**

David, Hannah

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## **In Memory of**

Malka Sandroff

Papa JoJo

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

**Yahrzeit Plaques:** KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

**Tree of Life Leaves:** We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

**Garden Bricks:** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Can Turkey Poop Stop Climate Change?

According to researchers at Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, waste produced by turkeys, chickens and other poultry could partially replace coal, be a renewable energy resource and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The researchers published a study in the journal *Applied Energy*, claiming that the excrement could be converted to biofuels and replace approximately 10 percent of coal used in generating electricity. "Environmentally safe disposal of poultry excrement has become a significant problem," the researchers said. "Converting poultry waste to solid fuel...is an environmentally superior alternative that also reduces reliance on fossil fuels." (The methods big companies traditionally use to dispose of poultry excrement have been linked to environmental issues.) The poultry poop test showed 24 percent higher net energy generation than with coal alone and significantly reduced methane and ammonia emissions, at the same time increasing carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Would there be enough turkey poop to make a difference, say, here? Over 250,000 turkeys are produced each year in the United States. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 11-20-17)

### Porcupines As Archeology Criminals?

A seven-year-old Israeli girl and her mother recently went for a walk in the *Beit Shean* Valley, an area in Israel's northern Galilee region, when the young girl stumbled upon an unusual object. Her mother, an archeology student at Haifa University, immediately recognized the object as an ancient oil lamp dating back 2,200 years, meaning it could certainly have been in use in the days of Judah Maccabee. Since the artifact was lying out in the open, she assumed that antique robbers were at work. She called Nir Distelfeld of the *Israel Antiquities Authority*, who arrived on the scene to investigate. Distelfeld immedi-

ately understood that the culprits who dug up the lamp weren't robbers but porcupines, who burrow for the winter. The critters are often drawn to excavation sites because there the earth is easier to turn. The young girl received a certificate of commendation for the finding. It was reported that the porcupines did not face any criminal charges. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 12-12-17)

### A Key Role in Eichmann's Capture

In early November, career Mossad agent Avner Avraham revealed that Argentina's Jewish community played a key role in the capture of Adolf Eichmann, who was responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Ending decades of official secrecy surrounding the exact role the Jewish community in Argentina played in what is known as *Operation Finale*, Avraham indicated that these individuals helped procure vehicles and safe houses. The men and women who willingly helped the Mossad were not told exactly why the cars and safe houses were needed. But at least one, Luba Volk, was used by the spy agency without her knowledge. Shortly before Eichmann's abduction, she was offered a position to head a regional office for *El Al*, Israel's national airline, which in fact was being set up solely to handle Eichmann's transportation to Israel. After the abduction, Volk came under surveillance by local authorities. Fearing that Nazis in Argentina might try to hurt her, she was advised by the Israeli foreign ministry to leave the country and go to Uruguay with her husband, who was fired from his job, and their three-year-old son. "Unfortunately, and I'm sorry to say this, the Mossad didn't really take care of her," Avraham admitted. Eichmann's capture is considered by many scholars to have been a watershed moment in Israel because it prompted open debate about

discussed because of its traumatic effects. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 11-24-17)

### 120 Herzls Celebrate

Back in late August, ahead of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Zionist Congress that Theodor Herzl - journalist, playwright, political activist, and writer who was the father of modern political Zionism - organized in Basel, Switzerland, 120 men and women named after him gathered in the Israeli town of - you guessed it - Herzliya to celebrate his legacy. The original Herzl was born in 1860 in what is now Hungary. In Basel he convened some 200 participants from 17 countries, including 69 delegates from a variety of Zionist organizations. The gathering is widely regarded as a vital step in the creation of the Jewish State. Herzl (again, the original) wrote in his diary: "At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in 50 years, everyone will perceive it." It's worth noting that Israel was founded almost exactly 50 years after the First Zionist Congress. Herzl has no direct descendants left. His only grandson committed suicide in 1946. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 8-25-17)

### WJC Honors General Colin Powell

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was recently awarded the *Theodor Herzl Award*, the annual award of the *World Jewish Congress* (WJC), which recognizes "outstanding individuals who work to promote Herzl's ideals for a safer, more tolerant world for the Jewish people." Ronald S. Lauder, president of the WJC, noted in a statement that "General Powell has used the power of diplomacy to build trust and form alliances, and worked tirelessly to promote peace in unstable regions...I am humbled by his great dedication to this country, to the State of Israel, and to the Jewish people." The late George Stevens, legendary Hollywood film director, was honored with the *Teddy Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture*. Stevens is best known for what has often been called his "American trilogy," which earned him two Academy Awards: "A

Place in the Sun" (1951), "Shane" (1953) and "Giant" (1956). During his army service in World War II, Stevens headed combat motion picture photography for General Eisenhower, capturing, among other images, the discovery of the concentration camps at Nordhausen and Dachau. He made two films that were used as evidence for the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. George Stevens, Jr. accepted the award on his father's behalf. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 10-17-17)

### An Honor for Eliot

Representative Eliot Engel, the Jewish New York Democrat, is now featured on a postage stamp in Kosovo, a majority Muslim country. The nation honored Engel who, along with other United States lawmakers and public figures, urged the Clinton administration to intervene during the 1999 war in Kosovo, helping avert what many feared would be the genocide of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians by the brutal Slobodan Milosevic. (Milosevic has since been charged by the *International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia* with war crimes including genocide and crimes against humanity in connection to the wars in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo.) Along with Engel, the group who urged U.S. intervention included Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), two late congressmen, Reps. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Ben Gilman (R-NY), and the late Elie Wiesel - all Jews. Why? Apparently, the Kosovar Albanians saved Jews during the Holocaust, and the Congressional Jews were reciprocating. "I'm deeply honored and surprised..." Engel said. "My work to promote the U.S.-Kosovo relationship has been among the most meaningful endeavors of my years in Congress." Many of these same lawmakers and public figures were part of an effort to recognize the Balkan state when it declared independence in 2008. The postage stamp is not Engel's first honor in the country: In 2008, the town of Pec named a street for him. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 11-21-17)

### In Memoriam

\* Lilli Hornig, Czech-born Jewish chemist who helped develop atomic weapons and later fought against their use, died in November.

She was 96. Her family, many of whom were scientists, fled Europe in the early 1930s after her father was threatened with deportation to a concentration camp. They settled in Montclair, New Jersey. She was offered a secretarial position typing other scientists' top secret reports at the secret laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, part of the government's *Manhattan Project*. Hornig rejected the offer. Instead, she talked her way into doing research that helped create the first atomic bomb. While researching plutonium, her supervisors realized that exposure to the radioactive element could cause reproductive damage to women, so she was reassigned and joined her husband's department experimenting with conventional explosives. (Her husband, Donald Hornig, was an explosives expert at the Los Alamos lab. He later became a science advisor to President Lyndon B. Johnson and then president of Brown University. He died in 2013.)

Lilli earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1950. Witnessing the testing of the first atomic bomb, she signed a petition urging our government to demonstrate a prototype for the Japanese to see its destructive power before the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The petition was ignored. After seeing photographs depicting the leveling of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she said that although there was a some sense of triumph, the destruction she witnessed haunted her. Hornig devoted the remainder of her life advocating for women in the sciences. Among many other achievements, she was the first director of the *Committee on the Education and Employment of Women in Science and Engineering* at the National Academy of Sciences. *The Atomic Heritage Foundation* estimates that only about a dozen of the 1,500 or so scientists who worked at Los Alamos are still alive today. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 11-21-17)

\* Marc Klionsky, master portrait painter who gained worldwide prominence with his portraits of many eminent figures, died in October at the age of 90. Born in Russia, Klionsky's family fled the Holocaust by traveling to eastern Russia, away from the advancing Nazi army. In 1974, the family left Russia

due to anti-Semitism and lack of artistic freedom - Klionsky's father was a master printer - first fleeing to Rome and then to New York. He was the youngest artist to have had his paintings exhibited in the renowned *Tretiakov Gallery* in Moscow and his works have been exhibited around the world. Klionsky painted portraits of Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King, Golda Meier and Elie Wiesel, among others. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10-17-17)

### Did You Know...

\* According to recent rankings by the *Times Higher Education* journal, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is ranked number one in the world in "teaching digital skills to its graduates and preparing them for the digital workplace." Professor Peretz Lavie, president of the Haifa-based Institute said, "This is a badge of honor for the university." The University College London was ranked second, with Korea's KAIST coming in at third. The only American university in the top 10 was Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in sixth place. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 11-28-17)

\* Over 40 Holocaust survivors who never had the opportunity to celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah did so in early November. The event was coordinated by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and Israel's Office for Social Equality. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 11-14-17)

\* The number of women who joined the Israeli military's coed battalions reached a record high in 2017. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) four mixed-gender battalions added 2,700 female soldiers in 2017, continuing a five-year trend of women seeking combat positions. Unlike the United States, where there's no difference in training for men and women, the IDF allows for different criteria for women in accordance with physiological differences. ([www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com), 11-16-17)

\* At the end of October, Israel's newly appointed Supreme Court president Esther Hayut presided over the swearing-in ceremony of seven new judges, which included five women. Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked noted that 54 percent of judges in Israel are women. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 10-31-17) ◇



Please join us for our first Sisterhood Book Club meeting. We will discuss *Bee Season*, a beautifully written novel by Myla Goldberg. The book was first published in 2000 by Random House and later adopted as a film starring Richard Gere and Juliette Binoche. The story follows a Jewish family in suburban Pennsylvania through various challenges they face.

Please bring your suggestions for Jewish themed or authored books. We'll select the next one at the meeting.

RSVP and more information - Randi Grant -  
[rkgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpa@bellsouth.net) 954-383-4320

Monday, January 22, 2018 - Noon

Home of Linda Pollack  
107 Long Ben Drive  
Key Largo  
305-587-7429

Lunch will be served



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## Eye on the Arts

Joyce Peckman



**T**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](mailto:Joycepeckman@gmail.com) or 732-447-5225

**The Florida Keys Celtic Festival** will be held on January 6 & 7, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Marathon Community Park, MM 49. This is an exciting festival featuring well-known Celtic bands, including the South Florida Police Fife & Drum Corps. There will of course be food and interesting exhibitions. Where else will you find sheepdog herding competitions or the official Florida Haggis Hurling Championship? Go to [Floridakeyscelticfestival.com](http://Floridakeyscelticfestival.com) to buy \$5 advance tickets, or purchase for \$10 at the door. Children are free.

**Key Largo Library Concert Series – Hungry Town** – This folk duo will play a free concert in the library community room on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. After more than a decade of world-wide touring and three album releases, Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson--otherwise known as the folk duo Hungrytown--have earned a reputation for the quality and authenticity of their songwriting. Hungrytown's music has received extensive radio airplay worldwide and has appeared on several television shows, including Comedy Central's The Daily Show, IFC's Portlandia and Netflix's Lady Dynamite.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Baygrass Bluegrass Festival** will be on January 12-14 at Founders' Park, featuring performers from around the country, including Grammy Award winner Mike Compton and the amazing Billy Strings. It is sponsored

by Dave Feder's I.C.E., which uses festival proceeds to provide art, music, and dance scholarships and grants to local students and in-school programs. [www.keysice.com](http://www.keysice.com)

**Art Under the Oaks at San Pedro Church Mile Marker 89.5** will be on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. It's the 35<sup>th</sup> annual day of fine arts and crafts exhibits, food and local entertainment. Park and take the free shuttle from Coral Shores High School.

**Throwback Barbershop Quartet** – Monday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at Marathon HS and Tuesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at Island Community Church, MM 83.5, at 7:30 p.m. This energetic, prize-winning quartet comes highly recommended by Jules and Nettie Seder. (Jules is very active in Barbershop.) This is the first performance of the Florida Keys Concert Association Series, in its 49<sup>th</sup> season. Individual concert tickets are \$30, or you can purchase the entire series of six concerts for \$110. For information on the series, go to [FloridaKeysConcerts.com](http://FloridaKeysConcerts.com). or call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

**Morada Way Art Walk** – Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - 6 p.m. at mile marker 81.5 The third Thursday monthly outdoor festival features artists and crafts vendors as well as live music and food by local restaurants.

**Keys Community Concert Band** – Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. - At Founders Park, MM 87 bayside.

Take a musical trip through time, with a special appearance by the Riviera Prep School Theatre Dept. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Snacks and pets are optional. [Keyscommunityconcertband.org](http://Keyscommunityconcertband.org).

**FLKCA presents Ji** – Monday, January 22nd at San Pablo Church in Marathon and Tuesday, January 23rd at Island Community Church, Islamorada, at 7:30 p.m. Relax and enjoy this magnificent young classical pianist. You may recognize Ji from the 2016 Android commercial, where he performed Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata on two pianos, one that featured the usual 88 pitches, and one tuned so that each key played only middle-C. Contact *FloridaKeysConcerts.com* for info.

**Trio Solisti** – Hailed as “the most exciting piano trio in America.” Monday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. at Marathon's San Pedro Church and Tuesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. in Islamorada at Island Community Church, MM 83.5. Purchase tickets at the door or at *FloridaKeysconcerts.com*.

**Start strumming** – If you have ever wanted to take on a very 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, and she is planning to hold classes Wednesdays at 4:30 at the Key Largo library. Absolutely no musical experience is required, and you can join the number of other KJCC members who are learning to play (and then playing together for fun). For information, contact Georgia Landau at 305-393-9885.

**Art Guild of the Purple Isles** is open to beginners as well as fabulous experienced artists of all types. 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. 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 join in the creative fun, but for membership information (it's cheap) or to download an application, you can visit : *artguildofthepurpleisles.com*

**Dave Feder** – Plays regularly in person at Morada Bay, Mile Marker 81.6 bayside, on Sundays 2:30-5:40 p.m. and Saturdays 6-9 p.m. ♦



**Dave Feder**  
**returns**  
**in concert to KJCC**  
**March 28, 2018**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**LIMITLESS GUITAR**  
DAVIDFEDER.COM

# Planning the 2018 Israel Trip

*Those interested in next spring's Israel trip  
met with Rabbi Agler and the tour company reps  
to discuss...everything.*

*Your last chance to reserve a place? January 14th*

by Gloria Avner

**K**JCC's Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler, asked the eager group assembled in our sanctuary on the third night of Chanukah to say one word each to describe their thoughts (and feelings) about a proposed trip to Israel. Just one word. They tumbled out of the assembled would-be travelers, many repeated by more than one. Exciting. Transformative. Connection. Home.

Look at Rabbi Agler's face. As he talks to the group about the places we'll visit and the experiences we'll have, his own enthusiasm and excitement about the transformative process of this journey through Israel could not be more obvious. Leading it is his gift to us. Whether the travelers will be talking to people at the edge of the Gaza strip, visiting a new children's museum, sharing Shabbat with families in Jerusalem, attempting to swim in the Dead Sea, shopping in Jerusalem's *souks* or praying at the "Wailing" Wall, the *Kotel*, KJCC members on this trip will be doing much more than visiting "places." This is not your parents' tour of Israel.

This will be a journey with context provided by two gifted guides. One, of course, is Rabbi Agler, who lived and studied in Israel as a rab-

binical student decades ago, and who will provide religious, cultural and historical context at every stop. He has since led innumerable trips, some of them synagogue-based, like ours in 2013, when 15 people, eleven of them from KJCC, were able to take advantage of what was described by participant Medina



**It was Chanukah, and the sun had just gone down, so of course the first order of business was to light the candles, on a chanukiah (and candles) provided by Sisterhood's Gift Shop. The tour leader just so happens to be a rabbi, so he knew the prayers.**

Roy as “extraordinary.” (And we haven’t even mentioned food yet). Others, like the recent “March of The Living” trip to Poland and Israel, on which Drs. Bernard Ginsberg and Steve Smith accompanied Rabbi Agler, have been geared towards high school students. (The constant Jewish mandate – teach your children.) Your second guide, Mike Rogoff, highly respected for his deep knowledge of historical, geographical and political complexities in Israel, has decades worth of great stories to tell. He is also a helpful travel companion *par excellence*. Participants will of course be kept safe at every turn.

Among the KJCC members on board for the 2013 KJCC Israel Trip were Dave Mont, intrepid organizer (and distributor of halvah for mid-morning snacks), Georgia Landau, Barney Coltman, Steve and Barbara Smith, Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner, Susan Ellner, Barry and Natalie Dorf, and Medina Roy. Ask any of them questions and faces will light up. Read the travelers’ journals in summer and fall issues of 2013 Chai-Lights. Every day was filled with enriching activities.

Travel expands time. One day, spent at four equally important but totally different venues, can feel like four days worth of experience. Don’t worry about energy, though. You can nap on the very comfortable bus between adventures. Water is always at hand. And, oh, the food! All breakfasts (Israeli breakfasts are like no other – a vegetarian’s delight) are included in the trip cost (\$5089 for land and air and many extras).

El Al now flies non-stop from Miami to Israel! A block of seats is on hold. The Arza World people worked hard to create a meaningful itinerary with Rabbi Agler. They gave a great presentation, outlining the four areas

the group will be visiting, staying at four-star hotels within walking distance of everything one could want.

Words fail. This will be an experience beyond description for those who seize the opportunity to go. Talk to Scott Pearl: (954) 655-6330 or [smpearl@gmail.com](mailto:smpearl@gmail.com). Then send him a check for \$300 (your deposit) by January 14<sup>th</sup> and a place will be saved for you. The trip needs 15 participants to happen. The journey begins on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The balance (for land and air as a package, or just land at \$3800) will be due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ask Scott to send you the itinerary. Go, and be blessed that you have gone. Home. Connected, Excited. Then come back to us. Transformed. ◇



# Please Join Us On the 2018 KJCC Israel Trip

**T**he itinerary is set. We leave on May 2nd, non-stop from Miami to Tel Aviv. Once again the trip is being planned and managed by Arza World, a pre-eminent player in Israel tours. The inclusive cost per person is just over \$5,000, and includes everything — air fare, four-star hotels, tour buses and most food. You'll be led by two of the greatest tour guides available: Mike Rogoff, who also led the 2013 KJCC trip, and our own Rabbi Richard Agler. Return is on May 14th. And you'll return changed.

But you need to hurry. Reservations and deposits must be in hand by January 14th. Contact Scott Pearl, [smpearl@gmail.com](mailto:smpearl@gmail.com) or 954-655-8330.



# 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 life-long passion for Jewish life and spirituality, Israel, the Jewish People and a special focus on God's unique relationship with the seas.*

Kabbalah is the most misunderstood 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. *Erev 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](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com) or 305-394-1702*

*Full program: KJCC Members: \$36.00, Non-Members: \$50.00*

# Shyella Mayk, KJCC Hall-of-Famer



*On July 16, 2017, KJCC's own Shyella Mayk was inducted into the Israel Softball Hall of Fame for teaching fast-pitch softball to the girls/women in Israel, transforming the women's league from slow-pitch to fast-pitch, founding the Women's Israeli National Softball Team, and for athletic excellence playing on the team and proudly representing Israel in past European Championships and Maccabiah Games.*

**I**n 1996, as Shyella Mayk's senior season of high school softball in New Jersey was coming to a close, she was interviewed (as the biggest local women's softball star) by the local newspaper. When asked what some of her long-term goals were, she said she hoped to one day play softball in Israel's Maccabiah Games and pitch for the Israeli national team. She didn't know that, at that point, no women's fast-pitch team in Israel existed. But because of her that soon would change. After making



aliyah to Israel in 2000 on her own, she found the ISA's women's softball league, which was slow-pitch. But she quickly discovered that the women wanted to learn fast-pitch, the burgeoning international game. So she began to run practices for not only her team but all of the teams. She taught them how to steal bases and bunt, and then organized what she called a "fallball learning season" where she pitched for both teams so all the players could learn the very different game of fast pitching.

By the spring of 2002, the women's league began to play with fast-pitch rules. This paved the way for an Israeli national team. Tryouts



were held and a team selected. Their first forays into international competition were in trips to the new nations (but old cultures, very familiar to many European Israelis) of Croatia and Slovenia. As you can see from the photos, Shyella was the Israeli team's pitcher, captain and leader. She taught them to compete on the world stage and at the highest levels. Since then the Women's Israeli National Softball team has regularly competed in the European Championships every other summer, in South America, every



fourth summer in the Israeli Maccabiah Games, and in 2016 for the first time in the Surrey World Championship.

Today Shyella is a Health and P.E. middle school teacher in Livingston, New Jersey. In February she was honored as Health and P.E. Middle School Teacher of the Year for all of New Jersey. Two hours after the awards banquet she went into labor, together with Israeli husband Amit bringing her second son, Lahav Galil Shuker, into the world. During summer vacation this year, Lahav, just over four months old, accompanied his family to Israel, where brother Negev, three-and-a-half, got immersion in Hebrew at a Hod Hasharon pre-school. It was at the end of their summer

**Shyella was honored as “New Jersey’s Health and P.E. Middle School Teacher of the Year” at an awards banquet in February 2017, with husband Amit and eldest son Negev. Baby brother Lahav would make his entrance into this world mere hours later.**



**At left, Shyella poses with her Hall of Fame plaque alongside sister Liat, and above with the Israeli Women's Softball team, which she helped will into existence.**

in Israel that Shyella was inducted into the Israeli Softball

Hall of Fame. Her family – mom Nissan, dad Israel, husband Amit, sister Liat and brother-in-law Doron were all there to witness the honor in person.

(For those with a highly attuned ear to Hebrew, you will have noticed that both sons have



carefully crafted Hebrew names. They are named for types of fire and important Hebrew regions. Negev Shaviv means “spark of the Negev Desert” and Lahav Galil means “flame of the Galilee.”)

In her spare time, while still teaching a full course load for middle school, Shyella is an adjunct professor in Exercise Science and Physical Education at

Montclair State University in New Jersey. She is also working on her doctoral dissertation at Teacher's College, Columbia University. (Her sister, Liat Mayk-Hai, is a Yiddish literature and history scholar.) And grandma Bea Graham still goes for her daily walks and devours each month's issue of Chai-Lights. ♦

**KJCC's Adult Education Program**  
Proudly Presents Its

## **Second Annual KJCC Winter Film Fest**

**A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic  
Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens**



Sat., Jan. 20, 2018    The Women's Balcony  
Sat., Jan. 27, 2018    A Stranger Among Us  
Sat. Feb. 3, 2018     The Green Prince

**More Coming in February**

**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](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)**

# CHANUKAH

## Shine your Light Unto the Nations

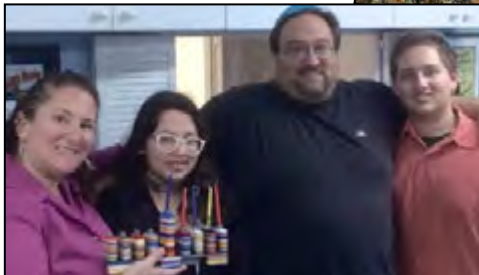
### *On Our Anti-Assimilation Holiday*

by Gloria Avner

Over the course of 18 hours (yes, *chai*, or life, the Hebrew word equivalent of the number 18, is always significant for us), KJCC members and friends experienced not just a bountiful celebratory dinner but two musical performances, an Erev Shabbat service, a delightful *oneg*, and a morning Shabbat Torah learning service with Rabbi Agler that unpacked the meaning of the Joseph story and its relation to the Chanukah story in a truly mind-expanding way. And

yes, there was a reprise of that wonderful dinner in the Kiddush following the morning service. We are blessed on many levels.

Eighty people attended the dinner. Personal *chanukiah*s (the nine-branched menorahs used only on Chanukah to represent the miracle of the single cruse of oil lasting eight days instead of one) were lit simultaneously at family tables. (Pauline was thrilled with hers. It had a Mickey Mouse theme.) With



# CHANUKAH...



the blessings chanted and all candles glowing in the darkened social hall, we were treated to a medley of Chanukah songs played by Gunther Karger on his har-

monica. The mood was set. Then, with return of the lights, the long, lovely table overflowing with latkes, soups, salads, kugels, vegetable dishes, desserts and ever more latkes (with the new addition of homemade applesauce) became the featured attraction, and the buzz of happy conversation filled both rooms.

We saw people we hadn't seen in a long time and people we'd never seen before. We welcomed Helen and Larry Goldman, refugees

from Irma's destruction to their home in St. Thomas. Names and stories were exchanged, and when, after a rousing table-pounding rendition of *Birkat*



# CHANUKAH...



*HaMazon*, the Jewish prayer of grace sung after meals, belted out enthusiastically by a few stalwarts, it was time to move into the sanctuary for the evening's services. Nearly 60 people joined us, graciously led by Barney Coltman.



But first, in keeping with the joyous upbeat-ness of Chanukah, more music filled the house. Our talented Jules Seder played piano while multi-skilled Susan Gordon played Irish penny whistle, and, with Gloria (yes, me) singing harmony, sang three Chanukah songs, joined in rhythmic clapping by the congregation.



After the service, we assembled once more to bless

wine, say *HaMotzi* over challah, and continue the conversations, deepening new friendships over coffee and dessert.



That's who we are. And it all continued again the next morning with even more interesting wrinkles.



We not only had our biggest Shabbat morning attendance of the season so far (we are so glad



# CHANUKAH...

to have Susan Ellner back among us), but we also had new attendee participation from the Chanukah dinner and service from the night before. Things got richer. Yes, we welcomed the Goldmans from St. Thomas, but we also met Robert Vollmer and his wife, long-time members and fans of the synagogue started and developed by Rabbi Agler many years ago in Boca Raton. The intricacies kept growing. Turns out that Larry, Helen's husband, and Vollmer's wife are first cousins. When Bob Vollmer refers to Rabbi Agler, with great affection, as "my Rabbi," he is not kidding. At the age of 73, Robert was Bar Mitzvah under the auspices of Rabbi Agler. There is no measuring the warmth or the width of Bob's smile as he shares that fact.

Once the service started, we had a wonderful discussion of the Parshah where Joseph went from being a prisoner to becoming the second-highest-ranking official in Egypt. What a role reversal for the spoiled boy who was tossed into a pit to be sold into slavery by his jealous, more pow-



# CHANUKAH...

erful brothers. (As Rabbi Agler noted, life in assimilationist exile was, at least at this point, looking pretty good for Joseph.) Look at the Nosh item about Rabbi

Agler's coming Torah service for a small taste of how complex and enlightening this one was and what the connection is, whether intended at the time of writing or not, between Joseph's experiences and the true meaning of Chanukah. (Or

go to Rabbi Agler's blog, where he posts his essays.)

We are commanded to be a light unto the nations, just as the oil in the one jar or the candles in your chanukiah are not to be used for reading, or warming, or anything but bearing witness to the truth of One God, revered and celebrated by the Jewish people. Today, just as throughout Jewish history, we are challenged by all kinds of pulls and attractions. In Maccabean days, the challenge was Greek culture. In Joseph's day, it was Egyptian practice and the primacy not just of the sun god Ra but of all the lesser gods, in control of everything from fertility to the afterlife – if your heart weighed more than a feather, the Jackal-headed god Anubis would consign



**The next morning, December 16th, the Shabbat of this year's Chanukah, saw Rabbi Richard Agler's monthly in-season KJCC Torah service.**

**The parshah was the (we thought) familiar story of Joseph rising to rule Egypt. But, as he does so well, Rabbi Agler showed us deeper layers. Try exploring the parallels between the Joseph and Chanukah stories...**



# CHANUKAH...

you to the underworld, or worse. Today, in an increasingly technological world populated by “millennials” and enhanced-reality expanders of the internet, with world culture and practice changing by the minute, it remains a challenge to be true to our *mitzvot* and still stay relevant to our society while we work for *tikkun olam*. But Chanukah’s light still shines on us as well as on the nations we are supposed to illuminate and inspire. In Rabbi Agler’s words, Chanukah remains the Anti-Assimilation Holiday, just as in its beginnings nearly 2,200 years ago in the days of the Hasmoneans. (And then came the Romans. Don’t get me started.)

Each year, as we light the nightly Chanukah candles, we are reminded of many things. Among them is the teaching to not let our Jewish light hide under a bushel. ♦



One of the special aspects of Rabbi Agler’s Shabbat services is that our precious Holocaust Torah once again becomes a vital, integral part of Jewish life, as it was intended to be when written in Bohemia in the 1880s. A gentle lump rises in the throat when each time, after being read, Rabbi Agler lifts it high in veneration...



# “You Can’t Not Cry”

## One KJCC Couple Tells of Their Love Affair With Special Olympics

by Joyce Peckman and Gloria Avner

*The first time we heard that Scott Pearl was involved with the Special Olympics was when he apologized to us for not being able to come to a KJCC Board Meeting to talk about the proposed trip to Israel in 2018. “Sorry. I have to be in Orlando that week for the Special Olympics: Project Opening Eyes.” We had to know more.*



**It's** been 50 years since Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics, the organization that plans athletic events for people with intellectual disabilities, working towards expanding their horizons beyond small environments into activities that boost morale and productivity. We didn't know how much health care had become a vital part of the mission. It turns out that the vision, podiatry and dentistry care the athletes get at these games is often the only care they ever get. Most are eligible for Medicare or Medicaid but caretakers can't get them easily to doctors, and many doctors have difficulty dealing with them. When Dr. Scott Pearl, Optometrist, stepped down from his position as President of the Florida Optometric Board in 2009, he immediately signed on for the Special Olympics' vision program, Opening Eyes.

Scott's optometric residency specialty was pediatrics; it was, therefore, a natural jump for him to get involved in Special Olympics. At first he worked as the Broward coordinator.

But that Saturday and Sunday, the weekend we were having our Board meeting, was a special one for the Pearls – Scott and wife/office manager Mary Anne – exciting, rewarding, and exhausting. Scott was beginning his first

foray as State Coordinator, the man in charge of Florida's Special Olympics Fall Games at Orlando.

So this describes the Pearl weekend: Scott brings 68 professionals, many of them still students, as volunteer staff, and a convoy of trucks loaded with thousands of dollars worth of equipment, for eye exams and making glasses. He brings Mary Anne as Optical Supervisor, in charge of the people who get the athletes the best lenses and designer frames. (The parents who come are as happy and grateful as their children.) The medical headquarters is ESPN at Disney, where the Pearls and all their volunteers take over press boxes and offices at the stadium. They set up stations for each kind of test and for everything needed to make the prescriptions. Mary Anne never stops, and neither does Scott.

Scott's team treated 310 athletes between all of Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. (And Scott apologized to us for not taking time to get photos with the athletes.) On Saturday the athletes came wearing their medals, proud and happy, while the doctors made a big fuss over them.

One of the tough parts of being in charge, for Scott, is that he doesn't get to see the games any more. Scott gets emotional when

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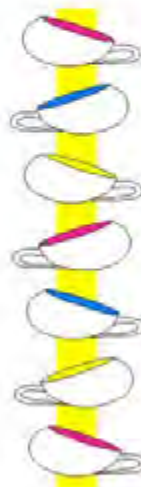
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he describes the experience of witnessing the spectacular parade of opening ceremonies. "You can't not cry," he says. But there's nothing sad about it.

Scott would rather be a clinician than an administrator, but no one is there for anything but to help the athletes have a better life. Those athletes range in age from 9 years old to the late 60s. There is no age limit for intellectual disabilities. Physically, they range from nearly independent to wheelchair-bound to severely disabled. "The two hardest professional days of my life are at these games. I would never work this hard for money."

Apparently, Scott is not the only volunteer who feels that way. He overheard one young man talking to a volunteer who coached baseball. "Hey Coach, I see you here every Friday. How come

you're not in your office making money?" Answer: "Where else can I come and work for free and get loved by 250 people?" It's all about love for Scott and Mary Anne, too. They're a team and they both love the work.

We're sad to have known them for such a short time. Soon they'll be in residence near St. Augustine, where Scott can continue to

practice (including his cutting-edge work with pediatric myopia) as well as travel in order to participate in Special Olympic events. They're hoped-for next assignment is the National Games, in Seattle. We wish them well. We're grateful for the *Tikkun Olam* work they do, repairing the world one athlete at a time. Please take pictures in Orlando, Scott and Mary Anne, and send them home to Chai-Lights and your KJCC *mishpocha*. ♦



**For many of the Special Olympians, the only time they get professional eye care is when Dr. Scott and Mary Anne Pearl and their devoted colleagues and volunteers open their hearts and provide it.**



# ***Special Olympics***



# KJCC Meditation Garden

Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.

Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# **- THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY -**

## **JANUARY**

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

**548 C.E.** – The last year the Eastern Church in Jerusalem observes the birth of Jesus in January. The Western Church had adopted December 25th as Jesus' birth date in the late 300s C.E.

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

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

**1301** – Andrew III of Hungary dies, ending the Arpad dynasty in Hungary. As king, Andrew reverses the anti-Jewish practices of his predecessor, insisting that Jews in Posonium (Bratislava) should enjoy all the liberties of citizens. Things go downhill for the Jews of Hungary after Andrew's death. They are expelled from the kingdom in 1349 under the belief (not restricted to Hungary) that Jews are

responsible for the Black Death that wipes out a third of Europe.

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

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

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

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

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different Christian denominations, “with the rabbi of the Jews,” walking arm in arm.

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

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

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

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

**1858** – Eliëzer Ben-Yehuda, the father of modern Hebrew, is born in Lithuania as Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman. His plan to restore Hebrew as a spoken language of Jews in Palestine is three-pronged: “Hebrew in the Home,” “Hebrew in the School,” and “Words, Words, Words.” By the time of his death in 1922, Ben-Yehuda has almost singled-handedly trans-

formed Hebrew into a revitalized and thriving modern language.

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

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

**1895** – Theodor Herzl writes of personally witnessing Capt. Alfred Dreyfus being “drummed out of the army in the courtyard of the [French] *Ecole Militaire* as huge crowds outside shout ‘Death to the Jews!’”

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



# KJCC Celebrates Tu B'Sh'vat: The New Year for the Trees

*Happy New Year, dear mishpocha! We are on Jewish New Year celebration number two, the first one having come amid great fanfare in September, the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishrei, Rosh HaShanah, while we were still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Irma. This second of our four Jewish New Years is also called the Birthday of the Trees, the day on which the trees' value was set for purposes of just taxation in ancient times. We all lost significant trees to Irma. Some of them fell on top of our houses. We won't hold it against them. We will still celebrate.*

by Gloria Avner

Anyone who has ever planted a flower or tree or vegetable from seed knows how magical the moment is when that fragile white neck of a stem pushes up through the earth. It quickly changes from bowed to upright; it defies the laws of gravity. Growth is its own law of levity, an act of happy rebellion against inertness. Buds want to flower, fruit wants to ripen, seeds want to burst their shells.

Every ancient culture, the people who lived close to the earth, honored trees for all they contributed to the lives of man and animal. The prayer that we read on Shabbat about taking care of the planet (because there are none to repair it after us if we destroy it) rings especially potent in this time of struggle in our day between those who would conserve and those who would merely use up.

Legends about the power of trees cross



cultural boundaries. Druids worshiped in oak groves. The Kalpa tree in India was prayed to for its connection with the divine. Even Alexander the Great went searching for this tree, thinking it would fulfill his wishes. (He was reasonably successful without it.) Judaism, to its credit, has always paid attention to trees. Our ancestors created rules about when and how the fruits could be eaten (not until the tree's fourth year), and prohibited tree destruction even in time of war when in enemy territory. We take the longer view. We've had 5777 years to practice and observe the effects of our actions.

So now, in 5778, let's take some time to celebrate our slow-growing fellow creatures, so like us in structure but so much larger, their trunks analogous to our bodies, their roots our legs, their branches our arms, their fruits our head. Let's thank the trees for all their gifts to us, of oxygen and shade, medicine and food, paper goods and lumber, amber and frankincense. No one has said it better or more simply than Shel Silverstein in his moving story, "The Giving Tree." It is worth re-reading and looking at the simple, lovingly rendered drawings. How unselfishly that tree provided for toddler, boy, young man, adult, and, finally, the elder!

We won't be celebrating with our customary metaphysical sit-down *Tu Bish'vat* family seder this year, the ceremony invented by the mystics of *Ts'fat* in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. (*Tu* refers to the

15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of *Sh'vat*, adding the numeric values of the Hebrew letters.) We won't be drinking four cups of wine, from white to blush to rosé to red, mimicking the seasons of growth, or blessing and tasting samples of all the fruits that grow on trees in Israel. But we will have a *Tu Bish'vat* oneg on the first Erev Shabbat after January 31<sup>st</sup>, the evening on which *Tu Bish'vat* begins. Together, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will chant a joyous *Shehechyanu* in gratitude to God for being kept alive to enjoy this special season. After the destruction wrought by Irma and the miracle of our synagogue's relatively unblemished survival, the prayer will seem more meaningful than ever, as will our understanding of the metaphor involving Torah as Tree. "It will be as a tree of life to those who hold tight to it and everyone who upholds it is happy. Its ways are pleasantness and all its paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:17-18) *Etz Chaim Hi*.



**This *Tu Bish'vat* we honor the trees taken by hurricane Irma and remember the significance of the native mangroves that serve to protect our islands. At top right we see Coconut Palms sprouting. The center**

**picture shows young mangroves taking root, soon to be providing protection for our shoreline.**



We chant this verse every Shabbat morning Torah service. Our voices soar.

Please take home with you one of the seedlings from the table in the social hall on *Tu Bish'vat* oneg night. It is a gift. Plant it, tend it – singing *mayim, mayim, mayim* as you water it is optional :- ) – and reap the fruits of your caring labor. *Chag Sameach*.

Happy New Year,  
you magnificent  
trees.◊





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**February 2018**

**16 Shevat - 13 Adar 5778**

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# February 2018

16 Shevat - 13 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Ken Atlas  Tu BiSh'vat Oneg <i>Lynn Nobil</i> <i>Marc Bloom</i>	3  <b>Movie</b> <i>The Green Prince</i> 7:00 p.m.
4  <b>Sisterhood Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9  Dana Grace  <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett</i> <i>Arthur Plutzer</i>	10  <b>Movie</b> <i>Gett: The Trial of Vivienne Amsalem</i> 7:00 p.m.
11 KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m. Annual Mtg. 11 a.m.	12	13	14 Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	15  New Moon/ Rosh Chodesh Adar	16  Joyce Peckman  <i>Hannah David</i>	17  <b>Rabbi Agler Torah Service</b> 10:00 a.m.
18  <b>Movie</b> <i>The Outrageous Sophie Tucker</i> 7:00 p.m.	19	20	21  <b>Art Discussion Group - Rembrandt</b> 7:00 p.m.	22	23 Barney Coltman  <i>Jane Friedman</i>  <b>Advertisers' &amp; New Members Dinner</b> 6:00 p.m.	24
25	26	27	28  <b>Purim, Pizza &amp; Movie</b>  6:00 p.m.			

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## President's Message

Beth Hayden



Shalom uvrachah,

This is February, the month in 1943 which marks the arrests and deaths of Die Weiße Rose (the White Rose). Die Weiße Rose was a non-violent resistance organization formed by students at the University of Munich during the rule of the Third Reich. Hans Scholl founded the movement and his sisters, Sophie and later, Inge, also joined when they became students at the University. For nine months the White Rose printed and distributed circulars calling for resistance to Nazi policies and governance. Core members, and their names deserve remembrance for their courage, included Hans and Sophie Scholl, Inge Scholl, Alex Schmorell, Willi Graf, Cristoph Probst and their philosophy professor, Kurt Huber.

The Scholls came from an upper middle class, politically progressive family. At first, taken in by the Reich's bombast, both Sophie and Hans served as leaders in Nazi youth movements. They were shortly disillusioned. In an atmosphere where it was dangerous to even speak or think against the Reich, the Scholl family maintained its intellectual and spiritual integrity. Children were trained to report their parents, neighbors were encouraged to turn in their neighbors. This was an atmosphere of "correct speak"

in which every word uttered and every action taken had to be carefully controlled. One never knew who was watching, listening and reporting to the Gestapo.

Tragedy encountered the Scholls on February 18, 1943. They had been successful in turning out fliers encouraging resistance against the Reich. On February 18, Hans and Sophie decided to distribute more fliers at the University of Munich. They distributed fliers outside the classrooms and then left only to discover they had, in their haste, neglected to distribute a significant number of fliers that remained in the briefcase. They returned and Sophie, for whatever reason, decided to throw the remaining fliers off an upstairs balcony into the courtyard below. They were spotted by a university custodian — an informer — and arrested.

Sophie and Hans were questioned for four days; their trial set for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. They were convicted of treason and sentenced to death, executed by guillotine only hours later. Hans Scholl's last words before his death were "Long live freedom!" Hans and Sophie were 25 and 22, respectively, at the time of their deaths. Three other members of the White Rose were tried and executed; the rest received prison terms.

—B'shalom, Beth

# Nosh

## Rabbi Agler's February Torah Service

Saturday morning Torah learning services with Rabbi Richard Agler have become a highlight of our winter months, both for our ever-present stalwarts and our snowbirds. The engaging discussion happens in a warm, informal atmosphere, Reminders of what is important in our history and heritage feel like gifts while we brush up on Jewish life lessons. (There is never any white-washing of ancestral behavior.) This month's service will take place on February 10<sup>th</sup>. As always, Rabbi Agler's services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. There will be a Kiddush afterwards, of course. We believe in feeding the body as well as mind, heart and soul.

## KJCC Jewish Film Festival Continues

If you enjoyed "The Women's Balcony" and "A Stranger Among Us" in January, you definitely want to see the films our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Film Fest will show in February (see poster on page 32 for schedule). "The Green Prince" will start off the month on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are grateful to our anonymous donor sponsoring half of the festival and would welcome anyone else who would like to contribute to this weekly program in season (and its delicious post-movie repasts). Many thanks to Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee for preparing this thoughtful, entertaining program. All films begin at 7:00 p.m. There is no charge, and we encourage you to bring friends and winter guests. For further information or to become a sponsor, contact Medina at [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com).

## A Gift for You on Tu BiSh'vat

We are going to celebrate The New Year of the Trees differently this year. No big sit-down metaphysical family seder with four glasses of wine, stories, blessings on every kind of fruit that flourishes in Israel followed by planting trees on KJCC's property. Instead, we will have a Tu Bish'vat oneg, chant a vigorous *Shehechianu* in

gratitude for surviving to reach this season, and then we will sample and bless the fruits. We are going small but significant this year. All who come to services on Friday night, February 2<sup>nd</sup> (though Tu Bish'vat actually begins on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January) will, if they wish, get seedlings that look like mini-trees to bring home and care for and bring back to use as living *karpas* when we assemble in March for our Passover Seder.

## Pizza and Purim: Wednesday, February 28

We will hold our annual reading of *Megillat Esther* on Wednesday evening, February 28<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring masks and costumes or let us transform you with shawls and masks, crowns and beards. This is always a fun evening as well as a chance to perform the important *mitzvah* of hearing the *ganze Megillah*. We'll have healthy food to eat as well as pizza and there will be an uproarious comedy afterwards, "A Matter of Size," about overweight Israelis who decide to become Sumo wrestlers. Among the other *mitzvot* of the holiday (to share a festive meal, to give gifts of food to our neighbors, *mishloach manot*, and to give charity to the needy), there is the commandment to drink until we cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordechai." Yes, there will be adult beverages. (We count on your discretion to make driving home safely your prime directive). Bring on the *groggers*!!! Be prepared to make lots of joyful noise.

## A Pop-Up Program on Wednesdays

There's a new group in town. It's called the Upper Keys Life Enrichment Coalition. Terry Willner-Tainow, Natalie Dorf, Dave Mont and Georgia Landau are some of the key KJCC people who have been working on this project. Every Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., now through April, J.O.Y. will host activities ranging from body stretching to brain stimulation, computer proficiency to *mah jongg*, art projects, afternoon movies, popcorn, coffee and pot luck lunches. If you are looking for something interesting to do on Wednesdays, drop by the airy facility at 161 Pearl

## February Birthdays

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1st.....	Roy Pollack
2nd.....	Jaxson Brandon Lebofsky
3rd.....	Beth Horowitz
3rd.....	Dick Bromwich
3rd.....	Leslie Janowitz
5th.....	Rebecca Smith Strasser
6th.....	Evan Harvey
6th.....	Martin Field
7th.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....	Larry Jacobs
9th.....	Linda Pincus
9th.....	Ron Garrett
9th.....	Rosemary Barefoot
12th.....	Johnny Knowles
12th.....	Paul Roberts
13th.....	Hannah David
13th.....	Jerrold Benowitz
14th.....	Debbie Madnick
15th.....	Judith Weber
18th.....	Beth Hayden
18th.....	Evan Daddona
21st.....	David J. Marmar
22nd.....	Harry Friedman
22nd.....	Tomar Gross
23rd.....	Sienna Rose Lebofsky
24th.....	Muriel Swartz
24th.....	Suzie Greenman
25th.....	Rita Conklin
26th.....	Jim Williams
26th.....	John D. Schur

Ave. in Tavernier. The place sounds sweet. All activities are free. For more information, contact Betsy Baste at [uklecinc@gmail.com](mailto:uklecinc@gmail.com).

### Israel Trip Cancelled

We're sorry to announce the cancellation of the spring 2018 trip to Israel. Our deep appreciation to Rabbi Agler for all his preparation and hard work. Perhaps another year.

### Sisterhood's New Book Club

The first meeting, and discussion of Myla Goldberg's book, "The Bee Season," was such a

## February Anniversaries

	Years
9th	Uri & Liliam Kamely.....26

success (and the lunch so delicious) that a second session is being planned for February. Watch Beth's Tuesday announcements for location and title of the new book to be discussed. Many thanks to Linda Pollack for setting the bar high for an afternoon of stimulating talk and deepening friendships. Again, bring your suggestions with you for future books to discuss so we can choose our next book. For more information, contact Randi Grant at [rkgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpa@bellsouth.net) or 954-383-4320.

### Art Discussion Tackles Rembrandt

The next meeting of the Jewish Art and Artists Discussion Group will explore "Rembrandt's Jews," the Dutch artist's fascination with and focus on Jewish subjects. This group will be co-facilitated by Gloria Avner and Beth Kaminstein (with input by KJCC Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler) on Wednesday evening, February 21st, at 7:00 p.m. Links to specific works will be provided in advance. Bring friends who might be interested. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge. It should be another fascinating evening.

### Harry's Garden Needs Support

It's been three years since Harry satisfied his requirements for Eagle Scout by planning, building, and bringing to literal fruition a functioning, organic garden. Filled with nourishing vegetables and herbs, maintained on KJCC property, this eye-and-stomach-pleasing garden has provided healthy additions and alternatives to oneg sweets nearly every Erev Shabbat in growing season. Jane and Harry have taken innumerable boxes overflowing with fresh produce to Burton Memorial Church where it's shared via Burton's Food Bank. This garden has fed us, and now we need to feed it. Irma destroyed most of the white pick-

et fencing that framed the garden and that has to be replaced. The garden needs dirt and compost, seeds and plants.

There is an amazing record of this garden's creation on the table in our foyer. Please peruse the photos and description.

Thank you to Lorena and Michael Kaufman for their generous donation to get the ball rolling and the garden growing. There is a box in the Social Hall where you can deposit your check.

### **Harry Gets Naval Academy Nomination**

This note came in the mail from the Friedman family: "Just a quick update—good news! I just got off the phone with Congressman Curbelo in Washington, D.C. Harry has officially received his Congressional nomination to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis after he graduates later this year! We couldn't be more proud." — *Steve and Jane*

We're proud of Harry and happy for you, too.

### **Advertisers' and New Members' Dinner**

It's appreciation evening for our Chai-Lights and Directory Advertisers as well as our new members on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We make our best food and give our supporters and recent additions to our *mishpocha* our sincerest, most welcoming "thank you." We are a small community, a minority that stretches over 136 miles, and we love to support those who support us. Medina Roy will, as usual, chair this upbeat event. Please contact her to tell her you are coming and to co-ordinate your dish. This is always a satisfying evening. RSVP to [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com). Also, please see the full-page promo on page 12.

### **Arlo Haskell and *The Jews of Key West***

We have an exciting, informative evening ahead of us on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., thanks to Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee. Arlo Haskell, writer, historian, literary organizer and publisher, will be at KJCC to talk about his newest book, *The Jews of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers, & Revolutionaries*

(1823-1969).

Leading scholars praise *The Jews of Key West* as a groundbreaking addition to the histories of Key West. "Haskell's new book uncovers in fascinating and vivid detail the story of the immense impact the Jewish community has had on the basic culture of Key West," says Bancroft Prize-winning historian Robert D. Richardson.

The book, illustrated with 100 full-color plates, will be available for sale after the talk, and of course inscription by the author. There is no charge to attend, guests are welcome, and there will, of course, be refreshments. Please see the ad on page 18.

### **A Note To All From Adult Education**

On behalf of my committee and all of KJCC, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to our own Rabbi Ed Rosenthal for providing us with a weekend filled with education and inspiration on Judaism's ancient spiritual teachings, the Kabbalah. (We, his students, were very much the vessel being filled.) Many thanks to Michael and Lorena Kaufman for helping fund this event and to Joyce Peckman for sponsoring the Friday night dinner that started the weekend's nourishment.

On a personal note, as chair of the Adult Education Committee, I could not have put this together without the help of some wise and hard-working KJCC friends. I'd like to thank Gloria Avner, our amazing head of Ritual, for her enormous contribution in working with me on the

### **Oneg Sponsors for February 2018**

*February 2nd* - Marc Bloom, in honor of Ellen Bloom. Lynn Nobil, in memory of Sara and Joel Cohen.

*February 9th* - Erica Lieberman-Garrett, in celebration of Erica's 60th birthday. Arthur Plutzer, in honor of Pauline Roller.

*February 16th* - Hannah David, in honor of Hannah's 65th birthday.

*February 23rd* - Jane Friedman, in honor of Harry's and mom Angelina's birthdays.

program, plus making all the arrangements and coordinating with Rabbi Ed. At 11:30 Friday night, amid a small group of tired planners, Jan Price came up with the seating arrangement that created such a warm and intimate atmosphere. Thanks go to bagelmon Marc Bloom, who is always there when you need him without ever having to ask.

Special thanks are due to Sam Vinicur, not only for his guidance but also for his efforts to make the program happen in the first place.

Some time last year when Rabbi Ed and his Scubi Jews were at the KJCC, he and Sam got into a discussion. Rabbi Ed did a short riff about the Kabbalah and its teachings. Sam thought everyone would want to hear what he'd just heard, and asked Rabbi Ed if he might come and do a Kabbalah presentation to our members. Gloria and Ed were put in touch, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I just loved this program. It was so KJCC. I am so grateful to all and we are so grateful to you, Rabbi Ed. *Todah rabah.* — Medina Roy

## Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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**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.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC 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 Hannah David, 305-744-6048.

**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, YAHREZIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@gmail.com](mailto:lindap4000@gmail.com).

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

# KJCC Annual Community Passover Second Seder



Saturday, March 31, 2018

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

104 Madeira Rd Islamorada, FL 33036

MM 82.1 Bayside behind Lorelei



For information and reservations contact

Susan Gordon

susangordon424@yahoo.com, (305) 766-3585

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

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

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

# PASSOVER

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

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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



Welcome to a new month full of wonderful activities and opportunities to become more involved with the KJCC. Early last month, on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, Sisterhood held our first meeting of the 2018 new year with 13 women attending. Many great ideas were discussed, and exciting events were planned.

I become energized as meeting facilitator when I am greeted with such enthusiasm from all of the dedicated women whom I share the table with at our monthly meetings. The first order of new business was the election and installation of new Sisterhood officers for 2018. We are pleased to announce that all officers from last year will continue in their current positions: President: Susan Gordon; Vice President: Jane Friedman; Treasurer: Erica Lieberman-Garrett; Recording Secretary: Geri Smith; and Corresponding Secretary: Michele Riley. I would like to thank Joyce Peckman for conducting a thoughtful and beautiful installation ceremony.

We spent the remainder of the meeting enthusiastically planning Shabbat and Holiday dinners from January through July. Thank you to Joyce Peckman, who sponsored the Shabbaton Shabbat Dairy Dinner, Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. The dinner marked the start of a weekend of learning with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.

The Sisterhood Book Club, a new activity, held its first meeting in January at Linda Pollack's house (thank you Linda, for hosting a beautiful luncheon and first meet). It will continue to meet monthly to discuss a Jewish themed book at a member's home. The first book discussed was *Bee Season*, a stimulating novel by Myla Goldberg. A new book will be selected at each meeting. For further information please contact Randi Grant at 954-383-4320 or by email: rkgcpa@bellsouth.net

We look forward to preparing a delicious luncheon on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, following the KJCC's Annual General Membership Meeting with election and installation of new KJCC Officers and Directors. Many thanks to Nettie

Seder for planning the luncheon and taking all reservations. Please contact Nettie to make your reservation and discuss what you would like to contribute to the luncheon. Call 305-852-7283 or email: ngseder@yahoo.com.

All KJCC women: please plan ahead and be sure to save Sunday evening, March 18<sup>th</sup> for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Seder. This is a wonderful and very sweet tradition, and a special time for women to celebrate Passover together in a meaningful way. Erica Lieberman-Garrett will be the contact person. Please email her at hip-pie-jap@hotmail.com or call her at 305-393-1162. More details will come next month.

Also, at the end of March, please plan to join your KJCC *Mishpocha* for the Annual KJCC Community Seder. Details about the Seder will be in next month's Chai-Lights.

It's not too soon to put a few other dates for Shabbat dinners on your calendar. All dinners begin at 6:00 p.m. and are followed by Shabbat services at 7:30 p.m. On Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate *Yom HaAtzma'ut*, Israel Independence Day, with a Shabbat feast of Israeli foods while we listen to traditional Israeli folk music, and maybe even do some dancing! On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Shavuot with a traditional dairy dinner. The KJCC annual Shabbake and celebration of Pauline Roller's 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday will be held on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

We have much to look forward to. I would like to thank all of the women of Sisterhood who have shown their confidence in me by electing me to serve as president for another year. I am excited to be working with such competent women who have been elected to the other Sisterhood officer positions. With the help and involvement of the women who attend our monthly meetings, and those who will choose to become increasingly involved, I am certain we will all have a great year!

Please plan to attend the next Sisterhood meeting, Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. ♦

# –KJCC's Adult Education Committee Presents–

## Jewish Art and Artists Discussion Group, Part II:

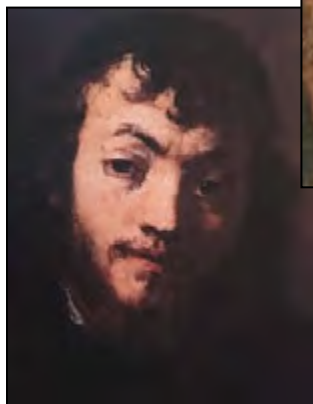
### *Rembrandt and the Jews*

One of the most famous artists in western history, the Dutch master

Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669), who was not Jewish, had an affinity for painting the Jews of his Amsterdam neighborhood, both his neighbors and poor immigrants. Their faces and dress fascinated him. He often used them as facial models for portraits of famous

figures from the Hebrew Bible and to illustrate Biblical scenes.

This evening's discussion, to be led by artists Gloria Avner and Beth Kaminstein, will focus on Rembrandt's art, subject matter and influences. Rabbi Richard Agler will discuss Judaism in Europe during the time of Rembrandt.



Date:  
Wed., Mar. 21, 2018

Time:  
7:00 p.m.

Place:  
KJCC classroom

No charge. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.





*In Memoriam February 2018*

In Memory Of

## Hedy Kopecky

By Adam & Judy Starr

In Memory Of

**Mr. Harry Miller**

By Ira & Shirley Stein

In Memory Of

## Sally Sussman

By Richard &amp; Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

**Sara J. Cohen**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

**Ann R. Kapulskey**

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

## Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memory Of

**Samuel Wolfe**

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memory Of

## Sydney Zinner

By Donald Zinner

In Memory Of

## AI Roller

By Pauline Roller

## ***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 Yochebed*.)

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

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

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



**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
ADVERTISERS & NEW MEMBERS  
SHABBAT DINNER**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018**

**6:00 PM**

**SERVICES TO FOLLOW AT 7:30**

**~DAIRY~**

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



Contact:

Medina - [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com) - 305-394 -1702  
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.  
Please reserve by February 15th.

No charge for members in good standing  
Non-advertiser guests: \$10

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Pregnant 14 years of her life

Recently, a *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) woman, from the *Meah Shearim* neighborhood of Jerusalem, gave birth to her 20th child. It was the 42-year-old's 19th delivery (her 18th was a set of twins). Hadassah University Medical Center reported that the woman has spent a total of 14 years of her life pregnant. (According to the Guinness World Record website, an 18th century Russian peasant woman holds the record for giving birth to 69 children, including 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets. A textbook example of a record no one would want to break.) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-21-17)

### Israelis excluded

Seven Israeli chess players were denied visas to participate in an international speed-chess tournament hosted by Saudi Arabia, which was held at the end of December. (Saudi Arabia does not recognize Israel and there are no formal ties between the two countries.) Lior Aizenberg, spokesman for Israel Chess Federation, said, "The event is not a world championship if they prevent chess players from several countries from taking part. Every chess player should have the right to participate in an event on the basis of professional criteria, regardless of their passports, their place of issue or the stamps they bear." As we go to press, the Israeli federation is considering legal action and holding an international competition in Israel for players excluded from the match in Saudi Arabia. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 12-24-17)

### Israeli Teen Rewarded by Facebook

While most of his friends are into playing video games, Yuval Shprintz, a high school senior from Tzurit, a town in northern Israel, has been interested in information security, becoming somewhat of an expert in it. Some time ago, he was playing around with Whatsapp, the instant messaging platform

created in Israel and now owned by Facebook, when he stumbled upon a major security breach, part of which could easily crash the application by anyone with just a little bit of coding knowledge. Using a program that allows users to report software malfunctions to developers, Shprintz alerted Facebook to the problem. He heard nothing from them for several weeks. Then, in early December, Facebook sent Shprintz a check for \$1,250, saying "we're grateful that this has been brought to our attention." Shprintz used the money to buy – what else? – a newer and more powerful computer. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 12-19-17)

### Space-Age Product Evolves

A super-strong steel substitute that was invented in Israel – and then sent into space by NASA – is now being used for hip replacements. The material, which goes by the name MP-1, was developed by Aliza Buchman of the Nahariya-based startup MMA Tech in, collaboration with Professor Robert Bryant of the University of Virginia. The advanced polymeric material has high resistance to heat, is lightweight but very strong and shows little wear and tear, working well in joint surgery. The first human operation using MP-1 was performed twelve years ago in New Zealand. Since then, 74 surgeries have been done in that country. Another surgery was performed recently at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa. "One of the problems with existing implants is wear and tear," explained Dr. Daniel Levin, who performed one of the surgeries. "Over time, patients have to undergo repeat surgery and replace the implant due to loosening and cracking. The expectation of the new material is long-term durability...the possibility for patients to have a better quality of life." The possibilities for MP-1 are expanding: knee replacements and even dental implants are being planned. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 12-27-17)

### **“Sherman” Goes on a Diet**

Ten overweight Israeli hedgehogs are now on strict diets and an exercise program because they are too fat to curl up into a ball, a necessary trait to fend off predators. Local Israeli animal lovers found them teetering through the streets and brought them to the Ramat Gan Zoo, outside Tel Aviv, where they were placed on the diet and exercise regimens. The staff at the zoo said the critters had probably been eating food left out for pets. “A lot of people put cat food on the streets for the stray cats...the problem is that there is other wildlife that eats it,” said zookeeper Becka Rifkin. One adult male hedgehog named Sherman weighed 3.5 pounds when he arrived at the zoo, almost double the average weight for a hedgehog his age. Zoo staff are hoping to release the slimmed animals by this coming summer. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 1-4-18)

### **Mysterious “Wheel of Giants”**

A mysterious stone formation located in the Golan Heights, and estimated to be about 5,000 years old, was discovered by Israeli archaeologists shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War. It is roughly the same age as Stonehenge. Known in Arabic as Rujm el-Hiri (“stone heap of the wildcat”) and in Hebrew as *Gilgal Refaim* (“wheel of giants”), the formation of stones is so vast that it is best seen from the sky. Unlike the massive rocks of Stonehenge, this circle formation is made up of much smaller stones and, according to Popular Archaeology, has a total diameter of more than 500 feet. The formation consists of five circles; the walls that make up these circles have a height of some 6.6 feet, with outer walls as high as 8 feet. The stones have a combined weight estimated at 37,500 tons. Despite its massive size, it’s hard to see how the whole site is connected from ground level, where it just looks like random rocks and rubble. At the heart of the “Wheel of Giants” is a 15-foot-high burial mound. Who and what was buried there is not known, probably taken by tomb robbers long ago. A 2010 report in Biblical Archaeology Review said the circles may have been used as “an ancient calendri-

cal device that indicated the arrival of the summer solstice and other astronomical events.” The same report said the tomb may have been added as much as 2,000 years after the circles were created. There are many theories explaining the Wheel; none are definitive. To see what this “Wheel of Giants” looks like, go to <https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology>. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 12-24-17)

### **In Memoriam**

\* Yehoshua HersHKovitz, who began the first kosher “Meals on Wheels” program out of his kitchen in Brooklyn, died at the end of December. He was 92. HersHKovitz founded *Tomche Shabbos* (“Supporters of the Sabbath”) in 1975 because he was concerned that one of his neighbors (and others in the community) could not afford to put food on the table on Friday evenings. Today, the original *Tomche Shabbos* distributes meals to 600 families in Brooklyn. The project has spread to Jewish communities around the world. Born in Hungary, HersHKovitz was deported to Dachau concentration camp in 1944. When liberated he learned that most of his family had perished in the Holocaust. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 12-29-17)

\* Kazimierz Piechowski, a non-Jewish political prisoner who led a daring escape from Auschwitz using the stolen car of a Nazi official, has died at the age of 98. Piechowski was one of four men in the escape plan using stolen SS uniforms and weapons. Driving toward the camp gate, Piechowski yelled: “Wake up, you buggers. Open the gate or I’ll open you up.” Piechowski was sent to the camp with a group of Polish Boy Scouts as political prisoners in 1940. Following his escape, he joined the Resistance. One of the other escapees smuggled out what allegedly was the first detailed document detailing the crimes committed at Auschwitz, where 1.1 million people — most of them Jews — were killed. The smuggled material was given to the Resistance. As a result of this escape, the Nazis began tattooing prisoners. After the war, Piechowski was sentenced by the communist authorities to ten years in prison and reportedly served seven of those ten years. The famous escape was documented in the 2007 film, “The Runaway.”

Piechowski went on to become an engineer and has written two books about his experiences. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-18-17)

\* Jerry Yellin, who flew the last combat mission in World War II, died at the end of December. He was 93. Born in Newark, New Jersey, Yellin enlisted in the military two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, on his 18th birthday. As a lieutenant in the 78th Fighter Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps based on Iwo Jima, Yellin led an attack on Japanese airfields when Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender. When he returned to his base, Yellin belatedly learned of the cease-fire. His squadron had not received the coded signal ordering them to stop their attack. Yellin was upset by what he saw on Iwo Jima saying, "there wasn't a blade of grass and there were 28,000 bodies rotting in the sun." Sixteen members of his squadron were killed on missions. (Some 6,800 American servicemen and over 20,000 Japanese were killed in the battle for this one small Pacific island.) Yellin was discharged with the rank of captain and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. For many years after he was discharged, Yellin suffered from what is now known as PTSD – post-traumatic stress disorder. He struggled to hold down jobs and moved around the United States many times, relocating for a time in Israel. After conversations with other veterans who struggled to adapt to civilian life, in 2010 he co-founded "Operation Warrior Wellness," a division of the David Lynch Foundation that helps veterans learn Transcendental Meditation. (Yellin's wife got him to try T.M. – with some success – after she saw the practice's originator, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi on "The Merv Griffin Show.") In recent years, he served as the national spokesman for the Spirit of '45, a nonprofit organization that "promotes the legacy of World War II veterans." ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 12-26-17)

\* Fred Bass, the man who transformed the Strand, his father's small used-book store, into the largest used-book store in the world (it went by the slogan "18 Miles of Books") died at the beginning of January. He was 89. Bass was thirteen when he began

working at the bookstore founded in 1927 by his father Benjamin, a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant. (Fred's mother Shirley, a Polish Jewish immigrant, died when he was six.) At the time, it was one of nearly 50 used and specialty book stores along Manhattan's Fourth Avenue, known back then as "Book Row." (Today the Strand is located on Broadway at 12th Street, having moved there in 1957 with 70,000 books, growing to a half-million by the mid-1960s and 2.5 million by the 1990s. By then, a storage warehouse in Brooklyn had to be purchased.) In 1997, the Strand had become the world's largest used-book store in the world. During the Depression, the elder Bass was destitute and placed Fred and his sister in foster care. Except for two years in the Army, Fred never left the area until he retired in November 2017, leaving the iconic store in the hands of his daughter Nancy (who's married to Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon). Bass created a literary quiz for prospective Strand employees when they filled out their application. Applicants had to match ten authors with ten titles. "I thought it was a quick way to find out if somebody had any knowledge of books," he said. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 1-4-18)

### Did You Know...

\* Israeli startups raised over \$5 billion in 2017, surpassing the \$4.8 billion raised the previous year, which was itself a record. ([www.globes-online.com](http://www.globes-online.com), 12-28-17)

\* Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz has been promoted to senior rabbi at the 75-year-old Temple Beth Shalom synagogue in Miami Beach. Pomerantz has served at Beth Shalom since 1994. She will be its first female rabbi. Pomerantz was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1989. She became the first female president of the Rabbinic Association of Greater Miami in 1998. The recipient of the Jewish Museum of Florida's "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" award, Pomerantz has been honored by the city of Miami Beach as "A Woman to Know" and was named "A Woman of Valor" by the National Council of Jewish Women. ([www.miamiherald.com](http://www.miamiherald.com), 12-26-17) ♦

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# 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.*

## Adult Education

Avner, Gloria  
Bolton, Donna  
Gross, Patricia  
Hancock, Cleo  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Klein-Gross, Randy  
Williams, Jim & Rita

## In Honor of

Shabbaton  
Shabbaton  
Shabbaton  
Shabbaton  
Shabbaton  
Shabbaton  
Film Festival

## Scholarship

Vanartsdalen, David & Patricia

## Tikkun Olam

David, Hannah  
Ecker, Ellen  
Kwalick, Teresa  
Margulies, Stanley  
Riley, Michele  
Roy, Medina  
Steinbock, Stephen

## In Honor of

Puerto Rico aid  
Puerto Rico aid  
Puerto Rico aid  
Puerto Rico aid  
Puerto Rico aid  
Vegetable & herb garden  
Vegetable & herb garden

## Book Plate

Coltman, Barnet     Robert Coltman & Eva Levine

## In Memory of

## Chai-Lights

Mayk, Israel & Nissan     Auld Lane Syne feature

## In honor of

## Tikkun Olam

Mead, Richard & Elizabeth

## In Memory of

Patty Silver

## General Fund

Cole, Ron  
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny  
Mayk, Israel & Nissan  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## Yahrzeit

Avner, Gloria  
Boruszak, Joan  
Boruszak, Joan  
Cohn, Nancy  
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie

## In Memory of

Beatrice & Alex Avner  
Burton Boruszak  
Emma Kohlenbrener  
David Cohn  
Charles Margolis

## Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## In Memory of

Patty Silver Schocket

## Meditation Garden

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

## In Support of

Harry's garden

## Oneg Sponsorship

Ellner, Susan  
Gordon, Susan  
Peckman, Joyce  
Plutzer, Arthur  
Seder, Nettie  
Shabathai, Kathy

## In Honor of

Rhett's 2nd birthday  
Bar Mitzvah of Nonok Yosef  
Pauline Roller  
Joe Shabathai's birthday

## Yizkor Book

Mayk, Israel & Nissan

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## Eye on the Arts

### Joyce Peckman



**The Kennedys** – Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Key Largo Library. This singing couple plays a folk-rock blend of country, bluegrass and swing on guitar, ukulele and electric sitar. The free concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Largo Library.

**An Evening at the Opera** – Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at San Pablo Church in Marathon and Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at Island Community Church in Islamorada, MM 83.2 bayside. Four remarkable performers from around the world will perform a selection of opera favorites. Tickets are \$30, available at *floridakeysconcerts.com*. For further information, contact Joyce at 305-240-1000.

**The Key Players presents “War of the Worlds, the Panic Broadcast”** – Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>; then Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., all at the Murray Nelson Government Center, MM 102 bayside in Key Largo. Tickets are \$15 online at *thekeyplayers.org*.

**Morada Bay Art Walk** – Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at MM 81.5. The third Thursday monthly outdoor festival features artists and craft vendors, live music and food by local restaurants.

**Keys Community Concert Band – All Creatures Great and Small.** Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m., Founders’ Park in Islamorada, MM 86.8 bayside. Bring a folding chair or blanket and your puppy for the annual Puppy Parade at Founders’ Park, featuring animal-themed music. There is no charge for Community Concert Band concerts.

**Joe Cella Birds in Nature Art Show** – February 17<sup>th</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Key Largo Public Library Community Room, presented by the Purple Isles Art Guild. Do stop by. You

never know which KJCC members will be displaying their works. [www.agpi.us](http://www.agpi.us)

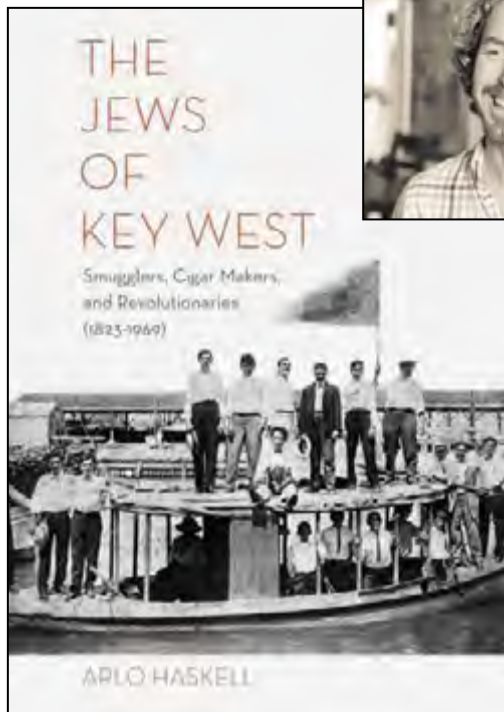
**Watercolor Workshop** – led by nationally acclaimed artist Don Andrews, known for his glowing washes and vibrant color. Offered by The Art Guild of the Purple Isles on February 19-20-21 at the Key Largo Lions Club. Cost for the three-day workshop, which includes lunch each day, is \$300.00 for guild members and \$350.00 for non-members. Inquiries to Marti Waltz at [dirkwaltz@aol.com](mailto:dirkwaltz@aol.com) or 305-853-9177.

**The Attaca Quartet** – This exuberant, internationally acclaimed string quartet will perform at Marathon High School on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and at Island Community Church in Islamorada on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30, available at the door or the website: *floridakeysconcerts.com*.

**Fandango Quartet** – Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Marathon High School and Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at Island Community Church, 7:30 p.m. You will love this spicy mix of Latin, Sephardic, Balkan and classical sounds played on flute, violin, cello and guitar, by two award-winning married couples from Spain, Bosnia, U.S. and United Kingdom. (This is FLKCA’s final concert of the season.) [www.floridakeysconcerts.com](http://www.floridakeysconcerts.com).

**Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** – February 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, then March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m., plus Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at Coral Shores High School in Tavernier. Over seventy kids and teachers have been working an incredible number of hours to bring this fabulous performance to the Keys. It should be almost like a night on Broadway. Don’t miss it! (For Andrew Lloyd Webber fans, this was his first musical, one he wrote in college.) Tickets are \$5 presale and \$10 at the door. ♦

**Smugglers. Secret cells  
of plotting Revolutionaries.  
Overturners of Empires.  
Operators of a clandestine  
human underground.  
Think you know the Jews  
of Key West? Come to KJCC on  
Wednesday, March 7th  
and hear the real stories.**



What happens in almost every era and culture when there are trade and export opportunities? Yes, we see an influx of Jews and then see them rise in prominence. Arlo Haskell, a Keys native and executive director of the Key West Literary

Seminar, has researched and written a riveting book about the Jews of Key West. (They first arrived as peddlers long before the Civil War.) Their story, interwoven with commercial success, political intrigue and an occasional wink at the strictures of law, was never told in full before this book. (For lots of reasons, including work as human smugglers and support for José Martí plus the eventual rise of the local Ku Klux Klan.) Mr. Haskell himself will be at KJCC to regale us with stories and answer questions. It all begins at 7:00 p.m. Please join us. Bring any interested friends. There is no charge, and of course there will be refreshments. Brought to you by KJCC's Adult Education Committee, [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)

# Photo Gallery

On December 21st again this year (on the day with, symbolically, the least possible daylight), religious leaders and interested others gathered for the Homeless Memorial Service at Settler's Park in Tavernier. Some 72 homeless, infants to aged, lost in 2017, were honored and remembered. Of the 24 in attendance, ten were KJCC members.





**At left, Reverends Terry Hudson, Kerby Avedovech and Phil Underwood offered prayers for each homeless person as their names were called out. A candle was then lit to honor each one.**



**Homeless Memorial Service (cont.)...**



**Gloria Avner and Steve Steinbock represented KJCC. Gloria read aloud a passage from Isaiah. Steve read the Marcia Hain poem about remembering from the KJCC Yizkor book and then led a group recitation of Kaddish. The program was organized and led by Reverend Pam Feeser.**





The three photos at top were all taken at the Homestead holiday celebration and submitted by KJCC members Gunther and Shirley Karger. They're the two older teens in the school picture. In the shot below, Gunther isn't keeping his hands warm, he's playing holiday tunes on his trusty harmonica.



At right, Lee Schur's great-grandson looks exceptionally dapper (and also ready for a quick trip to bed) as he and the Schur family ring in the New Year in Chicago. That's Lee, of course, at far right below, looking better and better after a year of recovery challenges.



In the photo near right, Marcia Kreitman tries in vain to restrain the New Year's Eve enthusiasm of husband (and fellow exceptional Keys artist) John Hawver.



**KJCC  
presents**

# **Dave Feder In Concert**

**Wednesday, March 28th**

**Showtime: 7:30 pm**

**Location:** Keys Jewish Community Center  
MM 93.1 Oceanside, Tavernier, FL

**Tickets: \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at door (cash/checks) or online via [www.DavidFeder.com](http://www.DavidFeder.com) (online add \$3.45 Eventbrite handling fee). Contact Beth Hayden for tickets and additional info at: 305-773-0067 or [hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net)

**Limited Seating. Reserve Now. CDs on sale at concert.**

## **LIMITLESS GUITAR**

DAVIDFEDER.COM



The photo top right was sent by KJCC friend Bert Jimenez from St. Pete. (The city in Florida, not Russia. Can you read the Hebrew on his tee shirt?) With him in the center is KJCC member Richard Kaufman, psychiatrist emeritus, who is apparently wintering there this year. The other gentleman, dapper and continental with his espresso, is Bert's father's son-in-law, from Iran. At near right are Mary Anne and Scott Pearl at their latest Special Olympics event.



Jules Seder, shown in the photo just below, is deeply involved with Barbershop a cappella competitions around the country. He knew the group that performed in Islamorada on January 16th, and was captured doing this impromptu performance with them.



The photo above shows that the orchids are in bloom in the KJCC Meditation Garden orchid pergola.



In the photo just above we see the new KJCC Sisterhood officers at their January swearing-in: (l-r) Michele Riley, corresponding secretary; Erica Lieberman-Garrett, treasurer; Susan Gordon, president; Geri Felder Smith, recording secretary; and Jane Friedman, vice-president. Joyce Peckman, past-president of Sisterhood (at far left), performed the ceremony.

# 15th Annual Women's Seder

## Sunday

**March 18, 2018**

**5:00 PM @ KJCC**

## Homemade Seder Dinner w/Wine

**Come celebrate the 15th  
KJCC Women's Seder.**

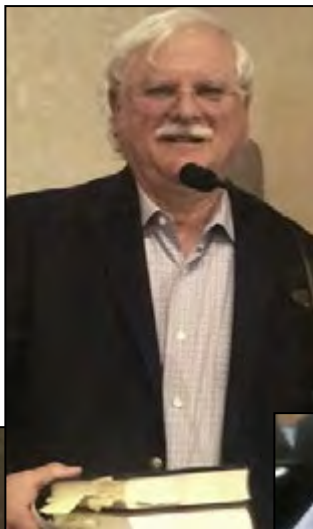
Donation: \$18 chai  
+ \$15.00 for 15 years = \$33

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

**Limited seating - Please RSVP by  
March 12th  
Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
hippiejap@hotmail.com  
(305) 393-1162**

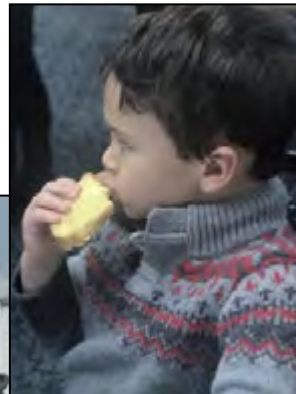


The photos on this page were all taken at the December 29th service and oneg. The former was led by Steve Hartz, top right, and the oneg was sponsored by Beth Hayden. You can see Beth at bottom with Erica doing a wee pre-New Year's eve toast. It was great to be able to welcome Art Itkin back.





The photos on this page were all taken at the January 5th service led by Joyce Peckman, at top, the first service of 2018. As you can see by the long sleeves, hats and jackets, we were undergoing the first significant Upper Keys cold snap of the season. (Yes, we're Florida wimps now.) Honorable photo mention (rare sightings department) goes to Foster Davidson, below, and to Meredith Cline, below left with Pauline.



Some additional photos taken at the January 5th oneg. Again, note the long sleeves and jackets.



# Keys Jewish Community Center, Inc.

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

Dear KJCC member:

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 11:00 p.m. in the KJCC's Margulies Family Sanctuary. The February KJCC Board meeting, in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, is scheduled for the same day at 9:00 a.m. All KJCC members in good standing are cordially invited and encouraged to attend both meetings, however, we particularly request your attendance at the KJCC Annual Meeting.

The primary order of business at the Annual Meeting is the election and installation of KJCC's Board, including officers and directors. This year we will also be revising the Bylaws as they pertain to protecting and growing KJCC fiscal assets. **It is important to note that, per the KJCC Bylaws, nominations from the floor for Board members can and will be accepted at this time.** The Board serves the general membership; therefore your attendance and participation at the Annual Meeting is very important for the KJCC's success and direction forward.

Following the Annual Meeting, KJCC's Sisterhood will provide a full luncheon for all attendees. As we all know, the KJCC eats very well and we extend our thanks and appreciation to Sisterhood for all its contributions and hard work on behalf of the KJCC. Please RSVP your attendance to Nettie Seder at 305-852-7283 or [ngseder@yahoo.com](mailto:ngseder@yahoo.com).

The Nominating Committee has met as required and selected the following slate of 2018-2019 Officers and Board Members. This slate was approved at the January 14, 2018 Board Meeting:

President – Beth Hayden  
Executive Vice President – Susan Gordon  
Vice Presidents – Gloria Avner, Michael Kaufman, Medina Roy  
Recording Secretary – Art Itkin (Erica Lieberman-Garrett, alternate)  
Treasurer – Linda Kaplan  
Financial Secretary – Donna Bolton  
Corresponding Secretary – Joyce Peckman

Directors:  
Ken Atlas, Marc Bloom, Jane Friedman, Steve Hartz, Mitch Harvey, Beth Kaminstein, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Linda Pollack, Skip Rose, Stuart Smith

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

Respectfully submitted by the 2018 Nominating Committee: Linda Kaplan (Chair), Steve Steinbock, Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman

# *KJCC's 2nd Annual Chinese Food Xmas Open House & Game Extravaganza*



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*by Gloria Avner*

**T**here is something comforting about tradition, even when the one we're celebrating is a new one, non-religious, concocted impulsively last year via a combination of pure creative energy, generosity, and respect for a prior tradition just ended. A one-off becomes a second annual.

***Tradition- where the heart is at home  
even when it's not a Jewish holiday***

Already there are memories. The Chinese dragon purchased by Linda Perloff and Mitch Harvey last year hangs from the entry to the Social Hall, tickling tall peoples' heads as they enter. Chopsticks and Chinese horoscope placemats decorate the tables. Games are piled high in the school-room, ready for friendly battle. Did we play Monopoly as kids? With





our parents and relatives and friends? Here's another chance, and how sweet it was to see multiple generations at it again: Dave Mont and his son Jake (who won, of course, owning Park Place and Boardwalk) playing with Barney Coltman, Jules Seder, and Jake's girlfriend, Jessica.

We use the word *mishpocha* at KJCC a lot. It's a wish as well as a description. Days like December 25<sup>th</sup>, as much as or maybe even more than our cyclical ritual Jewish holidays, give weight to the meaning of the Hebrew (and Yiddish) word for family. As much as it is a word for a group of individuals related by blood (or choice and love) *mishpocha* is a word for place, a place where you *feel* at home. It was reminiscent of the many years at the Steinbock home, Carol warmly inviting Steve and all of KJCC to share her joy in Christmas day. As with Carol's open house, people felt free to wander in when they felt like it, to not decide until the last minute, to stay extra long, or for just long enough to fill up some take-out cartons for their loved ones at home.

Donna Bolton did a great job organizing the food and tak-



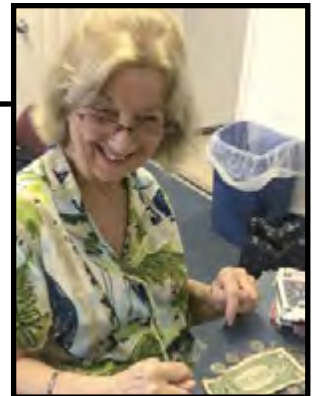


ing RSVPs. A number of us, including new member Hannah David, helped with set-up, decorating, food-prep and welcoming. Jane Friedman added her well prepared, delicious and often surprising (oh, those sweet steamed white rice cakes) treats to the mix as a kind of second course, and about an hour into the event, the chat and laughter volume reached a happy kind of crescendo.

Then out came the coins and cards, and poker players gathered round one of the tables. From the look of things, especially where most of the coins ended up, Linda Pollack was a clear winner. The scrabble table contingent was having so much fun they went for a second round and stayed long enough to help with final cleanup.

Even helping with putting the place respectfully to bed sounds like family, doesn't it? KJCC is definitely a *mishpocha* kind of place, where, (not unlike the bar in the TV series, *Cheers*) everybody knows your name. And we're always glad you came.

Next year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual? ♦



**KJCC's Adult Education Program**  
Proudly Presents Its  
**Second Annual KJCC**  
**Winter Film Fest**

**A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic  
Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens**



Sat., Feb. 3, The Green Prince  
Sat., Feb. 10, Gett: Trial of Vivienne Amsalem  
Sun., Feb. 18, The Outrageous Sophie Tucker  
Wed., Feb. 28 A Matter of Size

**More Coming in March**

**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](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)**

# KJCC's First-Ever *Shabbaton*: *What's in a Name?*

A Weekend with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and Kabbalah



**W**hat's in a name? Everything, it appears; and that's just one of the concepts we were introduced to by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal as he opened our minds to the spiritual teachings at the core of our heritage. (Lessons none of us had learned in Hebrew School.) The rose ("shoshana" in Hebrew) apparently would not smell as sweet were its name other than rose. There are no mistakes, especially when the name is spelled in Hebrew. Each letter – its shape, its sound and its numerical value (yes, that's how Hebrew works...the letters double as numbers) – adds meaning and context to what is being named (including you). The levels go deep in Jewish spirituality, and they go back in time as far as what our 20<sup>th</sup> century scientists call the Big Bang (in geologic time, over 15 billion years ago). The Kabbalists say that Moses






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*knew all about all of it, that he was taking dictation directly from God on Mt. Sinai during those 40 days and 40 nights. This included the Tablets, the Torah and the entirety of the Oral Law, which, little by little, would all be revealed, handed down to us generation by generation and explained by our wisest teachers, at appropriate times. And think about exactly what happened at Mt. Sinai. Divine revelation is typically claimed by individuals; at Mt. Sinai it's said that the entire Jewish people were witness to God's voice, the only recorded group revelation in the history of the world. Time did not exist before Creation. Do we understand it now? It doesn't matter. Time still does not exist. The minute we say the word "now," it becomes the past. So let's go back to the beginning – but not to the moment when our world was made manifest through Light pouring into a Vessel that would shatter from its power. No, not yet. Let's just go back to the beginning of our first-ever KJCC Shabbaton learning weekend, an experience that many who attended said exceeded their wildest expectations.*

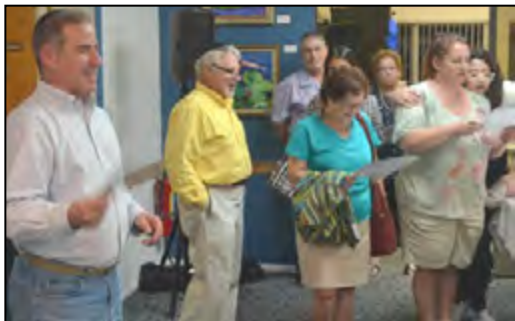




The Sisterhood dinner came first. After Beth Hayden welcomed our guests and Susan Gordon thanked the Sisterhood cooks and bakers for their creative and healthy contributions to the evening, people filled their plates with a dazzling array of dairy dishes ranging from blintz soufflés, curries, noodle dishes, soup and creative salads to salmon, platters of roasted vegetables, and seemingly endless desserts. Thank you, Joyce Peckman, for sponsoring this dinner, so that the abundance could be experienced by members and visitors alike, without charge. The sight of the laden tables made Rabbi Ed, eyes wide and grin wider, exclaim: "I had no idea you did this!! Once a month?" He now has one more reason to love KJCC, the only synagogue to which he belongs as a member, even though he lives six hours away in Tampa. He calls us his home away from home.

After leisurely dining, excited conversation, circling and schmoozing, we made transition from food to Shabbat services with a rousing intermezzo rendition of *Birkat HaMazon*, the thank-you grace traditionally sung (with grateful gusto) after meals. Minutes later, with a crowd of well over 50 people in the sanctuary, Medina and Gloria, co-chairs of the Shabbaton weekend, and Susan Gordon, president of KJCC Sisterhood, lit and chanted the blessings over candles, accompanied by our youngest members present: Sean Kaufman, Maddie Bloom, and Rachel Levine. And then, as Rabbi Ed began leading the Erev Shabbat service (in his





own enthusiastic way), the deep part of the weekend began. Enjoyably, small steps at a time, we dipped one toe into a pool of wisdom that would lead us, by late afternoon on Sunday, into total immersion.

After services ended, we meandered back to the Social Hall for one celebration and consumption of more treats, but soon all of us found seats in the classroom and eagerly awaited Rabbi Ed's introduction to his upcoming program.

"DON'T BELIEVE A WORD I SAY," were his opening words, and we were startled. "I don't want you to believe me," he continued. "Jews question. Jews argue, not just with one another, but with God." And so it began. Soon we'd be dealing with Primordial Light and magnificent concepts such as the infinite desire to give, meeting up simultaneously with the primordial vessel, the infinite desire to receive.

If you were not at KJCC on Friday morning on January 12<sup>th</sup> or on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon (the two classes separated by a wonderful luncheon) to hear about *ain sof*, the primordial essence of God, and *tzimtzum*, the principle of withholding, the self-control that leads to action by intention and not by sheer impulsiveness (it was also God's specific and disciplined act of restricting Its own power so that humans could be endowed with the gift and responsibility of free will), I am so sorry. There is so much to share. I know of at least two couples who would have liked to be with us but who could not make it for health reasons. We can tell you only that it was a wonderful weekend, filled with surprises, "aha" moments, science fused with spirituality, and our own tradition of wise teachers who understood large ideas long before they






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were proven by 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century scientists. In Judaism, the metaphysical met the physical long before Joseph Chilton wrote "The Crack in the Cosmic Egg," and long before Einstein channeled  $E = mc^2$ . Our Jewish heritage, ever since Sinai, has been holding keys to how and why the universe works the way it does, keys that both pose and explain many difficult puzzles. That the science comes down in so many cases to the importance of sharing, of forethought, of holding back anger, of being a good and thoughtful, loving person, does not sound like science alone.

But we did start to get it, the right, left, and center of all things (that all things have two polar opposites plus a vital area of buffer in




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between), understanding that in order to bring down the light in a humanly useful way we need most of all not to create a short-circuit explosion that would create husks, defined as future difficulties we'd have to deal with later. If this sounds like the beginning of a discussion on reincarnation, that's exactly what it was, and it could have been a whole course in itself. Look at the focus on the faces at the tables in the photos. We are grappling with big ideas, helped by Rabbi Ed's gifted way of presenting these ideas. To those who wish they could have been here, we say with great happiness that Rabbi Ed will return. Watch for it. He will recap for us and take us further into this meaningful way of understanding life and how to live that is intrinsically Jewish. And he will keep encouraging us not-



to believe a word he says.

Though we could have wrapped up the Shabbaton at the end of Saturday's session, with the dousing of the woven many-wicked Havdalah candle in the wine we'd blessed, we did not. A few of us got to smell the subtle essence of *Gan Eden* (the Garden of Eden), present only for a few seconds just as the candle's flame disappears. We did not want the learning to stop. More than a *minyan* of us raised our hands to say we would like to continue on Sunday afternoon.

There were eighteen of us when we gathered around the large table the next day, ever awash in significance (the number 18, of course, being the numerical equivalent of the





Hebrew word “chai,” or life). By the end of the day, as we cleaned and closed and said our goodbyes, we knew our lives were immeasurably richer as a result of this weekend.

*Our enduring appreciation to Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee, to Gloria Avner, Ritual Chair, to past-president Sam Vinicur for first suggesting the Kabbalah seminar idea to Rabbi Ed, to Jan Price for her help creating a perfect table design for the seminars, to Marc Bloom for his wise guidance as to lunch menus, to all who worked hard to bring this weekend to successful fruition and all who were wise enough to attend and be enriched by it. Mostly, of course, we are grateful to Rabbi Ed Rosenthal for being part of our family and sharing his passions for Kabbalah, Jewish spirituality and the Sea with us. He laughed long and loudly when we asked if he'd be willing to come back and continue. That meant, of course, a hearty “yes.” ♦*



**The photos at top are from the Havdalah that ended the long and memorable Shabbat that saw KJCC's very first Shabbaton. At left below, Medina, Gloria, Marc and Rabbi Ed take a bow at Sunday's end. At right, the final session of summation on Sunday afternoon.**

# Nuggets of Wisdom from Kabbalah

## *Via Rabbi Ed's Shabbaton*

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The following phrases and principles are the boullion cubes of meaning that stick with us, but which had the liquid of lots of discussion over our Shabbaton weekend to make them digestible. If they don't make sense or seem simplistic, ask someone who was there to share their take with you. Better yet, next time Rabbi Ed is with us, ask him. (They're his teachings.)

Everything is energy.

Time is the distance between cause and effect.

The Axiom: Infinite Light of Sharing plus Infinite Desire to Receive  
Creates Infinite Oneness (Sh'ma)

What is a Jew: we are high achievers, with the greatest desire to receive of any people. Our role is to draw the most amount of light in the world, for the world. We are the *Am Sigolah*.

Nothing bad can come from the light. The nature of evil comes from people – their actions that conceal the light.

Every difficult or aggravating circumstance is an opportunity to refine (restrict) the soul.

The mouse wasn't responsible for stealing the cheese. It was the hole that was to blame.

"Abracadabra" means "I will create as I speak" in Aramaic.

Within humans there is consciousness of body (desire to receive for oneself alone) and consciousness of soul (desire to receive in order to share). The light of God is the soul of man.

Judaism commands us to be better, to question our desires. Our job is to perfect the world.

You should love your neighbor as yourself because your neighbor IS yourself.

Only one percent of true reality is in this world.

Restriction does not mean doing without. It means asking ourselves the hard questions about why we want (what we want) so much.

Everything in the physical world has a soul. The only difference between anything — rock or tree or human — is the degree of desire to receive the light.



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COMMUNITY CENTER  
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YARMULKES  
CANDLES, MORE!!!**

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Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

# - THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY -

## FEBRUARY

**362** – Roman Emperor Julian issues an edict recognizing equal rights to all the religions in the Roman Empire. Known to Church historians as Julian the Apostate, Julian effectively undoes the edicts of Constantine making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. He also brings back old religions tied to Hellenism, the spiritual path he supposedly favors. Julian is sympathetic to the Jewish people and is prepared to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, but is assassinated by a Christian apparently angry at Julian's decision to deny sole religion status to Christianity

**682** – King Erwig of Visigothic Spain presses for the "utter extirpation of the pest of the Jews," and makes it illegal to practice any Jewish rites. This puts pressure on Jews to convert or emigrate.

**1095** – Henry IV of Germany issues a charter to the Jews and a decree against forced baptism. He attempts to protect the Jews even during the Crusades and grants favorable conditions wherever possible. He also permits forcibly baptized Jews to return to Judaism. The Church criticizes his actions.

**1201** – In Worms — an important medieval German city for Jews on the Rhine — the Jews take up arms to fight alongside the city's non-Jewish residents against an attack by the young German king who would become Otto IV of the Holy Roman Empire (and is also the nephew of Richard I—Richard the Lion-Hearted—of England). At this time, Jews are still permitted to bear arms in various cities in Germany, although this privilege is soon to be abolished.

**1258** – Baghdad falls, and under Genghis Khan the Mongol dynasty replaces the Abbasid Moslems in Persia. The Mongols are for the most part tolerant of Judaism. An Arab writer re-

ports 36,000 Jews and 16 synagogues in the Baghdad on the eve of the Mongolian invasion. Most of the city is destroyed during the siege. Some 800,000 civilians are slaughtered. Though defeated and stopped by the Egyptians in Damascus in 1303, the Mongols leave a trail of devastation and destruction in the Middle East that to this day has not been fully overcome.

**1336** – Alfonso X of Castille is persuaded by the apostate Alfonso of Valladolid to ban the prayer *Alenu*, composed by the Amora Abba Arucha c. 247 C.E. (the Tall or, as he was later called, Rav, the founder of the academy of Sura). Alfonso alleges that the prayer is anti-Christian. As a result, many Jewish communities excise a sentence from the prayer, which has only begun to be printed again in recent years.

**1349** – In Strasbourg, France, a riot begins after corn prices fall. The Jews are accused, despite protests by the city council, of a conspiracy. The entire Jewish population (2,000) is dragged to the cemetery and burned to death. Only those who accept Christianity are allowed to live. A new council is elected, which decrees that Jews cannot return for 100 years; their property and possessions are divided among the burghers. Twenty years later, the Jews are readmitted.

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

**1481** – In Seville, Spain, the first *auto da fé* (which translates as "acts of faith," but which

# PURIM & PIZZA

## AND A GOOD MOVIE TOO

Come to the KJCC

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

6:00 p.m. to celebrate our story



**Make Four Mitzvahs in one Night:**  
**Hear Megillat Esther -- The Ganssa Megillah,**  
**Share a Festive Meal (Salads and Pizza),**  
**Share gifts of food with Neighbors and Friends,**  
**Give Charity.**

**Wear masks, don costumes, drown out the name of Haman.**

**Stamp feet. Spin groggers. Be silly.**

**Drink adult beverages (yes, it's a commandment).**

**Then laugh uproariously at a movie about overweight Israelis who decide to become Sumo Wrestlers (A Matter of Size).**

**Eat Hamantaschen.**

**Celebrate Survival at KJCC with Mishpachah !!**

**Contact:** Gloria Avner (305) 619-0216, [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com)  
to let us know you are coming. Remember, it is a Mitzvah to hear the reading of the entire Megillah.

*Tzedakah donations will be accepted.*



are in reality merely bonfires) is staged. Six Marrano men and six women are burned for allegedly practicing Judaism. Practices that can lead to accusations and arrests (and then a horrible death by fire) include not eating pig, washing hands before prayer, and changing clothes on the Sabbath. The next year, by Papal order, seven new Inquisitors are nominated, among them Tomas de Torquemada, who will zealously lead the Spanish Inquisition and in 1492 help bring an end to the most advanced, learned and successful Jewish culture since Solomon.

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

**1772** – Poland is first partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Austria, effecting the demise of Poland as an independent nation until after World War I. The Russians acquire a large Jewish population as a result of the partition, a population the Russians decidedly do not want.

**1807** – In Paris, Napoleon convenes the first Grand Sanhedrin since Biblical times, under the leadership of The Assembly of Jewish Notables. Modeled on the ancient Tribunal in Jerusalem, the Sanhedrin consists of 71 members: 46 Rabbis and 25 laymen. The Court is presented by Napoleon with twelve questions on the positions of Jewry regarding polygamy, divorce, usury, other faiths, and, most important, whether they consider France to be their fatherland.

**1860** – Uriah P. Levy – a descendant of one of the Grandee families, the first 24 Jewish families of New York, dumped on Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Amsterdam by a Dutch man-o-war who had rescued them from Caribbean pirates – is appointed Commodore of the U.S. Eastern Mediterranean fleet. Levy, the first Jewish officer in the U.S. Navy, surmounts many anti-Semitic obstacles in his career, including seven courts-martial. He is also responsible for the abolition of flogging in the U.S. Navy, and as a private individual purchases, restores and saves for the entire nation

Jefferson's Monticello, which by the 1840s, due to the neglect of Jefferson's legal heirs, is virtually in ruins.

**1876** – The National League of Professional Baseball Clubs of Major League Baseball, known now simply as the National League, the first and oldest of baseball's two Major Leagues, is formed. Lip Pike, already a professional, plays that same year with the National League team in St. Louis. He is the first known Jew to play major league baseball.

**1886** – Ha-Yom ("Today"), the first daily newspaper published in Hebrew, begins publication in St. Petersburg, Russia.

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

**1905** – Alissa Rosenbaum is born in St. Petersburg, Russia. Her father is a pharmacist, a middle-class professional, a rare accomplishment in anti-Semitic Czarist Russia. The family loses everything in the Bolshevik Revolution. Despite this, Alissa manages to finish her education in the early days of Lenin's Soviet Union and then emigrates to the United States, where she changes her name to Ayn Rand and eventually manages to publish the two novels that define the ideas and philosophy she calls Objectivism, "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged."

**1928** – Russia attempts to set up a Jewish district in Birobijan in Eastern Siberia and to transfer all its Jews there. Ultimately, for many reasons, the project is a failure, in part because most of Birobijan's 14,200 square miles are uninhabitable due to floods and also not arable. This helps fuel the Zionist push for the resettlement of Palestine, an area that had badly languished during 400 years of Ottoman rule. ♦

# Purim

## Our Ears and Haman's:

### Self-Indulgence, Self-Sacrifice, and Selflessness

by Gloria Avner

What is the most important *mitzvah* we perform on Purim? And why is it all about ears? We take part in community round-robin-style reading, but it is the commandment to *listen* to the words of *Megillat Esther* that holds the importance. Every single word.

And what is the symbolic food we must eat as we obey the second *mitzvah* (to share a joyous feast)? Hamantaschen! Translated as Haman's "three cornered hat," these triangular desserts, we learn as we get older, really represent Haman's *oznaim*, his ears. Why should ears be so important? Because Haman did not listen to us? And was deaf to the humanity of those who would not bow down to him? Do we symbolically destroy Haman's sense of hearing so that he won't have the privilege and blessing of listening to a reading of the scroll of Esther?

Every year we move a little further along the double-stranded helix of Jewish life. Though the cyclical round of yearly Jewish observance remains constant, new insights into the old celebrations pop up regularly. The *chagim* (the Hebrew plural for holiday) remain the same, but we, the world and the most powerful players in it change regularly. Huge transformations in leadership, politics, and even the weather, make for big changes in context and in hope. Only God, who is never mentioned once in the entire, or *ganze*, *Megillah* – the Book of Esther – never changes. God's hidden hand is always at work behind the scenes as coincidence piles upon coincidence.

Things work out amazingly well in the end; our nemesis dies as he would have had us die, hanging from the gallows he had



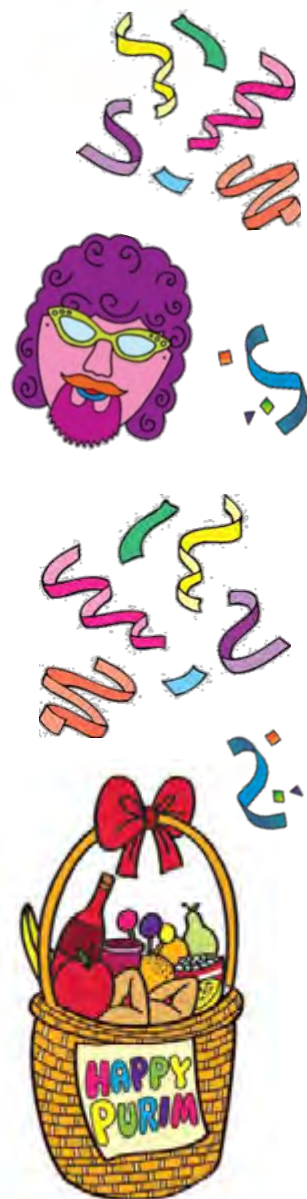


built just for the occasion. Our survival, however, was primarily due to the actions of two brave and intelligent, beautiful and principled young women who spoke truth to power. One suffered. One, strategically and at her own peril, working for a cause much greater than her private self, vanquished all odds and saved her people.

*Mitzvah* three involves sharing, being compassionate, giving gifts to others (*mishloach manot*, baskets of food, drink and treats to our friends and neighbors). Similarly, we are called in the fourth commandment, “*tzedakah*,” to give charity to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the weak and the poor. We have been all of them and we are called to remember what it was like. When we eat our pizza and take up a collection in blue boxes or baskets, we will also do our best to fulfill the unnumbered fifth commandment – to get drunk as skunks. We are told to get so pie-eyed that we cannot tell the difference between “cursed be Haman” and “blessed be Mordechai.” Is this a license for self-indulgence – the other side of the coin of generous selflessness? Is this the one day of the year when we celebrate survival with such exuberance that we lose all sense of compass and judgment? Or do we just want a breather, relief from a life of constant threats, and encouragement to be downright silly. I vote for celebration and silly. (And having a designated driver.)

Let’s come to KJCC on Wednesday night, February 28<sup>th</sup>, be outrageously slapstick on the eve of Purim: read the *Megillah*, eat pizza, drink wine, give gifts, collect money for the poor, and then let’s watch that movie about overweight Israelis who decide to become Sumo wrestlers. Let’s laugh out loud and be positively delighted that we live here, on the side of the road along a skinny spit of land caressed by turquoise waters, where until we showed up some 37 years ago there had never been a Jewish house of worship. That’s a big mitzvah, too.

Thank you for saving us, you Jews of Shushan! And special thank you not just to Esther but to the intrepid Vashti, the woman who started this ball rolling by standing up and saying “n.” Our ears are open. We hear you. ♦



# Purim

## Interpretations, Teachings and Arcana



**Y**ou all know the basics, the cast of characters, and the rituals. If nothing else, Purim is the ultimate “they tried to kill us...we survived...let’s eat!” story. But as with everything else in Judaism, scrupulous study of the text by our rabbis has yielded a rich literature, many layers of understanding, and some difference of opinion. We dug into the commentary to give you a representative sample:

.....

Eulogies and fasting are prohibited on Purim, and in a leap year they are prohibited in the first month of Adar as well. A mourner likewise does not mourn publicly on Purim. He does not sit on the ground nor remove his shoes, but observes the private aspects of mourning, as is the case on Shabbat.

.....

The most preferred manner of fulfilling the mitzvah is to read the *Megillah* publicly, and in the synagogue. Even if one could form a *minyan* elsewhere, he should go to the synagogue, since, “in a multitude there is majesty,” and that way the miracle is made known more widely.

.....

Positive Torah commandments (things you should do, as opposed to things you are commanded to eschew) are all deferred for the sake of hearing the *Megillah*. Even the study of Torah is suspended for the *Megillah* reading.

.....

If one hears the *Megillah* read aloud, he fulfills the obligation as if he were to read it himself. It is, however, necessary to hear every single word, for if one has not heard the entire *Megillah*, he has not fulfilled his obligation.

.....

The names of the ten sons of Haman, together with the four preceding words (“500 men and...”), and the word “ten” which follows, are all read in one breath: thereby indicating (and emphasizing) that they were all slain and hung together.

.....

The miracle of Purim occurred through wine. Vashti was removed from her throne because of a wine-feast and Esther replaced her. The downfall of Haman was brought about through the wine feasting which Esther held. The rabbis, therefore, have prescribed the drinking of wine on Purim, and said: “A person is obligated to drink on Purim till he

no longer knows the difference between 'Cursed-is-Haman' and 'Blessed-is-Mordechai.'"

In rabbi-speak, this does not mean excessive drinking of wine so that one might descend to "levity," or forget the required *brachot* or prayer. It is sufficient to drink a little more than is one's usual habit, and to take a nap. In rabbi-think, this fulfills the precept, for one who sleeps does not know the difference between a curse and a blessing. Aware of a strong propensity for alcohol abuse amongst the very observant, modern orthodox rabbis now play down the command to drink. In the words of Rabbi Alexander Ziskind of Grodno, quoted by Rabbi Weinreb of the Orthodox Union, we may become "a bit warm, a bit fragrant," but becoming drunk is absolutely forbidden.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Purim Feast is especially significant in that it elevates the soul as it provides pleasure to the body. The Zohar states that on Purim one may accomplish through bodily pleasure what he can accomplish on Yom Kippur through bodily affliction.

\*\*\*\*\*

It is obligatory to send a gift consisting of at least two "portions" to another person. Both men and women are included in this *mitzvah*. Only what is edible or drinkable without further cooking or preparation is considered a "portion." One may therefore send cooked meats or fish, pastry goods, fruit, sweets, wine and other beverages.

\*\*\*\*\*

A person cannot free himself, through his gifts to the poor on Purim, from the general obligation of *tzedakah* (charity) that the Torah places upon him. Even a poor person is obligated to fulfill this *mitzvah* at least once a year, aside from what he gives to the poor on Purim.

\*\*\*\*\*

A story is told in Chabad of Purim in 1953. The Lubavitcher Rebbe led a Purim gathering and was asked to give a blessing for the Jews of the Soviet Union, known to be in great danger. The Rebbe instead told a cryptic story about a man who was voting in the Soviet

Union and heard people cheering for the candidate, "Hoorah! Hoorah!" The man did not want to cheer, but was afraid to *not* cheer, so he said "hoorah," but in his heart, he meant it in Hebrew: *hu ra*, which means, "he is evil!" The crowd at the Rebbe's 1953 gathering began chanting "hu ra!" regarding Stalin. That night, Stalin suffered the stroke that led to his death a few days later.

\*\*\*\*\*

In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar, so that it is always one month before Passover. The 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first Adar in a leap year is celebrated as a minor holiday called Purim Katan, which means "little Purim." There are no specific observances for Purim Katan.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Book of Esther, more than anything else, is responsible for the continued celebration of Purim. It also opened the way for the establishment of later holidays that, like Purim, could be instituted without Divine command if they commemorated an important event or served an important function in the life of the Jewish people. (The Purim story, remember, preceded the Chanukah story.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Although Esther and Mordecai are the heroes of the Purim story, some see Vashti, the queen Esther replaced, as a heroine in her own right. She refused to debase herself before the king and his drunken friends, choosing to value her dignity above submitting to her husband's whims. Vashti is seen as a strong character who does not use her beauty or sexuality to advance herself, which some argue is exactly what Esther does later in the text. (In the Talmud, by the way, it is suggested that Vashti was unwilling to appear nude before the king and his guests either because she had leprosy or because she had grown a tail. Paging Dr. Freud...Dr. Freud to the yeshiva writing room, please.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Like Hanukkah, Purim has never been universally considered a religious holy day, in spite of the fact that it is designated by the

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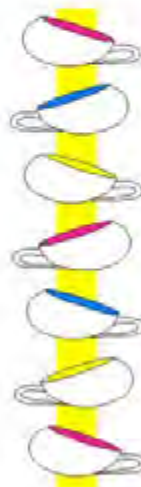
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term "yom-*tov*." Business transactions and even manual labor are allowed on Purim.

.....

In the *Mishnah* there was a difference of opinion as to how much of the *Megillah* one must read in order to discharge one's duty. According to Rabbi Judah, a portion sufficed; Rabbi Meir demanded the reading of the entire scroll, and his view was accepted in the Talmud.

.....

*In Short, the four mitzvot for celebrating Purim:*

1. We hear the story of Esther as recounted in the Bible;
2. We have a festive meal with more wine than usual;
3. We deliver two different kinds of food to friends and neighbors;
4. We give gifts to the poor.

.....

Purim was an occasion when joyous license was permitted even within the walls of the synagogue, such as the boisterous hissing, stamping, and rattling during the public service, at the mention of Haman or his sons, as well as the whistling at the mention of Mor-

dechai by the reader of the *Megillah*. This practice traces its origin to French and German rabbis of the thirteenth century, who – in accordance with a passage in the *Midrash* where the verse from Deuteronomy, "Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek," is explained to mean "even from wood and stones" – introduced the custom of writing the name of Haman, the offspring of Amalek, on two smooth stones and of knocking or rubbing them constantly until the name was blotted out. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name stamped with their feet as a sign of contempt.

.....

As early as the fifth century, and especially in the Gaonic period (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries), it was a custom to burn Haman in effigy on Purim. In Italy the Jewish children would arrange themselves in rows and pelt one another with nuts; while the adults rode through the streets with fir-branches in their hands, shouted, or blew trumpets around a doll representing Haman, which was finally burned at the stake with due solemnity. ♦

## Vashti: Feminist Icon

Both Vashti and Esther have a real history as feminist symbols, no matter how much historical truth lies inside the Purim story. In their own ways, each refused to go along with their husband's wishes. Esther may carry the weight of the story . . . but it's Vashti who has become the surprise star.

As early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Vashti's resistance to her husband's demand to use her as a sex object made her an icon for early feminists. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote in 1878 that Vashti's decision was a "first stand for women's rights" and that "we shall stand amazed that there was a woman found at the head of the Persian empire that dared to disobey the command even of a drunken monarch." About 20 years later, the Woman's Bible Commentary put together by suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton called Vashti "a sublime representation of self-centered womanhood" who rises "to the heights of self-consciousness and of self-respect."

She'd make a great icon for the "Time's Up" movement: timeless, time-honored and sovereign, even against the demands of a king.



*Excerpted from an article in Time on line*



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# Chai~Lights



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**March 2018**

**14 Adar - 15 Nisan 5778**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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# March 2018

14 Adar - 15 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 KJCC Sisterhood  <i>Joyce Peckman</i> <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	3 Rabbi Agler Shabbat Learning Service 10:00 a.m.
4  Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m.	5	6	7 Arlo Haskel "Jews of Key West" 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Shabbat Parah  Steve Steinbock	10  Film "The Green Prince."  7 p.m.
11 KJCC Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Jane's Art Class 12:30	12	13	14	15 New Moon/ Rosh Chodesh	16 Rosh Chodesh Nisan  Medina Roy  <i>Lynn Nobil</i>	17  Film "Dancing in Jaffa"  7 p.m.
18  Women's Seder 5:00 p.m.	19	20	21  Art Discussion Group, Judy Chicago, 7:00 p.m.	22	23  Shabbat HaGadol  Steve Hartz  <i>Joel &amp; Toby</i> <i>Bofshever</i>	24  Bernie G. "Books of the Bible we rarely read"  7 p.m.
25	26 Sisterhood Book Club Mangrove Mikes 12 noon	27	28  Dave Feder Concert 7:30 p.m.	29	30 Erev Pesach  Beth Hayden  1st Seder	31 Community Seder at Fishing Club

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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Beth Hayden



Shalom u'vracha,  
Gentlemen, be warned,  
March is International Women's Month, International Women's Week and International Women's Day (March 8, 2018). The first International Women's Day dates back to 1911. Following that, thanks to President Jimmy Carter, in addition to International Women's Month and International Women's Day, International Women's Week was established in February, 1980. President Carter stated: "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America were as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well." How incredible is it, that women, who helped build this country and endured the same difficulties as men were deprived of the right to vote as American citizens until the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, known as women's suffrage, was ratified on August 18, 1920.

So here we are in 2018 and what does International Women's anything mean for Jews? We have some background - Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. We have Judith,

Esther, Yael, Deborah, Miriam and Ruth. In our lifetimes we have Golda Meir, Anne Frank, Carol King, Nigella Lawson, Sheryl Sandberg, Judith Kerr, Hannah Senesh, and Evelyn Rose. And more - we salute Janet Yellen, Susan Wojcicki, Safra Catz, Ruth Bader-Ginsberg, Elena Kagan, Ruth Porat, Irene Rosenfeld, Bonnie Hammer, Dana Walden, Barbra Streisand and Diane von Furstenburg. Powerful Jewish women who have succeeded in the world we know.

So, we Jews have a history of turning out spectacular women. And continue to do so. Have you seen the movie "Wonder Woman?" She was actually conceived as a character to fight Nazis. The current movie changes the orientation of the original character and places her in World War I. How fitting that an Israeli, Gal Gadot, won the part. William Moulton Marston, the creator of Wonder Woman, wrote that Wonder Woman would encompass "all the strength of a Superman plus all the allure of a good and beautiful woman." She would be an amalgam of masculine might and feminine compassion. Gal Gadot has fulfilled everything requested of her. Strong, tough, funny and wise - she has done more to improve Israel's relations with the world than anyone since Abba Eban. Kol hakvod, Gal!

—B'todah, Beth  
Chai-Lights March 2018 3

# Nosh

## Sisterhood Leads Services

Susan Gordon, Sisterhood president, encourages you to come to the synagogue on Erev Shabbat, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the Sisterhood-led service. It's an event we look forward to every year, with lots of singing and readings and much active participation by the women of KJCC.

## Rabbi Agler's Torah Services

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> KJCC will host the next Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Agler, the penultimate one of the "season." As activities reach full tilt we are more and more grateful for this combination of respite from busy lives of doing and the opportunity to be engaged in stimulating Jewish learning, far removed from anything we learned in Hebrew School. As always, the service will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. This month, Gloria Avner will be reading verses from the Torah. There will be a Kiddush following the service. (Coming attraction: Next month, the final Saturday morning service for the season will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>.)

## Our Jewish Film Festival

This month, those who did not get to see all of "The Green Prince" will have another opportunity. It will be shown on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the KJCC sanctuary. On the following Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, also at 7:00 p.m., we will see "Dancing in Jaffa." Refreshments, as always, will be served afterwards. Movie night at

## Yahrzeit Plaque

In loving memory of  
**Joseph G. Shapiro**

12/03/1932 - 01/04/2014

*From the Joseph Shapiro Family*

## TREE OF LIFE

in honor of

**Norman Gulkis**

Brother of Elaine Schulberg

January 25, 2018

*from the Mah Jongg Group*

the KJCC is an extremely pleasant, stimulating and, yes, nourishing experience. There is no charge, and your friends are welcome. Many thanks to Medina, her Adult Education Committee, and an anonymous donor, for bringing us this rich and varied series.

## Sisterhood Book Club

Meeting for the second time at Mangrove Mike's, the KJCC Sisterhood's Book Club will be discussing a newly released book, hot off the press, by the author of "The Nightingale," a book that received rave reviews and was on the best seller list for many months. On Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at noon, the Book Club will be discussing "The Great Alone," by Kristin Hannah. It is available from Amazon and at the Monroe County Public Library. (See details for RSVP and contact information on page 8.)

## Author Speaks on Jews of Key West

Arlo Haskell, author and director of the Key West Literary Seminar, will be speaking on his latest book in the KJCC Social Hall at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Get the real scoop on a unique swath of Jewish history, not far from our own 'hood. We will hear some great never-published-before stories, and we'll have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of "The Jews

## March Birthdays

1st.....	Sasha Dutton
3rd.....	Louis Ulman
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
11th.....	Bryan Schur
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
12th.....	Barbara Herson
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
12th.....	Oceana Gross
13th.....	Carl Roy
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Randi Grant
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Gunther Karger
16th.....	Jeff Margulies
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Andrew Grant
17th.....	Daniel Friedman
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	James Nobil, Jr.
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
25th.....	Joe Gould
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
26th.....	Anna Verity Greenbaum
26th.....	M. Arlene Hess
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
28th.....	Suzanne Sigel
30th.....	Roger Dieckhaus
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Jane Friedman
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

## March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	<b>Jerry &amp; Sheila Olsen.....</b>	<b>59</b>
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....	22
7th	<b>Joseph &amp; Susan Sachs.....</b>	<b>53</b>
8th	Adam & Judy Starr.....	39
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	10
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	21
24th	<b>Joel &amp; Toby Bofshever.....</b>	<b>50</b>

of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers and Revolutionaries.” There is no charge, bringing guests is encouraged, and there will, of course, be refreshments. (Please see the House Ad on page 22.)

### Jane’s 3-D Art Class

If you have any artificial flowers at home, bring them with you to KJCC on Sunday, March 11, right after the Board meeting. (If you don’t have any flowers, that’s ok. We will provide all supplies for a \$10 donation.) Bring your own lunch; we’ll make the coffee, and at 12:30 p.m., Jane will lead us in a painting exercise on a canvas you’ll be proud to take home. It will look as lovely as the sample shown above.



### Art Talk Honors Judy Chicago

In this third and final evening of Art Discussion for this season, we will explore the work and major contributions of iconic, world-changing, contemporary artist Judy Chicago. She influenced our Women’s Seder profoundly with her first huge work, “The Dinner Party.” Born

Judy Cohen, she became a groundbreaking conceptual artist, working on projects that took years and sometimes hundreds of collaborators. Her Holocaust Project was a historic undertaking. Take part in a discussion facilitated by Marcia Kreitman, artist, designer and educator, on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi Agler, our KJCC Resident Scholar, will provide Jewish context. (See the ad on page 14 for details.)

### **Bernie Fills in Some Gaps**

On Saturday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Bernard Ginsberg, our resident Ashkenazi-speaking *yeshivah bocher*, will discuss with us, in his own enthusiastic way, "Books of the Bible Jews Hardly Ever Read." This will be a fascinating evening, focusing mostly on the writings in the last book of the Bible, *Ketuvim*, or Writings. There is no charge and you are welcome to bring friends. And, yes, as noted in the flyer, Bernie mandates that coffee and cake also be served. (See details in the house ad, page 26.)

### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Seder**

Change is in the air. Leadership has shifted from Beth Kaminstein to Erica Lieberman-Garrett, the Haggadah is being re-examined and fine-tuned, and we are entering one of our most meaningful of all celebrations with renewed commitment. Survey results show participants love the sharing of mothers' and grandmothers' names, inviting women from other parts of the community to be with us, the deepening of friendships, learning about the honoree, and "doing something," taking action to "Repair the World" (*Tikkun Olam*). Did I forget to mention the food? And Suzi Feder's Dark Chocolate Matzah Bark? We will gather at the aromatic KJCC Social Hall on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. (For details, see House Ad on page 6.) RSVP to hippiejap@hotmail.com

### **First Night Haimische Seder**

A first-night Passover Seder used to be held in our homes, for immediate family and guests. It still is, but in a slightly different way. For the

### **Oneg Sponsors for March 2018**

*March 2nd* - Joyce Peckman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Yosef Peckman. Steve Steinbock in honor of his birthday. Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Aunt Annie K. Bernstein.

*March 9th* - Medina Roy in honor of Carl's birthday. Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Laurie's mother Janet Blum.

*March 16th* - Lynn Nobil in honor of Sasha Dutton's birthday and Steven and James Nobil. Herb and Elinor Grossman, in honor of the 61st anniversary of their engagement.

*March 23rd* - Joel and Toby Bofshever in honor of their 50th anniversary. Jane Friedman in honor of her birthday.

*March 30th* - First Pesach Seder

many "strays," some of whom no longer have family members who can easily travel, or who consider their KJCC friends their family (or "mishpocha"), a new *minhag* (custom) has evolved. This will be the third year in a row we will have a First Night *Haimische* Pot-Luck Seder to celebrate Passover at the KJCC. It will happen on Erev Pesach, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Friday night services (abbreviated) will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the seder will follow immediately upon conclusion of services. Seating is limited. Contact Nettie Seder early to RSVP and co-ordinate your dish or monetary contribution: nseder@bellsouth.net. (See promo on page 12 for details.)

### **Second Night Community Seder**

As has been our custom for many years, the KJCC community, extended family members and tourists passing through our islands will gather at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Islamorada Fishing Club for the Second Night Passover Seder. Susan Gordon will chair this event on behalf of Sisterhood, so please get your reservations to her early. Tell Susan if you prefer a vegetarian option. The price will be the same as

last year, \$54.00 (and children under 13 eat free). The menu will be traditional as well. Vinnie's chicken soup with matzoh balls and his *tzimms* get better every year. More important, we get to see people whom we rarely see the rest of the year. Let's make the bonds between members of our community even stronger while we tell our story, sing our songs, and have a meaningful seder, celebrating and committing to working for freedom for all. RSVP Susan Gorgon at [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com) or at 305-766-3585. (Please see the House Ad on page 46.)

### KJCC Artists at Guild Show

Don't Miss the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Art Show Art Guild of the Purple Isles Art Show. The art is higher quality than ever. It will take place Thursdays through Sundays, from March 8 - 18th at the Florida Keys History and Discovery Center, MM. 82.1, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. At least three KJCC members will have work in the show: Jan Hartz (under her professional name, Louise Lindsay), Geri Felder Smith, and Gloria Avner. There is no charge, so you will have the added bonus of being able to walk through and see the museum's interesting displays.

### Dave Feder Returns in Concert

KJCC is delighted to bring back our own multi-talented David Feder, composer and improvisational guitarist *extraordinaire*, to perform a solo concert packed with original music on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. You can buy your tickets online at [www.davidfeder.com](http://www.davidfeder.com) for \$27.00, or buy them from Beth Hayden, or at the door on the evening of the concert (cash or check), for \$25.00. Info at 305-773-0067 or [hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net). We love Dave's music, his family, and all he does for us. Bring your friends. There will be refreshments after the concert plus CDs of his latest work. (Please see the poster on page 30.)

### Scubi Jews Revisit and Expand

Don't be surprised if you see more vibrant young college students here in March. A movement is growing, and it's all due to the imagination and passion of our own teacher and friend, Rabbi

Ed Rosenthal. From February 9–11, a group of 17 Hillel students from four different Florida universities spent the weekend here doing



Diving for Debris (actually the weather and resulting rough seas made them get creative and do their cleanup by kayak). The hundreds of pounds of garbage they retrieved out of the mangroves was the manifestation of something even greater and more important, the first ever state-wide Shabbaton on *Tikkun HaYam* (Repair of the Seas). Yes, expansion is happening, and now it is starting to go national. From March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a group of 7 young adults here from the University of Arizona, the newest Scubi Jews to take on the work of Rabbi Ed's *Tikkun HaYam*. Please welcome them as they commit to working for the world rather than playing on this, their alternative Spring Break. Then say hi to Rabbi Ed again. He and more Florida Hillel students will be back with us on March 16<sup>th</sup> and stay for a week. There will probably be singing to look forward to and a Havdalah service in our near future.

**Leaf on the Tree of Life**

In loving memory of  
**Jacob M.J. Shabathai**

## Keys Jewish Community Center

March 18, 2018

**Homemade Seder Dinner  
w/Wine**

**Donation: \$18 chai**

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

**Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett**  
hippiejap@hotmail.com  
(305) 393-1162



### **Jan Hartz in Photo Exhibit**

Three of Jan Hartz's evocative nature photos will be part of a curated show at the Seminole Theater in Homestead through March. The exhibit is called "Through our Eyes," sponsored by the S. Florida National Parks Camera Club. The Seminole Theater is located at 18 North Krome Avenue, and Jan's photos will be under her *nom d'arte*, Louise Lindsay. She's worth the drive.

**Leaf on the Tree of Life**  
**In loving memory of**  
**Sally Shabathai-Taibi**

## **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 KJCC 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.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC 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 Channah David, 305-744-6048.

**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:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

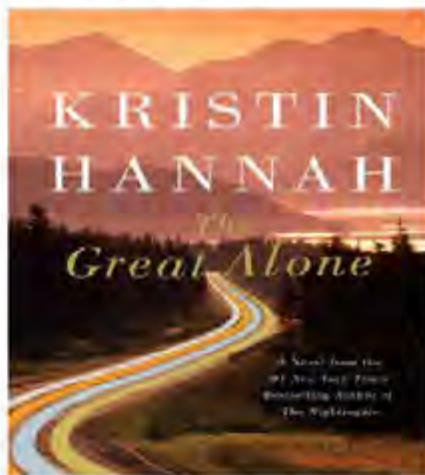


## Sisterhood Book Club

**Monday**  
**March 26, 2018 - noon**  
**Mangrove Mike's Café**  
**MM 82.2 Bayside**  
**Islamorada**

***THE GREAT ALONE***  
**BY KRISTIN HANNAH**

**FACILITATOR OF THE DAY: RANDI GRANT**



### ***WHAT IT'S ABOUT:***

***THE AUTHOR OF THE USA TODAY BEST SELLER, THE NIGHTINGALE, MOVES FROM WORLD WAR II FRANCE TO 1970'S ALASKA IN THIS SAGA ABOUT A TEENAGE GIRL, THE DAUGHTER OF A DISTURBED VIETNAM WAR P.O.W., WHO HAS TO GROW UP IN A HURRY.***

The book is a new publication and is available from Amazon and the Monroe County Public Library.

**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant -**  
**rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**

---

## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



**F**ebruary was a very full and exciting month at the KJCC, with several events and activities enjoyed by all. It's extremely energizing to me, to be actively involved with in a close-knit and vibrant Jewish community here in the Florida Keys!

The month began by celebrating *Tu B'Shvat* on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> with a brief, but very meaningful *Tu B'Shvat* Seder during the Oneg Shabbat following services. Being a lover of trees and the miracles found in nature, *Tu B'Shvat* holds a special place in my heart. It's a time for preserving and respecting the Earth by celebrating the Birthday of the Trees; we focus on the way we choose to treat nature with respect. It's a time to evaluate our personal relationship with the Earth. What a wonderful way to begin a new month!

On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, we held our monthly Sisterhood meeting. It's such a joy for me to be joined by a dozen or so women each month who share my passion to make KJCC the kind of place where people look forward to come and enjoy each other's company and friendship, while celebrating Judaism.

The Installation Brunch, which was held on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>, following the KJCC General Meeting and the installation of new Officers and Board members, was a huge success! I would like to thank Nettie Seder for organizing the event with such expertise, and I also offer big thanks to the fifteen women who prepared and contributed a wide variety of delicious homemade dishes.

The Sisterhood Book Club met on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Mangrove Mike's Café. This club is a wonderful new addition to our activities, enjoyed very much by those who attend. Thank you to Randi Grant, who presented the idea to begin a Sisterhood Book Club! Please plan to attend the next book club discussion on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Be prepared to discuss the newly released book, "The Great Alone," by Kristin Hannah. For more information, you

may contact Randi Grant at [rkgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpa@bellsouth.net) or call her at 1-954-383-4320.

If you are reading this column before March 4<sup>th</sup>, I would like to invite all KJCC women to attend our monthly Sisterhood meeting on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. You will see that we truly enjoy ourselves while planning activities to enhance the more social (and culinary) aspects of KJCC membership!

Passover begins this month, and Sisterhood is busy planning for two wonderful Seders! We are so excited to offer the Keys Jewish Community Center 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Seder to all female members and their friends who would like to attend. This Seder is a very special time for women to celebrate Passover together in a meaningful way. Please join us on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. at the KJCC. The cost is \$33.00 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting Erica Lieberman-Garrett at 305-393-1162 or by e-mail at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com). Seating is limited for this Seder, so please RSVP by March 12<sup>th</sup> to reserve your space. The KJCC Annual Community Second Night Seder will be held on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will celebrate together at the Islamorada Fishing Club in Islamorada, located at Mile Marker 82.1 on the Bayside, behind the Lorelei. The cost to attend the Second Night Seder is \$54.00 per person. Please contact me to make your reservation at 1-305-766-3585 or by e-mail to [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com). You may also mail your check to the KJCC Sisterhood at P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070. Please plan to reserve soon since seating is limited. We will open reservations to the public on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There are vegetarian options available as well if you request it when making your reservation. You will see flyers for both of these Seders in this issue of Chai~Lights. I look forward to celebrating Passover with you! ♦







**FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018**

**FOLLOWING SERVICES**

**AT THE**

**KEYS JEWISH**

**COMMUNITY CENTER**

**FIRST NIGHT**

**MISHPACHAH SEDER -**

**A HAIMISHE EVENT**

Limited Seating - to reserve your spot and  
coordinate your covered dish,

Contact Nettie Seder

[ngseder@yahoo.com](mailto:ngseder@yahoo.com), 305-852-7283

No charge for this event.

Donations welcome.

*In Memoriam March 2018*

## In Memory Of

## Charles Kram

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

## In Memory Of

## Irwin Cutler

By Donald Zinner

## In Memory Of

**David Wernicoff**

By Donald Zinner

## In Memory Of

## Janet Blum

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

## In Memory Of

## Samual Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

## In Memory Of

## Audrey Pearlman

By William & Donna Bolton

## ***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 Yochebed*.)

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

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

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



***KJCC's Adult Education Committee presents:***  
**— Art Discussion #3 —**

## ***The Art of Judy Chicago***

**Wednesday, March 21st, 2018 — 7:00 p.m.**

***Named by Newsweek as one of 10 artists who  
 “Rocked the Ages,” and by the Union for Reform Judaism as  
 one of eight Jewish women who changed the world.***

Discussion to be led by KJCC's Marcia Kreitman — artist, designer and educator. Specific Jewish context by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD, KJCC Resident Scholar.  
 No charge. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### A Kidney is Found...at Disney World

This past summer, Robert Leibowitz, a New Jersey man, wore a T-shirt every day during a week-long vacation at Disney World that read "In Need of Kidney. O Positive," with his cell number listed as well. A woman photographed his shirt, posted it on Facebook and it went viral. Leibowitz had been on a list for a donor kidney for four years, told there would be a seven-to-ten-year wait. The Facebook photo brought in calls, voicemails and text messages from dozens of strangers. Four potential donors came to New York for additional testing, leading to one perfect match. It was Richie Sully from Indiana. He said it was something he would do again if he could. "I just saw a father who wanted to spend more time with his kids," Sully said. The two men have now become fast friends. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 1-28-18)

### AC...Without Electricity?

*SolCold*, an Israeli high-tech paint, protects surfaces from fire, water and extreme temperatures. So what's so special about this paint? *SolCold* uses the sun's power to also activate a cooling mechanism that, in a sense, provides air conditioning without the use of electricity. The double-layered coating absorbs the hot rays of the sun and re-emits that energy in the form of cold. The hotter the solar radiation the more the coating cools down, making *SolCold's* paint an electricity-free solution for intensely sunny climates such as Africa, Central and South America. The Herzliya-based startup plans to begin trials in two commercial and one residential building in Israel and Cyprus. Gadi Grottas, cofounder of *SolCold*, said that the company has received hundreds of inquiries regarding orders and distribution rights – estimated to be worth some \$100 million – from all over the world. The technology behind *SolCold* uses a combination of applications in ther-

modynamics, nanotechnology and quantum physics. Grottas expects the product to be affordable and to offer a fairly quick return on investment. The materials used in the product are 100 percent "green" and free of carbon emissions. "The paint could decrease electricity consumption by up to 60 percent and is expected to last for ten to fifteen years before needing a new coat," Grottas said. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 1-16-18)

### A Grammy for Two Leonards and Carrie

At the end of January, and just a little over a year since his death, singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen posthumously won his first Grammy Award. The award was given for Best Rock Performance for the title track from Cohen's final album, "You Want It Darker." The album was released just nineteen days before his death in the fall of 2016. The song is one of Cohen's most Jewish performances. It includes Hebrew phrases such as *Hineni, hineni* ("Here I am") and chants from the choir of the *Shaar HaShomayim* synagogue in Montreal, Cohen's hometown. Also earning a posthumous award was actress/author Carrie Fisher. Fisher won Best Spoken Word Album for "The Princess Diarist," the audiobook version of her memoir released just weeks before her death in December 2016. (Fisher portrayed Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars" movie series.) "Leonard Bernstein – The Composer," won "Best Historical Album." ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 1-29-18)

### A Candy With a Jewish History

*Starburst* candies, apparently one of Donald Trump's favorite sweets, began production in the United Kingdom in 1960. Peter Phillips, a copywriter at a London ad agency, won a contest to name the new chewy fruit-flavored candy, dubbing it "Opal Fruits." It became a huge best-seller in England and Europe. The sweet

munchie was first introduced into the United States market in 1967 as “M&M’s Fruit Chewies.” A few years later they were renamed *Starburst* and sales took off. (“Opal Fruits” was renamed *Starburst* in the UK in an effort to globalize the brand.) At age three, Phillips – born Peter Pfeffer in Vienna – and his parents fled Austria after his father, a doctor, had been told by a patient that he was on a list of those scheduled for transport to the Dachau concentration camp. Years later, Peter Phillips became an advertising copywriter and creative director. He was also an outspoken critic of the Austrian General Settlement Fund, which was established to compensate Holocaust survivors for property confiscated by the Nazis. (The fund was totally inadequate to repay what was owed.) Phillips himself received only 13 percent of his \$86,000 claim. (Interestingly, in England, *Starburst* candies are vegan and presumably kosher, whereas in the U.S. they contain animal gelatin, making them *treif*.) ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 1-16-18)

## 2018 Jewish Super Bowl Facts

When the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots faced each other on February 4<sup>th</sup> for the 2018 Super Bowl, there were some surprising Jewish connections.

- For the third time since 2012, both Super Bowl teams had Jewish owners: Jeffrey Lurie of the *Eagles* and Robert Kraft of the *Patriots*. (In fact, nine of the NFL’s 32 team owners are Jewish.)
- Kraft is a major Jewish philanthropist, having donated over \$100 million to charity, much of it to Jewish causes.
- Phil Basser, 99 (known affectionately as “Philadelphia Phil”), is an *Eagles* superfan. Basser became a fan at fifteen when the *Eagles* started play in 1933 and attended his first NFL game in 1936. This year he attended the Super Bowl for the first time.
- The owner of the team in whose stadium the game was played is Mark Wilf of the Minnesota Vikings. Wilf’s parents are Holocaust survivors. Over the past 50 years, the Wilf Family Foundation has donated over \$200 million to Jewish and Israeli causes.

- *Darchei Noam*, an Orthodox synagogue in Minneapolis, opened its doors to any Jewish fans who came to town for the game, offering Shabbat hospitality – services, meals and socializing – the day before the game.

- Some Jewish communities placed bets on the outcome, with local charities the big winners. Philadelphia’s *Congregation Rodeph Shalom* and Boston’s *Temple Israel* (which *Eagles* owner Lurie attended as a child) made a wager. The synagogue whose team lost pledged to donate 18 times the point difference in the game’s final score to charity.

- Visitors who arrived in Minneapolis via the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport were met by “Transfer of Memory,” a traveling exhibit of photos of Holocaust survivors, most of them from the Twin Cities. The photo exhibit contains 44 recent portraits of survivors in their homes. A vignette accompanying each photo describes the survivors’ life stories, their experience during the Holocaust or how they have coped with its memory. The exhibit was funded by Mark Wilf, who said, “Given the incredible amount of people who will be coming through the Twin Cities area, it’s an issue that needs increased awareness, not just in the Jewish community but in society in general.” (Two years ago, the Super Bowl brought one million people to Santa Clara, California.) ([www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com), 1-31-18)

## A Slow but Inspiring Journey

A Torah study group at *Congregation B’nai Tzedek*, a Conservative synagogue in Washington, D.C., has recently finished reading and studying the entire Torah, from the first words of Genesis – which they started in 1996 – to the last words in Deuteronomy. They met once a week for 22 years. Sometimes the group spent the entire hour-long session discussing just one or two verses. “Like those people who like to take their time with a fine cigar or a fine glass of wine, we took our time with a fine work of literature,” said Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt. The group took field trips to the *Library of Congress* to view historic documents and to Pennsylvania to see a re-creation of the *Ark of the Covenant* (so they could visualize and understand how long the cubits they read about

actually were). The class is now ready to move on to the book of *Joshua*, which continues the story where the Torah leaves off. ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 2-1-18)

### In Memoriam

★ Arkady Wajspapir, a key figure in the 1943 uprising at the *Sobibor* death camp, died recently at the age of 96. The uprising began after the arrival of several Red Army veterans with combat experience, among them Wajspapir and Aleksandr “Sasha” Aronovich Pechersky. The group gathered weapons made from work tools. The plan was to neutralize guards and commanders at several crucial points, allowing for a mass escape. The Sobibor Uprising took the German guards totally by surprise and is widely considered a symbol of both the courage of Jewish resistance fighters and the Nazis’ complacency and confidence that they could prevent or suppress any actions by inmates. Wajspapir was also one of four inmates who gave the signal for the uprising. Eleven SS officers were killed and 300 inmates escaped. Of the inmates who fled the camp, only 53 escaped the search-and-destroy raids the Nazis carried out in retribution. (And of those, only a handful are still alive today.) After the war, Wajspapir returned to Donetzk and resumed his career as an engineer. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 1-12-18)

★ Mathilde Krim, who helped save millions of lives by advocating AIDS research, prevention and treatment, died in January. She was 91. Born to a Swiss Protestant father and Italian Roman Catholic mother, Krim studied biology in Geneva during World War II while working part-time in the office of a Swiss Jewish lawyer. It was there that she learned that Switzerland, like so many other countries, refused to issue visas to Jewish refugees desperate to escape Fascist Europe. When the war ended, she was horrified by what she saw in a newsreel about the concentration camps and the fate of those who had failed to obtain entry visas. In 1945, Krim met Jewish students at the University of Geneva and was drawn to the cause of the new state of Israel. She helped smuggle weapons from former French resistance fighters to the

*Irgun*, the Zionist paramilitary organization that operated clandestinely in Mandatory Palestine between 1931 and 1948. She converted to Judaism and relocated to Israel with her first husband David Danon, a Romanian medical student. Krim became a researcher at the *Weizmann Institute of Science* and later was assigned to the laboratory of Professor Leo Sachs, one of Israel’s first geneticists. In 1957, she married Arthur Krim (her first marriage having failed), an American Jewish entertainment lawyer and trustee of the *Weizmann Institute*, as well as long-time chairman for *United Artists* and *Orion Pictures*. In the early 1980s, Krim was based at *Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center* in New York, where she heard about a new viral disease primarily affecting intravenous drug users and gay men. Remembering her years seeing the injustice of the Nazis and their crimes against humanity, she became an outspoken advocate for people with AIDS. She cofounded and helped fund the *AIDS Medical Foundation* in 1983, which later became the *American Foundation for AIDS Research* (AmFAR), backing research and life-saving prevention policies in spite of opposition from religious groups and social conservatives. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 1-19-18)

### Did You Know...

★ For the first time in the history of Israel’s Air Force, a female pilot has been promoted to commander of a flight squadron. Major T., 35, was trained as a transport pilot. Her promotion makes her a lieutenant colonel. In addition, Major M. – now Lt. Colonel M. – a female flight supervisor, has been appointed chief of a command and control unit at the air forces operations headquarters, becoming the first female flight supervisor to attain this rank. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 1-17-18)

★ Two major U.S. publications have named Israel within their top ten rankings, citing the country’s “military prowess and innovation capabilities,” respectively. *US News and World Report* listed Israel as the 8<sup>th</sup> most powerful military nation in the world. *Bloomberg News* lists the Jewish state as the 10<sup>th</sup> most innovative, praising its high-tech industry and technological advances. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-24-18) ◇

# 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.*

## **Adult Education      In Honor of Shabbaton**

Blum, Laurie; David, Channa; Ecker, Ellen;  
Ellner, Susan; Ginsberg, Bernard; Gordon, Susan;  
Greek, Mimi; Hartz, Steve & Jan; Hayden, Beth;  
Horowitz, Beth; Kaminstein, Beth;  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena; Kreitman, Marcia;  
Margulies, Jeff & Cheryl; McCollough, Debbie;  
Peckman, Joyce; Pollack, Linda; Price, Jan;  
Rose, Skip; Roy, Medina; Shabathai, Joe & Kathy;  
Stark, Joan; Steinbock, Stephen; Vinicur, Sam

## **General Fund      In Honor of**

Grobman, Marc    2017 High Holiday-Open Door  
Shapo, Ronald & Marilyn

## **General Fund      In Memory of**

Grant, Andrew & Randi      Norman Gulkis

## **Meditation Garden      In Memory of**

Sax, Stuart & Lauren      Patty Silver Schocket

## **Meditation Garden**

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

## **Oneg Sponsorship      In Honor of**

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica      her birthday

## **Tikkun Olam      In Honor of**

Anonymous	vegetable garden
Anonymous	vegetable garden
Anonymous	vegetable garden
Avner, Gloria	vegetable garden
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena	vegetable garden
Rose, Skip	vegetable garden
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Puerto Rico aid

## **Rent**

Art Guild of the Purple Isles  
Clean Conchs NA  
Mah Jongg  
Mah Jongg  
Mah Jongg

## **Yahrzeit**

Agler, Richard & Mindy  
  
David, Channa

Emkey, Gerri & Frank

Forst, Donna  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Kaplan, Myra & Marshall

Krissel, Michael  
Marmar, David & Pamela  
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

Shapiro, Libby  
Tallent, Lillian  
Taramona, Hermine

## **Yahrzeit Plaque**

Shapiro, Libby

## **In Memory of**

Talia Agler,  
Sue Steinberg  
Larry Daddona

Nathan Weisberg,  
Rodney Kinney  
Leo Forst  
Fannie Phillips  
David Kaplan,  
Luba Tuchman,  
Monroe Kaypla  
Joseph Krissel  
Samuel Marmar  
Betty Weinstein  
Nat Gulkis,  
Bea Gulkis,  
Paul Kaminsky,  
Joan Kaminsky  
Joseph Shapiro  
Morris Estrin  
Norma Robinson

## **In Memory of**

Joseph Shapiro

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## Eye on the Arts

### Joyce Peckman



**Joe Cella Birds in Nature Art Show** – March 1-3 at Key Largo Library Community room. If you haven't yet stopped by, do catch the end of this show, presented by the Purple Isles Art Guild. There are works by several KJCC artists.

**The Connections Project – A Mosaic Wall in Marathon** – March 1-15 at Royal Furniture, MM 50. A wall of four hundred individual 6"x6" canvases, created by Keys artists and locals, are being displayed on the second leg of their journey from Key Largo to Key West. Each piece is a tiny gem, a number of which were contributed by KJCC artists.

**Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** – Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m., at Coral Shores High School. Broadway comes to Tavernier! Over 70 students and teachers are participating in this fabulous performance. Tickets are \$5 pre-sale and \$10 at the door.

**The Jazz Ambassadors** – Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m., at the Seminole Theatre in Homestead. This is the official touring big band of the United States Army. Formed in 1969, this 19-member jazz ensemble has received great acclaim at home and abroad. Free tickets are available online at [Seminoletheatre.org](http://Seminoletheatre.org).

**International Guitar Night** – Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at Keys Brewing Company, 200 Morada Way oceanside in Islamorada. A Gypsy jazz legend will host classical and contemporary performers from Canada, U. S. and Poland. For information, check [Keysice.com](http://Keysice.com), or call 305-916-5206.

**Art Guild of the Purple Isles Annual Show** – Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at Florida Keys History and Discovery Center, MM. 82.1, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The talents of our local artists (including KJCC members) will be on display, and delightful to see. There is no admission charge. Open weekends only: Thursday through Sunday.

**Creative Art with Jane** – Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, KJCC, at 12:30, Jane Friedman will guide us as we each create a three-dimensional floral picture. \$10 donation for materials. Bring your own lunch.

**Morada Way Art Walk** – Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at MM 81.5. Enjoy the evening air while perusing the wares of art and craft vendors and listening to live music. [www.Moradaway.org](http://www.Moradaway.org)

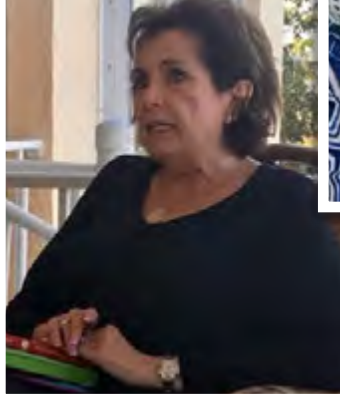
**Seafood and Art Festival** – Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at Islamorada Moose Lodge, 81573 Old Highway. There will be live music, Florida Keys artisans showcasing their works, and food and libations from twenty local restaurants and breweries. Eat, drink, dance and be merry. This festive day benefits local Moose charities.

**Keys Ice presents Grace Pettis in Concert** – Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 7-10 p.m. at Heartbreakers' Beer Garden, 81001 Overseas Hwy. in Islamorada. This award-winning singer-songwriter hails from Lookout Mountain, Alabama. \$20.-\$25. online at [keysice.com](http://keysice.com)

**Dave Feder in Concert at KJCC** – Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. This is a rare opportunity to hear our own internationally respected guitarist in concert, without the distraction of conversation and food service, bringing us the best of his creative sounds. Ticket cost will be \$25 by cash or check at door and from Beth Hayden, who can be contacted for information or tickets at 305-773-0067 or [hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net). Tickets can also be purchased online for \$27.50 at [www.davidfeder.com](http://www.davidfeder.com). ♦

# Photo Gallery

On January 22nd, Sisterhood held the first meeting of its new Book Club. They discussed the acclaimed recent novel "Bee Season," by Myla Goldberg. It all took place at the beautiful bayside home of Linda Pollack. The organizer was Randi Grant, shown near right.



On Wednesday, January 24th, the first of this season's Art-and-the-Jews discussions took place, on the work and life of Lost Generation artist Chaim Soutine, a talent held in high esteem by others of his period, like Modigliani (also Jewish), who were far better known. The evening was conceived and led by Beth Kaminstein, with early 20th century Jewish context



provided by Rabbi Rich Agler. Not everyone who came was familiar with



Soutine's work, but Beth's Powerpoint allowed all of us to leave with a new artist on our list of favorites.



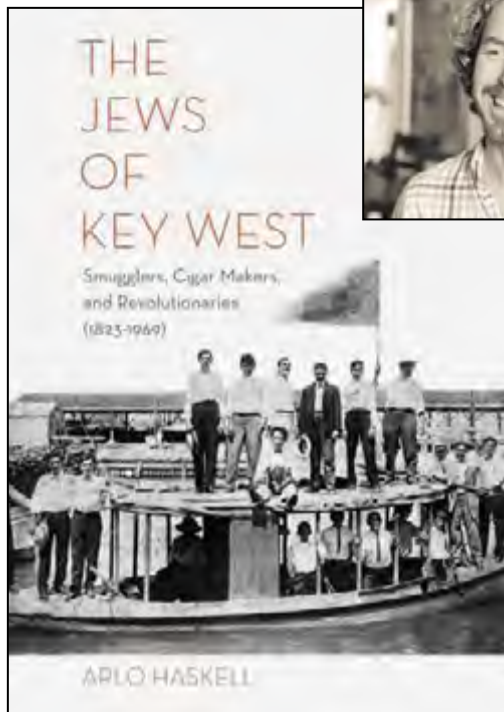
The two photos at top were taken after the January 26th service, at the oneg, where everyone smiles and enjoys. (Unlike the stale-Danish-and-tepid-coffee shuls, KJCC always offers fresh fruit and, often, home-baked delectables.)



The next morning, on Saturday the 27th, Rabbi Richard Agler offered his monthly in-season Torah learning service. Medina read from the Torah on Shabbat for the first time ever. (She was raised Orthodox, where the invitations never came.) It's simply not possible for any shul, anywhere, to have more stimulating Torah discussions than those led by Rabbi Agler.

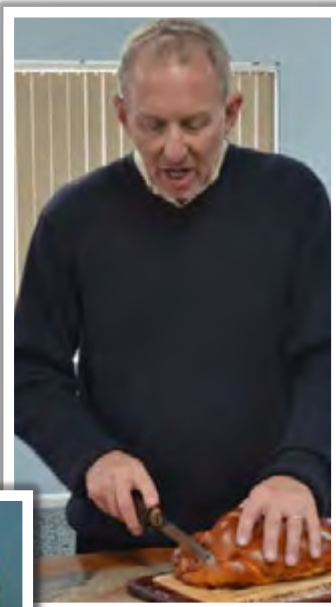


**Smugglers. Secret cells  
of plotting Revolutionaries.  
Overturners of Empires.  
Operators of a clandestine  
human underground.  
Think you know the Jews  
of Key West? Come to KJCC on  
Wednesday, March 7th  
and hear the real stories.**



What happens in almost every era and culture when there are trade and export opportunities? Yes, we see an influx of Jews and then see them rise in prominence. Arlo Haskell, a Keys native and executive director of the Key West Literary

Seminar, has researched and written a riveting book about the Jews of Key West. (They first arrived as peddlers long before the Civil War.) Their story, interwoven with commercial success, political intrigue and an occasional wink at the strictures of law, was never told in full before this book. (For lots of reasons, including work as human smugglers and support for José Martí plus the eventual rise of the local Ku Klux Klan.) Mr. Haskell himself will be at KJCC to regale us with stories and answer questions. It all begins at 7:00 p.m. Please join us. Bring any interested friends. There is no charge, and of course there will be refreshments. Brought to you by KJCC's Adult Education Committee, [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)

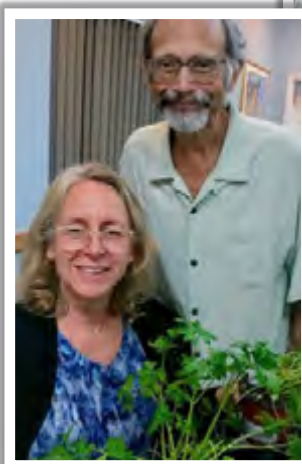
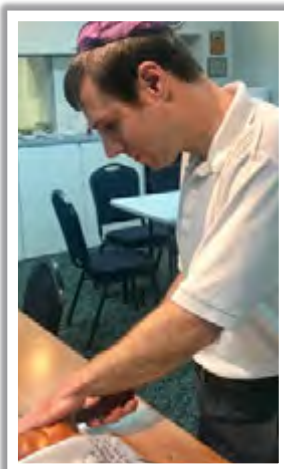


Some additional photos from Rabbi Agler's Shabbat morning service on January 27th. You can tell by the sweater Rabbi Agler is wearing that we were having, by Keys standards, a bit of a cold spell at the time. The bottom photo is of a couple who just happened to be in the Keys and had the good fortune to experience one of Rabbi Agler's services. Being KJCC, as you can see by the photo at top, we immediately offered them an aliyah.



Enjoying the cheese, crackers, hummus, sweets and varieties of seasonal fresh fruit (plus, *de rigueur*, both regular and decaf) after the evening's film on January 27th. Now in its second season, the Adult Ed winter film fest, like other Jewish-themed film series around the country, is developing a loyal following.

The oneg on February 2nd began with something special...Gloria Avner led it off with a short Tu Bish'vat ceremony to celebrate one of the four Jewish new years, the New Year of the Trees...



# **KJCC Adult Education Committee**

## **Presents**



**Dr. Bernard Ginsberg**

**A Talk on  
Books of the Bible  
Jews Hardly Ever Read**

**Saturday, March 24, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.**

Explore the Book of Proverbs  
and other gems from Ketuvim (Writings),  
the last of the Five Books of Moses.

Discuss History of Biblical Literature,  
Discover source of sayings  
like "spare the rod and spoil the child."  
See "wisdom" as anthropomorphic.

There will be refreshments  
(because Bernie insists it is a Jewish law that no event is Jewish  
unless it ends with coffee and cake).

**No Charge**

**Guests Welcome**



...And then, at evening's end on February 2nd, after a sampling of the fruits that grow on trees in Israel, plus a rousing *Shehechyanu*, all were given a healthy seedling in honor of Tu Bish'vat, to take home, nurture and watch grow in wonder. It's especially important here to enjoy the photo of Pauline with Maddie Bloom just below. As it teaches in the Talmud, trees were planted for us by those who came before, and we do the same for those who follow us...



**At the annual fundraiser for Arts in the Keys at the Murray Nelson Center in Key Largo on February 6th. Each year a mosaic is created of hundreds of 6" x 6" original paintings, and each year a number of KJCC artists are asked to participate...**



**A bad DVD foiled our showing of "The Green Prince" on February 3rd. (The documentary about how the son of a Hamas founder became a valued undercover agent for Israel was re-scheduled.) But there was still the chance to enjoy the good food and each other. As one member marveled, "the shuls in Miami charge for this, you don't, and the food here is much better!"**



**On February 7th Erica Lieberman-Garrett celebrated her birthday with a bash on the beach, even bringing down her sisters and mother and other family from Toronto...**



**KJCC  
presents**

# **Dave Feder In Concert**

**Wednesday, March 28th**

**Showtime: 7:30 pm**

**Location:** Keys Jewish Community Center  
MM 93.1 oceanside

**Tickets: \$25.** Cash or Checks at door or  
Contact Beth Hayden for advance sales and additional  
info at: 305-773-0067 or [hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net).  
Tickets may also be purchased online via  
[www.DavidFeder.com](http://www.DavidFeder.com) for \$27.

**Limited Seating. Reserve Now. CDs on sale at concert.**

## **LIMITLESS GUITAR**

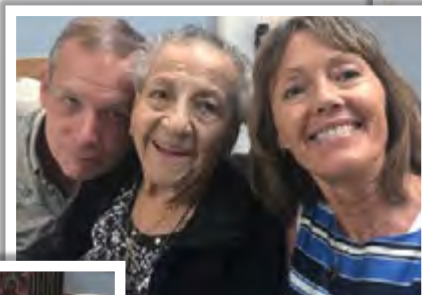
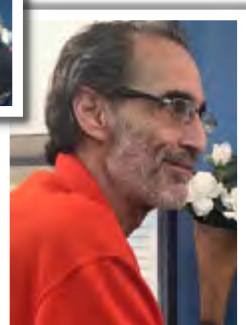
DAVIDFEDER.COM

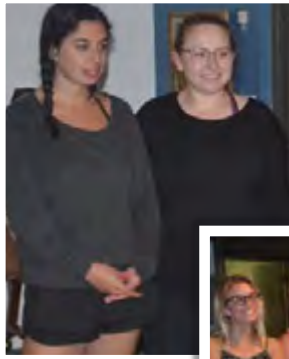


February 9th was another amazing and memorable evening at KJCC. During the service we were treated to a slow and soulful version of *Shalom Aleichim* that tingled spines and raised goose bumps throughout the room. As shown at top, Rabbi Ed was here with 17 (yes, 17) of his Scubi Jews to do several days of *Tikkun HaYam* work. Rabbi Ed led the Kiddush, at the oneg sponsored by Erica and long-time KJCC friend Arthur Plutzer.

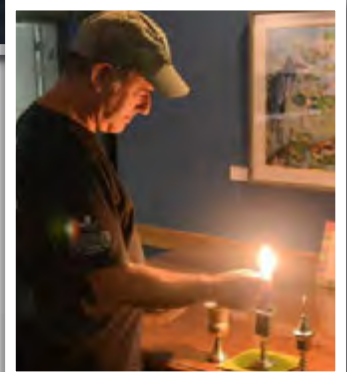


Some additional photos from the special evening on February 9th. As you can see in the photo at bottom, Rabbi Ed's Scubi Jews are very comfortable taking over KJCC's David Kamely classroom when they're here. Ever the teacher, Rabbi Ed has them gathered here for a preview of the weekend's work...

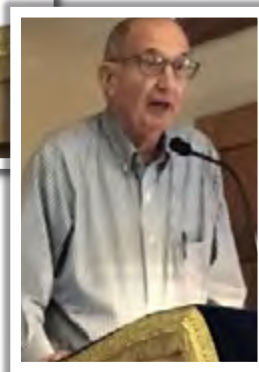
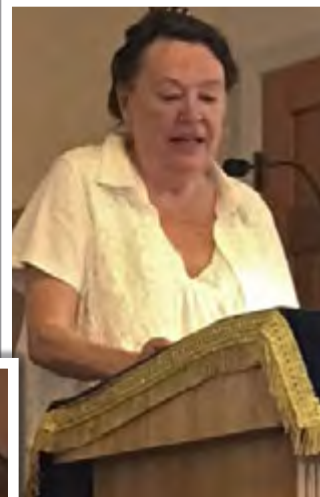




As he does so often when he's here, Rabbi Ed led a Havdalah ceremony on the evening of Saturday, February 10th, after a long day of diving and debris clean-up and just before that evening's complex and riveting Israeli film ("Gett: The Trial of Vivian Amsalem") dramatizing the long and painful process it often is for women to convince Orthodox rabbinic courts — there is no avenue through civil courts — to grant them a divorce.

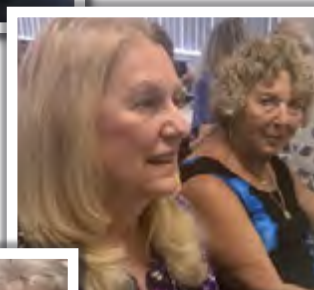


Some photos taken at KJCC's Annual Meeting on February 11th. Our by-laws call for officers and directors to be elected annually. The new board, including past-presidents, is shown at bottom after the swearing-in conducted by Jules Seder. Stan Margulies spoke to all of his passion for Israel and the continued health of KJCC...





**All those who come to the KJCC Annual Meeting are rewarded for their diligence by a sumptuous brunch afterward sponsored by Sisterhood...**



**KJCC's Adult Education Program**  
Proudly Presents Its  
**Second Annual KJCC**  
**Winter Film Fest**

**A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic  
Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens**



Sat., March 10, 2018    The Green Prince

Sat., March 17, 2018    Dancing in Jaffa

**More Coming in April**

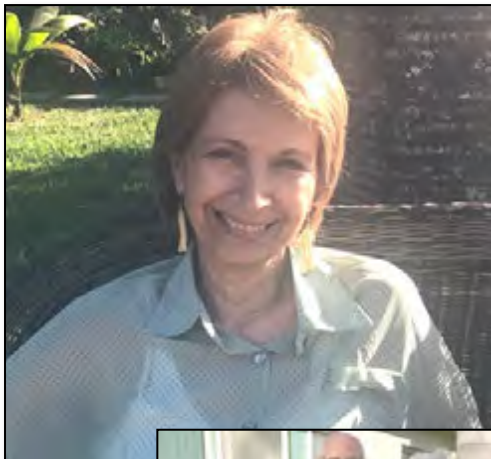
**All films begin at 7:00 p.m.**

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME – There is no charge**

**REFRESHMENTS** will be served afterwards

**For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)**

## A Visit with Yardena . . .



It was a little like old home week, with mishpocha from far away, all visiting Yardena (who was also being visited by her son, Eitan, and granddaughters, all the way from Chile). We had all worked together on so many education and Ritual events. This day we were celebrating Yardena's birthday and her continuing healing. She says our *mishabeyrach* prayers are really helping her. Good to see George and Muriel Swartz looking well.

Yardena's house is a wonder, with circular flow, arched doorways, touches of zen throughout and the outside gardens always visible, a backyard paradise with soaring palms, russet brick pathways and ambience of peace. Let's say it in Hebrew: it's a veritable *gan ayden*, a Garden of Eden, a perfect place for healing and welcoming visitors.

Yardena was happy to celebrate feeling better with a visit from friends and family near and far. She said the KJCC *mishabeyrach* prayers made a big difference to her and wants to ex-



tend her thanks to all of us. It was so good to see her son Eitan and the twins in from Chile, and Muriel and George Swartz.

***"Thank you for the lovely visit, we had such a wonderful time with friends, the best company I could wish for. You lifted up my mood and gave me strength to go through the rest of the tough times.  
—Toda Raba."***

***—Yardena***



Life is complex and varied, not merely within KJCC but also for its members in the larger community. Marcia Kreitman is shown as right (with a friend) attending this year's Women's March in January. Just below, Susan Gordon plays recorder during a Key Largo Library recital by the Mangrove Swamp Band, of which she's a regular (while Linda and Skip listen).

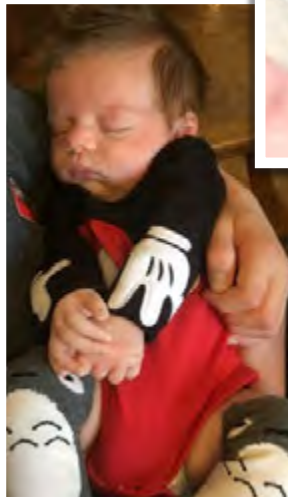


The photos at bottom depict two different evenings of fine music presented annually by the Florida Keys Concert Association, led in the Upper Keys by KJCC's Joyce Peckman.

Joyce is shown below with two members of a classical strings trio. At left, Susan Ellner with a brilliant young Chinese pianist.



**Bernie Ginsberg's son Jay celebrates the birth of his first child, daughter Jet, at right and below. At far right Yosef Peckman at his recent Bar Mitzvah.**



**At left Joyce bravely poses atop a papier-mâché beast with son Daniel's other three children at Gatorland in Orlando. At bottom left, the Gross family in front of their new home on Plantation Key.**

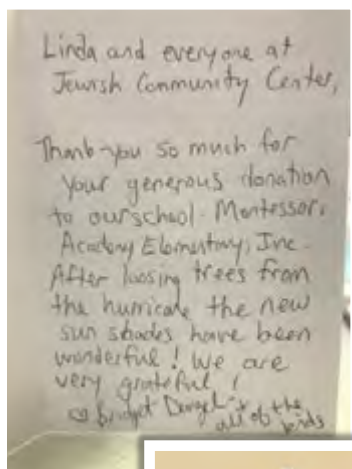


Thanks to the generosity of the KJCC community, we have been able to assist in hurricane recovery locally and in Puerto Rico.

The Montessori Academy in Key Largo lost much of the shade on their playground during Hurricane Irma. We reached out to them and paid for sunshades. The children are now safer and happier when they get to spend time outside.

Our members also donated \$1,388 to be sent to the Jewish Community Center of Puerto Rico. This money will be used to provide help to those still in need after all these months. With the assistance of Israid (Israel's Humanitarian Agency), UJA New York and other synagogues like ours, they have spent months cleaning up their shul and reaching out to assist others in the community. They have been providing tarps, water, water purification equipment, food, baby formula, soap and other basic products. Puerto Rico still has a long way to go on its road to recovery, so we are especially happy to be able to assist them in their efforts.

—Linda Kaplan  
Chair, KJCC  
Tikkun Olam  
Committee



Pauline Roller, shown here with tiara and bouquet of roses, was voted Valentine's Day Queen by her fellow residents at the Plantation Key Health and Rehab Center. It's hard to imagine that anyone else might have presumed to run against her.



# Gerri Emkey Sets World Record . . .

I've been away for a while, traveling and competing, so it felt so good being in the synagogue last night. I even slept well.

The photos you see here are all about an International Dragonboat event in Torrejivia, Spain, a high-level moment in the sport for teams all around the world to compete in. To prepare, I had gone to a training camp with an excellent coach from Canada named Pat Bradley. The camp was for twelve days; there were paddlers from many different parts of the United States. For many of us it was a first, a very intense training program with an Olympic coach/trainer.

Well, actually we trained very early in the morning and then we had free time in the afternoon. Of course, after we took our naps. I had invited my niece to come with me. She did participate in the camp but chose to be the

drummer for the races and not to paddle. Our team won best team in the event, which felt great.

Then about two hundred participants wanted to break the Guinness Book world record for Dragonboating the longest distance in 24 hours. (Yes, we insiders sometimes use the name of the sport as a verb.) Teams of twenty participants paddled for one hour each. We rotated teams for twenty-four hours. And we did break the record.

I thank G-d for allowing me this opportunity to paddle around the world, and paddling in the Mediterranean was wonderful. (If you remember my last submission, the main reason I started this sport was to regain upper body strength during my recovery from breast cancer. I still compete in pink all over the world. But now I'm also branching out. It's pretty neat to hold a world's record.

—Love, Gerri



# - THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY -

## MARCH

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

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

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

**1152** – Frederick Barbarossa is elected Roman-German king. Known to history as Barbarossa or Frederick I, he rules as Holy Roman Emperor for forty years. He fiercely protects his Jewish subjects, warning local priests and monks not to preach against the Jews. He tells Parliament that anybody who kills a Jew will forfeit his own life. Thanks to Frederick, German bishops threaten excommunication for those who attack Jews. Jews sincerely grieve his death, and a Jewish commentator of the time

writes: "Frederick defended us with all his might and enabled us to live among our enemies, so that no one harmed the Jews."

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

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

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

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

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

**1845** – Florida becomes the 27th state to join the Union. In 1763, the first recorded Jews in

Florida came to Pensacola, in the northwest corner of the territory. More Jews moved to north Florida in the next few decades, but the Jewish population remains small during this time, numbering no more than a dozen individuals. When Florida becomes a state, there are fewer than 100 Jews in a total population of 66,500. The first U.S. Senator from Florida is a Jew, David Levy Yulee.

**1877** – Emile Berliner invents the microphone. He will also invent a flat disc that will replace Edison's cylinder and become the prototype for the phonograph record, which will, in one form or another, become the standard for the recording industry for almost a hundred years.

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

**1899** – Bayer registers aspirin as a trademark, claiming that Felix Hoffman, an "Aryan" scientist, develops the drug to alleviate the symptoms of his rheumatic father. But according to Diarmuid Jeffreys, the author of *Aspirin: The Story of a Wonder Drug*, it is in fact a Jew named Arthur Eichengrün, a Bayer chemist, who first finds an aspirin formulation tolerable to the human stomach and without the unpleasant side effects of nausea and gastric pain. According to author Jeffreys, Eichengrün also invents the name "aspirin" and is the first person to use the new formulation to test its safety and efficacy. Eichengrün, however, is not included in the official version of Bayer's history, published in 1934, because that was no time to be conspicuously and heroically Jewish in Germany.

**1903** – Congress passes legislation to curb immigration to the United States. The bill requires immigrants to pay a two-dollar head tax each (possibly more money than many poor immigrants have ever seen). It also gives immi-

gration officers the right to peremptorily exclude those whom they deem anarchists. The legislation is obviously aimed at the flood of hopefuls coming from Southern and Eastern Europe, including large Jewish populations from the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires.

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

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

**1913** – Harold Hochstein is born. He will gain fame, if not instant name recognition, on Broadway, in Hollywood and on Television as American character actor Harold J. Stone.

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

**1938** – Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia. The connection with Jewish history has been continuous and complex ever since.

**1949** – The first Israeli troops reach the Gulf of Aqaba during the War for Independence. A white bed sheet with a hand-drawn blue Star of David is hoisted as a sign of the Jewish state's claim to the area around Eilat. ♦

# Visit to a Dollhouse

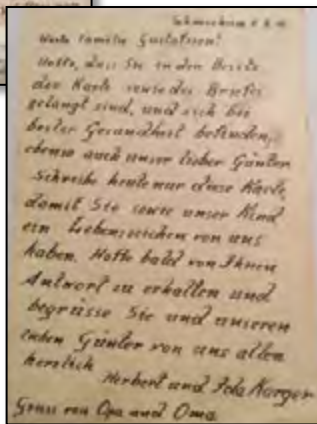
by Gloria Avner

When Medina and I accepted the invitation to visit the Kargers, we expected to walk into the lives of people who came from two vastly different worlds and yet had managed to combine them for over 60 years. We knew we'd see Shirley's doll collection plus some of Gunther's memorabilia of his life before, during and after the Holocaust. But people's

lives are always a journey of discovery and wonder for those getting to know them. Little did we imagine, though, that we would be walking into a three-dimensional dollhouse/museum. (We found out later that there were many thousands of dolls, most of which had actually been housed in a museum when the Kargers lived in New Orleans, Shirley's birthplace.) Gunther and Shirley now live in Homestead, just at the entrance to the Florida Keys. Shirley's dolls occupy every room, shelf, closet, and bathroom. They still make Shirley happy, as they have her whole life. Each, of course, has a special story. It is endearing to watch her grin as she takes us from room to room, shelf to shelf, pointing out her favorites (myriad versions of Betty Boop) and reminiscing over the circumstances behind each acquisition.



The photo above shows Gunther's post-war passport, the one that gained him entry to the United States, with the help of HIAS (then called the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). The letters shown (yes, in German) are two of the 52 letters and postcards sent by his family to Gunther in Sweden, some even from the concentration camp, before they suddenly stopped. The earlier letters talked of hoped-for reunion, the later letters did not.



You'll notice, of course, that the drawing and painting below show the same two children. The boy is Gunther, still living in German Schmiedeheim. The little girl was Hannah

Baumann, his closest playmate when both were five. Hannah and her family also fled by train, just before Gun-

ther's family was rounded up. That train was stopped. All Jews aboard were taken off, shot and thrown into a random mass grave.



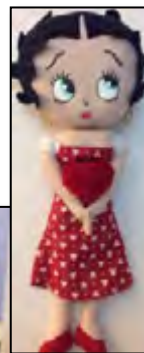
After a lunch of delicious homemade chicken soup, we were given a tour of Gunther's photos and his treasured remembrances of a home he was forced to leave at the age of six. In 1939, sent on the last train of Jewish children out of Germany, Gunther would have to adapt to a new home in northern Sweden. He would never see his parents again; they and his whole family would perish in the dark, brooding sickness of the Holocaust.

The photos of Gunther's parents, his home, and his certificates of a lifetime of high achievement were all moving. But the artifact that touched us most, for some reason, was his violin. It had been found in an ancient Swedish church dating back to the 1200s. (And we think a church built in colonial times here is old.) He

showed us a photo of the church. Its pastor had given the violin to Gunther in 1940 when, at seven years old, the tiny and still dazed little German Jewish boy had displayed a talent for music. Though lessons stopped five years later when he was sent to an orphanage, the instrument became an emotionally potent part of his life story. It went with him wherever he lived, from the orphanage to foster homes to the United States after the war, throughout his stint in the U.S. Air Force and to each of his many homes with Shirley. They have had it fully restored but it still lives in its original wooden case.

As we thanked Shirley and Gus (her pet name for him) for the excellent lunch and tour of their prized possessions, I could not help imagining a scene in which the violin played for the dolls, perhaps in Shirley's dreams. ♦

**At upper right, Gunther displays his treasured violin, still in its original wooden case. Shown with the Shirley that first attracted Gunther as a U.S.O hostess in New Orleans are several of her prized (thousands of) dolls. As a child, Shirley's family had had a store in New Orleans often visited by seamen. The collection began when the seamen would return with dolls for Shirley from around the world.**



# KJCC Annual Community Passover Second Seder



Saturday, March 31, 2018

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

104 Madeira Rd Islamorada, FL 33036

MM 82.1 Bayside behind Lorelei



For information and reservations contact

Susan Gordon

susangordon424@yahoo.com, (305) 766-3585

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

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

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

# PASSOVER

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

# Ask Me a Question: *I'll Tell you a Story*

## Is it time for a new Haggadah?

by Gloria Avner

Three thousand years ago we were fleeing from slavery. That's a long time to keep a memory alive. We easily forget a crisis we passed through last month, or a year ago, much less what happened to us 30 or 40 or 3,000 years ago. Why haven't we lost those ancient memories of escape to freedom? Is it because we still see scores – make that hordes – of downtrodden people striving, as we did, to make their way to hoped-for freedom in lands often more hostile and fearful than open-armed and welcoming? What saved us from forgetting? Was it our covenant and the book of rules received at Sinai? More likely, it was our promise to be hospitable to the stranger, to be open to the “other,” to share our food, our family table, and most of all, our story. It all keeps us mindful of our heritage and this seminal seasonal event. After all, that's what Haggadah means: beyond the dipping, the eating, the prayers and the songs – there is “the telling.”

In each generation, we do our best to keep it real, to feel those “tight constricted places” (in Hebrew “Mitzraim,” which interestingly is also the word for “Egypt”) we need to escape from. We remember each year as if it were you and I taking that deep breath of trust and walking into the sea that just parted, as if you and I were joyously playing our hand drums along with Miriam and singing “Shir HaYam,” then walking into the desert and dealing with issues of hesitancy, cowardice, fatigue and insecurity. We are commanded to do so, to feel as if we ourselves are the fleeing slaves. Could you and I have endured 40 years of wandering? Can we last through 40 minutes of “same old, same old?” The human condition requires novelty. Let's look at the role of Haggadahs, our tool to tell our story and get us meaningfully through our seders. Perhaps it's time, in this era of mind-boggling rapidity of change, to find a new tool.

Two new Haggadahs sit on either side of me. There are more coming. I can't help it. Their very different approaches to telling the same story – and their art – move me. They are beautiful, thought-provoking, eager to use non-gender-specific terminology for God, and all find ways to stimulate conversation between the generations. They are

the tool for what Passover is all about, “the telling.” Haggadahs are both guidebook and ritual objects. They, as much as *maror*, *matzah*, eggs, and *charoset*, help make our journey from *avadim* (slaves) to *b'nei chorin* (free people) a multi-dimensional experience.

Three thousand years after we crossed the Reed Sea, we still ask the same questions.



**The elaborate Darmstadt Haggadah, c1400 C.E.**



**A page of art from the legendary Sarajevo Haggadah.**

Why? Because the survival of the Jewish people is at stake. We've been without a homeland (until recently), second-class citizens all over the world for centuries, ghetto-ized, ostracized, and demonized. Why is this holiday, Pesach, celebrated more than any other, by observant and secular Jews alike? Because on this night, no matter where we live, every member of every Jewish household sits and celebrates our tribe's survival and our covenant with God. We don't do this in a shul. We sit in a home, around a dining room table, among family and friends. Bring on the Haggadah. We must pass our story on.

All Haggadahs have in common the official steps and parts required of a Seder (Hebrew for *order*). It is ritual theater (with 14 acts), and we play all the parts. The children (how wonderful that most new Haggadahs use the word "children" now instead of "sons") must ask the questions so we can introduce them to the characters and plot, so the children can feel and breathe and taste the journey along with us. The adults keep them engaged until the end by hiding the *afikomen*; we engage them through "cumulative" songs introduced in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the madrigal of *Had Gad Yah* and *Echad Mi Yodea*. But even these tongue-twisting, breath-exhausting songs that are fun for children to sing are filled with deeper metaphorical meaning for adults. The animals abusing each other and that poor little Jewish goat represent the nations that sequentially conquered the Jews. There is danger in every generation. All we have to do is watch the news. Keeping free and helping others be free is our job. Raising children to have equal passion is also our task. We do it in partnership with God based on the mitzvahs given us in the Torah. Bless that little Jewish goat. With God's help, he lives on.

Moses brought The Torah to us (*Dayenu!*) and that's when we first became the Jewish people. This is the story we tell and celebrate, the contract constantly to be renewed. We keep it in our ears and minds and even in our mouths. The seder plate takes us into the reality of the world of suffering we passed through and left behind in our desert wanderings. The gift of Torah was our reward for wandering in the desert, even though some lost their lives for lapsing and longing for security in a golden calf.

This is the story that has been told in painstakingly drawn lettering on parchment, in woodcuts, and finally in printed books.

I first fell in love with Haggadahs as a pre-teen when my *Bubby* and *Zaydeh* came from Chicago to stay with us for the whole eight days. Our Haggadah was not a Max-

well House edition but a pale blue Reconstructionist book. It asked a lot of contemporary questions, putting us squarely into the story. It told the traditional, essential story of our survival but recontextualized it, making it relevant to us and to the day. That may have been rare then, but it is not rare now.

One of my new Haggadahs is “A Night of Questions” by Rabbi Joy Leavitt and Michael Strassfeld. Like KJCC’s Haggadah, it is filled with marginalia, readings, commentaries, suggestions for embellished rituals, even a play, all designed to stimulate thoughtful discussion between the generations. Mandy Patinkin likes it because “the 3,000-year-old history is told with the immediacy of the evening news.” It keeps his Uncle Sol happy because it lets him “eat dinner before next year’s seder”; his wife is happy “because Miriam’s Cup is on the table.” We who love our KJCC Women’s Haggadah are happy about that, too.

My other favorite new Passover Haggadah is one with commentary by Elie Wiesel. He speaks eloquently of the ritual foods and drink that make the seder a multi-sensory experience in the “now.” *We* are the ones tasting the bitter tears shed by our ancestors in exile. *We* want this night to remind us of another night, far away but also near. In his words, “each song, each gesture, each cup of wine, each prayer, each silence, is part of the evening’s spell. The goal is to arouse our curiosity by opening the gates of memory.”

Our Haggadahs lead our children to make new memories, cemented by the engaging act of dipping pinkies in wine and counting out the plagues. New translations constantly appear, the most recent a poetic version by

Jonathan Safran Foer (author of “Everything is Illuminated”) and Nathan Englander. The plague of darkness isn’t just dark; it is clotted darkness. Just this small difference in words makes me feel in my stomach how nightmarish and oozy solid such a darkness would be.

Though there is some dispute about whether the first Haggadahs and the Seder were originated by the Rabbis in 170 C.E. or 200 years later, all agree that the Haggadah as a book has a 1000-year history. And what a history it has been.

The oldest complete version was written by hand by Saadia Gaon (*Gaon* means wise man) in the 10<sup>th</sup> century as part of a prayer book.

The one with the richest, longest-running and most novel-worthy history is the Sarajevo Haggadah, handwritten on bleached calfskin and illuminated in copper and gold. Its first 34 pages illustrate Biblical moments from Creation through Moses’ death. This Haggadah is the hero of Geraldine Brooks’ “The People of the Book,” a fictionalized account of the trials of this Haggadah, itself a victim of exile as often as the people whose story



**The Bird’s Head Haggadah, the first illustrated Ashkenazi manuscript.**

it tells. This beautiful Haggadah suffers as many hair-raising indignities as the Jews who tried to keep it intact, through changes of ownership, mishaps and adventures, theft, loss, escape, vicious plots, damage, recovery, loss again, and finally, restoration. One of the loveliest parts of the story is the visible evidence of continued use: there are wine stains on the pages. It rests now, safely protected in a museum in Bosnia/Herzegovina.

Many of us have only known one or two Haggadahs, the ones we grew up with, most of them with archaic language. But we may not know how our Haggadah came to be. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century C.E., the leaders of Jewish academies in

## A Chronology of Exquisite Early Haggadahs

**1300 C.E.** – The earliest Ashkenazi illuminated manuscript appears, called the Bird's Head Haggadah. To show human heads, putting graven images alongside sacred text, would have been considered forbidden, so some of the people have animal heads. But most have heads of birds. The angels have human heads, but are drawn with blank faces. This Bird's Head Haggadah is the first to introduce the baking of matzoh into the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Visit it on your next trip to Jerusalem's Israel Museum.

**1320 C.E.** – The earliest Sephardic illuminated Haggadah manuscript, created in Barcelona, Spain, is called the Golden Haggadah for its magnificent opulence, with miniature scenes from Exodus painted on the opening gold-bordered pages. The British Library is its home now.

**1350 C.E. - 1370 C.E.** – The best-known illuminated Haggadah manuscript, and brilliantly so, is the Sarajevo Haggadah, probably commissioned as a wedding gift for a young Jewish couple in Barcelona. After miraculously surviving centuries of expulsion, oppression, genocide, and two modern wars, it has inspired a fascinating novel (Geraldine Brooks' "The People of the Book"), and is now housed in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

**1400 C.E.** – Israel ben Meir of Heidelberg, Germany creates the lettering on parchment for the famous Darmstadt Haggadah. A different artist paints in the large blue-and-gold initials and decorates the borders; a third draws scenes of Jewish life, including seders, and mingles them with illustrations of wildlife; birds, bears, and lions abound. There are no restrictions here on human faces. Fashionably dressed men and women, in various positions and in fanciful architectural settings, raise their cups of wine and read with expressive gestures of speech. The pointed arches and vaulted ceilings are typical of Gothic architecture, and the clothing represents contemporary dress. For centuries this Haggadah belonged to German Jewish families. In 1780 a Baron Hopsch bought it, and it now rests in the Darmstadt Library in Germany, just south of Frankfurt.

Sura, Babylonia, put together the Haggadah as we know it today, but as part of a *Siddur*. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Haggadah first appeared as a separate book. (A fragment of one of the earliest Haggadahs has only three questions. I wonder which one was left out.) The first illuminated Haggadah came from Barcelona in the late 14<sup>th</sup> Century (see sidebar). The first printed Haggadah came from Lombardy in 1486. The Prague Haggadah, created in 1566, was illustrated with woodcuts.

By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century there had only been 25 editions printed. From 1900-1960 over 1,100 different Haggadahs were printed. By 1990, the number was 2,000. I can't guess at the number now. We are the guardians of our story. To make this story memorable to our children is to do what we

can to guarantee that our story will go on and our tribe will survive.

Feel free to visit my new Haggadahs. They are living now in our KJCC Library, made orderly by Medina Roy. Make your seder memorable for the children around your table. And if, like me, you happen to be at a seder where the youngest participant is over 50, we can educate and inspire our inner child.

When we open the door to wait for Elijah, watching for the slightest shimmer on the surface of his wine cup, remember that we are opening our doors and hearts to whomever walks in. Let us sing, sing, sing, and sometimes pound on the table, as we acknowledge our gratitude for God's great gifts, any one of which (including the makers of Haggadahs) would rouse us to a passionate "*Dayenu!*" *Chag Sameach.* ♦

# A Feast of Haggadot

## New Choices for Old Ceremony

**We gratefully acknowledge Carla Cohen, of the Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington, D.C., who compiled this bibliography to help people choose a Haggadah meaningful to them and the seder participants around their table.**

**A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah** by Noam Zion and David Dishon (\$10.95), published by the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, is an addition to the Passover literature. There is a rich discussion of "Should We Feel Joy at the Downfall of Our Enemies?"



Jonathan Safran Foer has orchestrated a new way of experiencing and understanding one of our oldest and sacred stories, with a new translation of the traditional text by Nathan Englander and commentary by major Jewish writers and thinkers Jeffrey Goldberg, Lemony Snicket, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, and Nathaniel Deutsch. Ravishingly designed and illustrated by the acclaimed Israeli artist and calligrapher Oded Ezer, **New American Haggadah** (\$16) is a unique and absorbing prayer book that brings together some of the preeminent voices of our time.

**THE JOURNEY CONTINUES: The Ma'yan Passover Haggadah** (\$15) was developed by the Jewish Women's Project of the Jewish Community Center on the Upper West Side of New York. Within the context of a traditional Seder service, the Haggadah speaks specifically to women's history and makes connections with other movements to redress economic and racial injustice. Among other additions is an excellent



interpretation of *Ha Lachma Anya*, the Bread of Affliction. (*This is the Haggadah KJCC uses at our Women's Seder.*)

**A Night Of Questions**, edited by Joy Levitt and Michael Strassfeld (\$24). The Reconstructionist Movement in 1999 published this handsome Haggadah, with three objectives: 1) to preserve the ancient language, 2) to wrestle with the questions posed by the story of the Exodus, and 3) inspire us to seek freedom for all peoples. This new Haggadah speaks to the modern, more secular Jew and to observers of tradition.

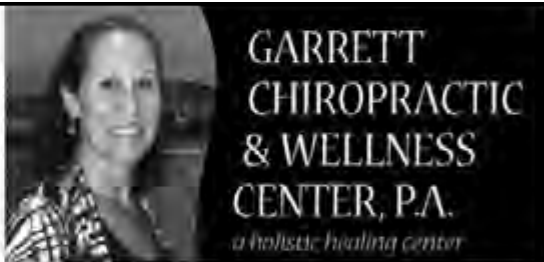
**A Passover Haggadah**, prepared by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform Movement), edited by Herbert Bronstein, illustrations by Leonard Baskin (\$16.95). This Haggadah is a favorite because of its lovely illustrations. The text contains introductory material and contemporary language that will contribute to any Seder. In his introduction, Rabbi Bronstein makes a point all seder leaders will gratefully remember: "It is not our intention that this Haggadah should be read in its entirety... Our aim is to provide a wide latitude and scope for choice."

**The Open Door**, edited by Sue Levi Elwell (\$9.95) was published by CCAR in 2002. In keeping with the Reform movement's increased use of Hebrew and greater incorporation of ritual, the Haggadah follows the order of the Seder with Hebrew and English.



This Haggadah strikes a nice balance between tradition and modern customs. It is also terse if you want to move the Seder along at a brisk pace.

**Gates Of Freedom Haggadah** by Chaim Stern (\$10.95) is an excellent Haggadah that presents traditional text with modern commentary in a manageable service. The text is particularly good on a list of modern plagues and reworking of *Dayenu*. A large number of songs with music are included, in Hebrew and transliterated.



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**April 2018**

**16 Nisan - 15 Iyar 5778**

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# April 2018

16 Nisan - 15 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6 Joe Shabathai <i>Nettie &amp; Jules Seder Kathy &amp; Joe Shabathai Yizkor Service</i>	7 Film 7 p.m. "Free Men"
8 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	9	10	11 Yom HaShoah Film 7 p.m. "Orchestra of Exiles"	12	13 <i>Susan Ellner Geri &amp; Stuart Smith Laurie Blum &amp; Gary Margolis</i>	14
15	16 New Moon Rosh Chodesh Iyar	17	18	19	20 Israeli Dinner 6 p.m. <i>Lynn Nobil David &amp; Pat Van Artsdalen Toby &amp; Joel Bofshever</i>	21 Yom Ha'Atzmaut Film - "Hill 24 Doesn't Answer" 7 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27 Steve Hartz  <i>Lynn Nobil</i>	28 Rabbi Agler Torah Learning Service 10 a.m.
29	30					

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## President's Message Beth Hayden



Shalom u'vracha,

KJCC will receive an enormous gift from the Aglers. We are delighted to receive this gift which is a collection of antiquities from Israel. The collection consists of amphorae, oil lamps, an arrow head, and a pilgrim's flask. These are antiquities, some of which date from the Bronze Age and testify to our heritage. They not only come to us from Israel, they come to us from ancient times and ancient soil – they are literal testaments to our heritage. The first man in our tradition was named Adam – from the Hebrew word adamah (earth) – related to adam for the red color of the iron rich soil in Israel.

Israel, as we know, was given a great measure of desert - the Negev. When one journeys through the Negev, the red color of the earth with its iron is remarkable. New settlements when I lived in Israel included Maaleh Adumim and Kfar Adumim.

I was fortunate to live in Israel when the Sinai had not yet gone back to Egypt. I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the vast expanses of the Sinai – to see the wrecks of the Israel Defense Forces jeeps and trucks abandoned in the incredible recapture of the Sinai in 1967. The Sinai is so vast and so incredibly beautiful – everywhere one looked – the lack of human habitation

and the incomparable shapes of the stones and mountains were beyond imagination. For me, this was such an incredible experience, because I had spent my life in practice rooms, coming out at 8:00 p.m. to play a concert and here I was in this amazing landscape. Something so far beyond my imagination as everywhere I looked it seemed to me I saw the hand of HaShem. It was very easy in the Sinai to understand how people worshipped elemental forces such as rain, wind, fire and storm. In these vast spaces people are so fragile and so impotent – it is an extraordinarily humbling experience.

I also had the opportunity to visit Israeli settlements and to hear what the settlers said as these territories were given back to Egypt. How can I tell you about Na'amah – on the tip of the Sinai? The settlers were strong, independent people who literally made the desert bloom. They did not want compensation from Israel. And in closing, how about that Beattie Deutsch? She is 28, a US-born mother of five and Israel's fastest woman. She won the Jerusalem Marathon running in a long skirt and head covering. Only in Israel!

*B'todah, Beth*

# Nosh

## Yizkor Service on April 6<sup>th</sup>

The third Yizkor service of the ritual year 5778, will take place during services at KJCC on Friday night, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Both Erev Shabbat and Yizkor services will be led by Joe Shabathai. We look forward to the special flavor of his services with the Sephardic melodies he learned growing up in Aden, then a British colony in Yemen.

## KJCC's Film Festival Continues

We loved the films that Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee brought to us in March, and we are already looking forward to the showings in April (see the schedule on page 30. Three films will be shown. The last two are related in theme to important observances near the dates of their showing: *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day), on Wednesday, April 11, and *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*, Israeli Independence Day, on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. All films begin at 7:00. There will be refreshments, there is no charge and you are encouraged to bring your friends.

## Happy Anniversary, Israel!

This year we will celebrate *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut* with a special Israeli-themed dinner, starting at 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood President Susan Gordon will be taking reservations and coordinating food dishes, so make sure to read her column and see the poster on page 6 for contact information. Many thanks to Toby and Joel Bofshever, who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with us and sponsoring this dinner. There will be

no charge. There is, however, a plan for Israeli folk dancing after services, so save your dessert eating for after dancing.

## Rabbi Agler's April Torah Service

Rabbi Agler will lead his next Shabbat Torah learning service on April 28th at 10:00 a.m. It will be his last Saturday morning service of 5778; we will miss them. His services this season have been beyond instructive. We were engaged, inspired, and often awed by the things we didn't know which came into view with clarity through well-led discussion. If you have not been to one of these Saturday morning services, please come and be a part of the experience and a part of saying thank you. We will be looking forward to the mornings and learnings to come next season.

## Jane's Garden

We've been eating more and more vegetable dishes these last two months thanks to the patient, hard work (and cookery) of Jane Friedman and her husband Steve. They drove a truck filled with dirt, plants and fencing material to KJCC from Florida City, and Steve put it all in and up with the aid of one helper. We are grateful and will continue to contribute to this fine work of Tikkun Olam and Tzedakah. There is a box in the social hall for contributions to our garden.

## Notes of Gratitude

There are many people in our congregation who contribute to the smoothness of our flow of activity regularly and quietly. They do things well, when they are asked, and they make life better and simpler for all of us, especially those already overloaded. We could not function without them. This month a special "thank you" to two quiet, hard-working people, Donna Bolton and Linda Pollack. Linda, after stepping down from years as our Treasurer and keeper of institutional memory (well, she still is that), has taken on the writing of thank you notes for contributions, the ordering of bronze plaques, and at a moment's notice several times each month she will whip out an attractive poster to advertise a coming event in Chai-Lights,

## BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Eve L. Greenstein**

by *Barney Coltman*

## April Birthdays

1st.....	Bennet Beinfest
3rd.....	Justin L. Lebofsky
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
4th.....	Thomas Brodie
5th.....	Jon Tainow
9th.....	David Feder
9th.....	Gene Silverman
10th.....	Abigail Everson
10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
12th.....	Richard Knowles
13th.....	Eve Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Lebofsky
13th.....	Sylvia Rimm
14th.....	Herman Katzenell
15th.....	Toby Bofshever
16th.....	Adam Starr
16th.....	Alfred Rimm
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
17th.....	Katie Greenman
17th.....	Susan Ellner
18th.....	Carol Roaman
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
19th.....	Augie Moss
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
28th.....	Joni Sages Dandrea
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman
30th.....	Rachel Barrett

with never a complaint about requested changes. Thank you, Linda. Donna Bolton, who is in her second year on the Board as Financial Secretary, has also taken on organizing the office, recycling unnecessary publications, assisting Ritual Committee, shopping for events, and though she in-

## April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder.....	52
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith.....	53
19th	Barat & Rosemary Barefoot.....	32
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder...	22
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz.....	11
30th	Mort & Gene Silverman.....	63

sists she will sit on her hands, can't help volunteering to be helpful. Thank you, Donna. And a big thank you to all the people unnamed who put energy and funds into creating a community where we want to be, to learn, to pray, enjoy each other's company and, yes, to eat.

## Art Discussion Series Grand Finale

KJCC took on a new adventure in adult education this year. A series of three discussions, held January through March on the topic of "Ground-breaking Artists and Their Connections to Judaism," came to a stimulating end on March 21<sup>st</sup> with a presentation on Judy Chicago by Marcia Kreitman. For genesis of this brainchild we give thanks to artist Beth Kaminstein. In the role of co-creators were artists and educators Marcia and Gloria Avner. Depth, side stories and Jewish context, cultural, religious and historical, was added to the mix at all three events by the enthusiastic input of Rabbi Richard Agler, DD, our KJCC Resident Scholar. Judging from the excellent attendance and active group participation in discussion, the series was a success. Chaim Sou-tine, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Judy Chicago, representing three very different eras in art, now all seem like part of our *mishpocha*. Shall we have a reprise next year? With three new inspiring subjects? Give feedback to any of the participating artists or to Medina Roy, head of the Adult Education Committee, under whose *aegis* all of this Jewish enrichment (and delicious nourishment for the body as well) takes place.

## We Have Arlo's Books

On Wednesday, March 7th, The Jews of Key West, documented in book form by Arlo Haskell, Director of the Key West Literary Seminar, came face to face with the Jews of Key Largo, Tavernier, Islamorada and Marathon. There were many nexus points. When talking about the first rabbi in Key West, both he and we were gratified to realize that the grandchild of that rabbi (now an elder himself) had visited our shul and told some of us his story. Arlo's slide show was illuminating (thank you, Sam Vinicur, for encouraging him to bring it), and the turnout of 33 people was extensive enough to be gratifying for Keys native Arlo and excellent for multiple book sales. (Lots of us bought single copies to be signed, but some had three or four books under their arms, waiting patiently for inscriptions.)

Arlo did not charge us for the talk but asked instead if he could sell his books. We were delighted to buy them. It was a stimulating evening. Everyone went home happy. And for those who missed the talk, we have copies of the book available for purchase. Just ask Medina Roy, to whom we owe another debt of gratitude for having her Adult Education Committee organize and host this memorable program.

## Welcome New Members

Our KJCC family/*mishpocha* is expanding, by three and we are happy about it. Please welcome these new members when next you see them. Karen Beard drives all the way from Duck Key and has already joined us at many services. Orlando Quesada has been with us at services and onegs, too. Jan and David Ichel live part of the year in Manhattan and part in Key Largo. We

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences*

*to **the Bloom and Galanty families***

*on the death of Barbara Galanty,*

*Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother.*

## Oneg Sponsors for April 2018

*April 6th* - Nettie & Jules Seder in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary. Kathy & Joe Shabathai in honor of Hannah and John.

*April 13th* - Susan Ellner in honor of her birthday. Geri & Stuart Smith in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary. Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Arlene Sugarman Margolis.

*April 20th* - Lynn Nobil in honor of Lynn and Johnathan Nobil's birthday. David & Pat Van Artsdalen in honor of Dave and Barrett Van Artsdalen's birthday. Toby & Joel Bofshever in honor of their 50th anniversary.

*April 27th* - KJCC Sisterhood.

trust they will take part in KJCC activities when they are in residence here in the Keys. New members increase our vitality and make us a stronger, ever more interesting, Jewish community. *L'chaim.*

## The Passing of Barbara Galanty

Barbara Galanty and her husband Marvin were here for many years before Marc and Ellen, Ellen's sister Gail and Marc and Ellen's girls decided to come south and join Ellen's parents. Both Barbara and Marvin were extremely active in all facets of running this shul in its earlier years. You can see Barbara's photo on the wall of Sisterhood Presidents. We don't have space to list all the important and loving things she gave to us. A belated thank you to you, Barbara, for all you did and meant to KJCC and for bringing us continuity: the amazing Marc Bloom and his wonderful family. May your memory be for a blessing.

## Gunther Gets Proclamation

On the first day of Spring, March 21st, Gunther Karger was honored with a "Proclamation" at Homestead City Hall for his 85th birthday and his major life achievements. *Mazel tov*, Gunther, and *Yom Huledet Sameach* for the 85th time.

## **Our Meditation Garden Welcomes Spring**

The weather here has been a little cockabolished (as someone's Latvian grandmother used to say), but there are ample signs that, finally, spring has sprung. Purple and yellow and red blossoms have begun joyfully erupting. We've had some rain, and the trees and bushes and flowers and shrubs have noticed, magically drinking just the amount their chlorophyll needs.

They're shedding their winter torpor and reaching longingly toward the sun. One of the reasons we've always stressed native plants is that they know best when it's time to awaken from the dryness of winter and rekindle their zest for life. Count has also begun to lay new beds of red mulch around the trees and paths. If you haven't felt the special quiet and warmth of the KJCC garden lately, do take a walk around the next time you're here.

## **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 KJCC 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.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC 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 Chana David, 305-744-6048.

**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:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*



**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

**SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER**

# **Celebrating Israel Independence Day** **Yom HaAtzma'ut**

Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. The original date corresponded to May 14, 1948.

**Join us on Friday, April 20, 2018, at**

**ישראל**

**6:00 p.m.**

**for Israeli Food, Music,  
and Folk Dancing!**



**- Contact Susan -**

**susangordon424@yahoo.com - (305) 766-3585**

**to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.**

**Please rsvp by April 16th - No Charge**

**To Joel and Toby Bofshever - Happy 50th Anniversary  
and thank you for sponsoring this dinner.**

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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



**B**y the time you are reading this April issue of Chai-Lights, we will have just completed what I feel to be our busiest month at the KJCC -- March. This past month was loaded with exciting activities! One of my favorites is the Sisterhood led Shabbat service. We had twelve women taking their turns up on the *bimah* on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first Friday evening in March. Blending our voices in song and prayer was truly a beautiful experience for me. I hope that the service was enjoyed by all.

Sisterhood met for our monthly meeting on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. We had much planning to do for two Passover seders, the first being our most treasured Women's Seder. This was our 15<sup>th</sup> year hosting the Women's Seder at the KJCC. I am grateful to all of the dedicated women who work so hard, with a smile, to keep this very special tradition thriving and full of energy! I would like to give thanks to Sharon Silva, who completely edited, re-designed and printed 45 brand new copies of our *Haggadahs*. Sharon lives in Marathon and owns the UPS Store in Key Largo. Last year, she attended the Women's Seder with Judy Greenman, and she saw the need for a fresh, new *Haggadah*. When I spoke with Sharon; she generously offered to donate her professional expertise as a graphic designer, as well as her printing facilities at the UPS Store. This is a most appreciated gift. We will enjoy our new *Haggadahs* for years to come!

Each year, we donate all proceeds raised from the Women's Seder to three organizations whom we feel can benefit from *Tikkun Olam* giving. This year, the recipients are the Talia Agler Girl's Shelter, the KJCC Scholarship Fund, and the Key Largo School Needy Fund.

We also give honor to a woman who is active within the KJCC and Sisterhood. The chosen honoree this year is Joyce Peckman. Joyce's contributions to the daily functioning of both the KJCC and Sisterhood are endless, and we appreciate everything she does! See pages 45 and 46 for more on Joyce and on the

honoree from history, Nechama Leibowitz, Joyce presented so well.

The other seder which is planned by the women of the KJCC Sisterhood is the annual Community Passover Second Night Seder, held at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Speaking personally, it's so very nice, on a special occasion, to enjoy a fully and professionally catered dinner. It is one rare night when we can stay out of the kitchen!

The recently formed KJCC Sisterhood Book Club has met for the third time, on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at Mangrove Mike's Café in Islamorada. The book of the month was "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah. The Book Club has shown itself to be a much needed, enjoyable activity within our community. We are always happy to encourage and welcome any new ideas from our Sisterhood members which will enhance our experience as KJCC members.

Immediately following the excitement of the Passover seders, Sisterhood will hold our monthly meeting on the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. (This is no April Fool's joke!). April promises to be a more relaxing month at the KJCC. We are planning a festive Shabbat dinner on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., followed by Shabbat services at 7:30. Come celebrate Israeli Independence Day, *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, with your KJCC *mishpachah*! We will be serving a bountiful buffet, complete with Israeli dishes. Be entertained while listening to traditional Israeli folk music, and, if we are feeling energetic, we may even try some Israeli folk dances! Please R.S.V.P. to me, at 305-766-3585 or by e-mail to [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com). There is no charge for this dinner, thanks to our generous sponsors, Joel and Toby Bofshever, who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Please see the flyer for the dinner in this issue of Chai-Lights. Wishing everyone a happy (and relaxing) April! ♦





*In Memoriam April 2018*

In Memory Of

**Ida S. Reider**

By George & Muriel Swartz

In Memory Of

**Dr. Milton A. Wohl**

By Joan P. Wohl

## In Memory Of

## Hilda Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

## In Memory Of

## Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

In Memory Of

## Ellen Coltman

By Barnet O. Coltman

In Memory Of

## Marty Graham

By Mrs. Marty Graham

## 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 Yochebed*.)

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

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

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

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### The Jewish History of Mr. Potato Head

It all started with vegetables in a kitchen in Brooklyn. It was the 1950s and you (or your kids) stuck little plastic face pieces attached to pushpins into potatoes. Well, did you know that the toy was invented and developed in 1949 by Brooklyn-born George Lerner, a Jew of Romanian descent? Later, in 1952, Lerner showed his idea to Polish-Jewish immigrant brothers Henry, Herman and Hillel Hassenfeld. They saw a good future in the toy. Hassenfeld Brothers, Inc. – later renamed Hasbro – produced Lerner's creation, dubbing it Mr. Potato Head. Hasbro sold the first Mr. Potato Head as a kit of facial parts, suggesting using real vegetables and fruits. It was the first toy advertised on television and has remained in production ever since its debut, selling more than a million sets in its first year alone. However, due to complaints regarding rotting vegetables and new government safety regulations, Hasbro began including a plastic potato body in the set in 1964. Hasbro is now the world's third-largest toy company. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 12-14-17)

### Buffett Invests in Israel

Warren Buffett, probably the most successful and high-profile billionaire investor in the world, has historically avoided the biotech industry. But not anymore. His company, Berkshire Hathaway, now holds a new position in Teva Pharmaceutical, an Israeli biotech company that has fallen on hard times. Berkshire bought a 1.9 percent stake in the company, worth \$358 million at the time. It's now at \$400 million. (Since news of Berkshire's investment broke, *Teva's* share price has appreciated.) "It's far better to buy a wonderful company at a fair price than a fair company at a wonderful price," Buffett has been quoted as saying. "Great investment opportunities come around when excellent

companies are surrounded by unusual circumstances that cause the stock to be misappraised." *Teva* is heavy with debt from its purchase of *Allergan's* generic drug division.

This is not Buffett's first investment in Israel. In 2006, Berkshire purchased an 80 percent stake in *Iscar*, an industrial manufacturing company and its first international acquisition, for \$4 billion. (In 2013, Berkshire bought out the remaining 20 percent of the company.) So, what is it about Israel that Buffett finds so attractive? "I'm not Jewish but Israel reminds me of the United States at its birth," he said. "The determination, motivation, intelligence and initiative of its people are remarkable and extraordinary. I'm a big believer in Israel's economy." ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com), 2-26-18)

### Israel Steps in to Help

Ten days after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, experts from the *Israel Trauma Coalition* (ITC) arrived at the site to guide teachers and community leaders, teaching them how to face the future. ITC members Yotam Dagan from *Natal Israel Center for Trauma and Resilience* – our 2013 Israel trip with Rabbi Agler included a visit to a *Natal* Center in Tel Aviv – and Alan Cohen from the Community Stress Prevention Center, led sessions for about 600 community leaders. Unfortunately, Israelis have extensive experience and long-term insight from what they've seen at home. The ITC was created in 2002, a year of unrelenting terror attacks in Israel. Originally focused on direct care, the organization expanded to professional training for community recovery and national emergency preparedness in Israel and elsewhere. Thus far, ITC has sent 17 delegations abroad – usually two or three professionals from ITC partner organizations who speak the local language. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 3-7-18)

## The Anne Frank Sanctuary Movement

Inspired by Anne Frank, hundreds of Israeli rabbis and educators have come together saying they are willing to hide some 40,000 African asylum seekers – predominately from Eritrea and Sudan – facing forced deportation from Israel either to their homelands or to another sub-Saharan state. The campaign to protect the Africans – most of whom crossed Israel's border with Egypt over the last ten years due to regional civil wars and economic oppression – was organized by *Rabbis for Human Rights*, an Israeli organization led by Rabbi Susan Silverman, sister of American comedian Sarah Silverman. “Anne Frank is the most well-known hidden person,” Silverman said. “...we have documentation that these people [the Africans] are facing possible death.” The Israeli government plans to start deportation of the African asylum seekers this month (April) and continue the expulsions for two years. In January, the government had said it would give migrants a choice: receive \$3,500 to be deported to a third country or be sent to a detention facility indefinitely. But migrants are fearful because, according to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, Africans already deported from Israel have suffered torture, detention and human trafficking. Israel claims that the mass deportation of asylum seekers – referred to by Prime Minister Netanyahu as “infiltrators” – are needed to “protect the Jewish and democratic character.” Rabbi Silverman, who immigrated to Israel from Boston in 2006, says she hopes the Israeli government will reconsider. ([www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com), 1-17-18)

## “Silence Encourages the Tormentor...”

The *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) has revoked a prestigious human rights award given to Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's civilian leader and Nobel laureate, because of her failure to stop – or even acknowledge – the ethnic cleansing of her country's Rohingya Muslim minority. The award, named for Elie Wiesel, is given annually by the museum “to an outstanding prominent individual whose actions have advanced

the museum's vision of a world where people confront hatred, prevent genocide and promote human dignity.” The museum claims Ms. Suu Kyi has failed to live up to that vision. “We had hoped that you – as someone we and many others have celebrated for your commitment to human dignity and universal human rights – would have done something to condemn and stop the military's brutal campaign and to express solidarity with the targeted Rohingya population,” the museum wrote in a letter to her. Instead, the letter asserts, she and her political party have refused to cooperate with the United Nations investigators, blocked access to journalists and spread hateful rhetoric against the Rohingyas. In 1991 Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize for using non-violent means to try to move Myanmar (originally Burma) from military rule to democracy. Ms. Suu Kyi spent fifteen years under house arrest for challenging the military dictatorship. Upon her release, she was appointed state counselor (in essence Prime Minister) after her party's landslide victory, raising hopes that the country might emerge from military dictatorship.

Even Ms. Suu Kyi's many admirers, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, view her handling of the Rohingya situation as a betrayal. “If the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep,” Tutu wrote in an open letter. The Holocaust Museum's letter to her closes with a quote from Elie Wiesel: “Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 3-7-18)

## They're Worth More Than Uranium?

Researchers from the Ramat HaNegev Desert Agriculture Center in southern Israel have succeeded in cultivating desert truffles, whose market price reaches \$120 per pound – just a bit less than the cost of silver and four times that of uranium. The researchers created a symbiosis between the fungus *Terfezia leonis*, which occurs rarely and unpredictably in nature, and the common desert shrub *Helianthemum sessiliflorum*. This marks the first time that truffles, the highly sought-after delicacy, have been cultivated. The researchers said that

farmers will be able to harvest unprecedented yields in small areas. Both the fungus and its host shrub require little water and no fertilizer, potentially making truffles a very cost-effective agricultural crop. Commercial cultivation by Israeli farmers may begin as early as next year. ([www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com), 3-1-18)

### A Regrettable Mistake?

*Mishpacha*, a popular English-language ultra-Orthodox magazine, has been harshly criticized for blurring the faces of women in a photo taken in a Nazi death camp. The weekly periodical – widely read both in ultra-Orthodox communities in Israel and the United States, said it was a mistake but, as of this writing, has yet to correct the photo in its online version. Ultra-Orthodox newspapers and magazines do not publish photos of women, a policy that has caused outrage internationally, on social media and in the Israeli press. (One newspaper photoshopped Hillary Clinton completely out of a White House photo.) Shoshanna Keats Jaskoll, founder of the religious women's organization *Chochmat Nashim* (wisdom of women), posted on Facebook that what the paper did "utterly disgusts" her, saying that pixelating the women was actually erasing their memory. "If she's a Nazi victim, you've murdered her again. If she's a Holocaust survivor, you've done what the Nazis didn't, and if she's a liberator you've desecrated her name," Jaskoll said. *Mishpacha* has defended the policy of not publishing photographs of women. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 1-30-18)

### In Memoriam

★ Heinz Jakob "Coco" Schumann, a German-Jewish jazz legend who was forced to play for Nazi officers, died at the end of January. He was 93. Schumann fell in love with jazz swing music while living in Berlin in the 1930s. He was arrested in 1943 and sent to Theresienstadt, where he played in a band called the *Ghetto Swingers*. He was later sent to Auschwitz and survived the death march forced on the prisoners before Allied soldiers arrived. Schumann later returned to Germany – but always kept a packed suitcase in his

closet so that he could be ready to flee at a moment's notice – and became one of the country's best-known jazz musicians and one of the first German electric guitarists, working with the likes of Marlene Dietrich and Ella Fitzgerald. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 2-2-18)

★ Russ Solomon, founder of the music superstore *Tower Records*, died recently at the age of 92. Solomon, who revolutionized the music retailing business (before that business model was destroyed by digital downloads), was described as "a larger than life character, with a personality as charismatic as many of the rock stars whose records he sold." He grew up in California during the Depression and dropped out of school when he was sixteen, selling jukebox records from his father's drugstore. In 1960, he opened his first *Tower Records* store in Sacramento; the company eventually grew to 200 stores in fifteen countries and housed some 125,000 titles, virtually all of the popular and classical recordings on the market. Out of business by 2006 after his second bankruptcy, Solomon had never taken the company public and said that not selling stock "was the dumbest thing I ever did." ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-6-18)

### Did You Know...

★ Yeshiva University's (YU) men's basketball team has qualified for this year's NCAA Division III basketball tournament. Winning the Skyline Conference championship earned them an automatic spot, one of the coveted 65. (YU is the flagship university in Modern Orthodox Judaism.) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-26-18)

★ Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator and star of the Broadway smash hit "Hamilton," belonged to the *Mazel Tones*, a Jewish *a cappella* group when he was a student at Wesleyan University. Miranda, mostly of Puerto Rican descent, has long been a friend of the Jewish community. While a student at Hunter College Elementary School in Manhattan, most of his friends were Jewish. Before making it big on Broadway, he helped pay his rent by performing at bar and bat mitzvahs. At his own wedding party, he sang a song from "Fiddler on the Roof." In 2016, he appeared in a fund-raising video for Yeshiva University. YU awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2009. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-26-18) ◇

# 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.*

## Adult Education

Williams, Jim & Rita

## In Honor of

film festival

## Oneg Sponsorship

Hartz, Jan & Steve

Nobil, Lynn     birthdays of Lynn & Jonathan Nobil  
Roy, Medina

Seder, Nettie & Jules

Van Artsdalen, David & Pat

## In Honor of

Jan's sister's birthday

Carl's birthday

their 53rd anniversary

birthdays of Dave &  
Barrett Van Artsdalen

## Advertiser's Dinner

Anonymous

Brush, James

Coltman, Barney

Foley, Robert

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Remer, Janis

Steinbock, Stephen

Stelli, John

Williams, Jim & Rita

Wohl, Joan

## Tikkun Olam

Kaplan, Linda

Smith, Stuart & Geri

## In Honor of

Barney Coltman

vegetable garden

## Book Plate

Coltman, Barney

## In Memory of

Eve Greenstein

## Tzeddakah

Anonymous

Blum, Laurie

David, Chana

Levine, Steven

Peckman, Joyce

Rimm, Sylvia

Roy, Medina

Steinbock, Stephen

## In Honor of

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

Purim party

## First Night Seder

Smith, Steven & Barbara

## Fundraiser

Hartz, Steve & Jan

Peckman, Joyce

## In Honor of

Feder Concert

Feder Concert

## Women's Seder

Bolton, Donna

Pollack, Linda

## General Fund

Plutzer Family

Quesada, Orlando

## Yahrzeit

Blum, Laurie

Blum, Laurie

Harvey, Mitch & Perloff, Linda

Olsen, Jerry & Sheila

Sheinker, Miltra

Tallent, Lillian

Temkin, Robert

## In Memory of

Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein

Janet Blum

David Harvey

Louis Weinstein

Warren Sheinker

Ida Tallent

Anne Temkin

## Leaf on the Tree of Life

Mah Jongg

## In Memory of

Elaine Schulberg's brother

## Oneg Sponsorship

Bofshever, Toby & Joel

Ellner, Susan

Friedman, Jane

## In Honor of

Yom Ha'Atzmaut dinner

her birthday

her birthday

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## Eye on the Arts

### Joyce Peckman



*I am broadening my net to include the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC), located in Cutler Bay just west of the Florida Turnpike, exit 12, just across from Southland Mall.*

**Creative Tuesdays at Key Largo Library** – Purple Isles Art Guild Members are in the Community Room from 1-3 p.m. All are welcome to watch or bring materials and work on a project. (Watercolors, acrylics, pastels.) There are always people to help. For information, contact Jackie Campa at [jackiecampa@aol.com](mailto:jackiecampa@aol.com).

**Dulcimer Club Acoustic Jam** – Wednesday, April 4th 4:30-6 p.m. at the Key Largo Library. Listen to your friends, tap your toes, and maybe you will be inspired to take up an easy instrument.

**Americana Jam Night at the Key Largo Library** – On the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7-8:30 p.m. an eclectic group of guitars, banjos, sometimes a bass, and whoever else shows up, always make joyful music.

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** – A musical comedy presented by The Keys Players on April 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., and April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Murray Nelson Government Center's professional theater, MM 102 bayside. For info: 305-942-4339 or [www.thekeyplayers.org](http://www.thekeyplayers.org).

**Bay Jam 24 at Islamorada Founders Park** – Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> from 11-7. This is an ICE event, with proceeds funding arts scholarships for our students. Admission is free. This year, the talent and food are locally sourced. A major event conceived and led by KJCC's own Dave Feder.

**Bing Futch plays Dulcimer at the Library** – Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. at the Key Largo Library Community Room. This is the final concert of this year's library concert series.

**The Other Mozart** – Various times April 13-15 at SMDCAC's Black Box Theatre. This is the true, forgotten story of Nannerl Mozart, sister of Wolfgang Amadeus, another prodigy who regularly performed with him as children. Tickets, \$45, for one of four performances can be purchased at [www.SMDCAC.org](http://www.SMDCAC.org) or 786-573-5300.

**La Boheme** – Puccini's opera, perhaps the world's most popular will be performed at SMDCAC on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. and April 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Tickets \$27-47, on the main stage.

**Contra Dancing** – Is it folk art or exercise or just fun? Live music makes it the real deal. Check it out at the Key Largo Library on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**Morada Bay Art Walk** – Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. at MM 81.5. Enjoy the evening air while perusing the wares of art and craft vendors, enjoying drinks and snacks and listening to live music. [www.Moradaway.org](http://www.Moradaway.org).

**Young Musicians Concert** – 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at Islamorada Founders' Park. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, snacks, your dog, and a smile for our kids.

**Tango Lovers** – Saturday, April 21, at 8 p.m. on the Main Stage of SMDCAC. The passion of tango comes alive in a performance featuring costumes of the '40s and '50s. Tickets (\$35-65) at [www.SMDCAC.org](http://www.SMDCAC.org). or 786-573-5300.

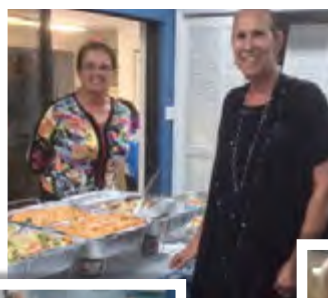
**Miami Art Quilters Exhibit** – All of April, in the Key Largo Library Community Room during library hours. ♦

# Photo Gallery

All photos on this page are from the February 17th Saturday morning Torah Learning Service with Rabbi Richard Agler. In the photo at far right bottom Rabbi A. shows off a treasured personal book featuring beautiful artist's renderings of the original tabernacle built after the near-fatal debacle at Mt. Sinai with the golden calf.



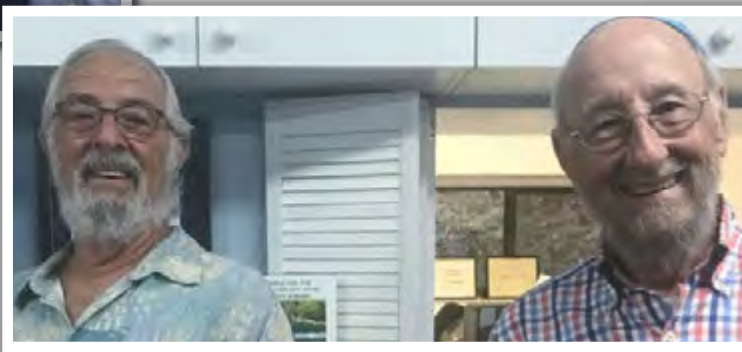
Friday, February 23rd saw our now-annual Advertisers and New Member dinner, where we invite all advertisers in both Chai-Lights and our Membership Directory (members and non-members), plus all those who have become KJCC members in the past year, to join us for a scrumptious buffet dinner as the rest of us heartily celebrate both groups.



At left, member advertisers **Barbara Bernstein** and **Erica Lieberman-Garrett**. Below, non-member **Chris Sante** and member **Bernie Ginsberg**.

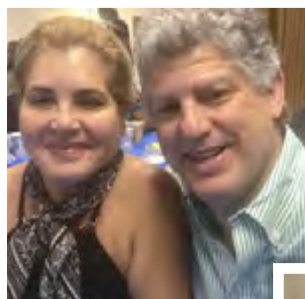


**More from the Ad-  
vertisers Dinner: at  
right, non-member ad-  
vertisers Dr. Bob Foley  
and Carol Chandler  
with member advertis-  
er Mindy Agler. Below,  
with Bernie, are Drs.  
Martha Edwards and  
Marta  
Pawluk.**





As always, our Advertisers/New Member dinner was one of the highlights of high season. At far right, with Zelig, er, Bernie, is Dr. Bruce Boros. In the photo at bottom are three new members, Chana David with Sylvia and Al Rimm.



Each season the women of Sisterhood get together and jointly lead a Shabbat service. This year's was on March 2nd. (Our new candlesticks, by the way, were hand-crafted by famed local potter, teacher and KJCC Board Member Beth Kaminstein and donated to KJCC.)



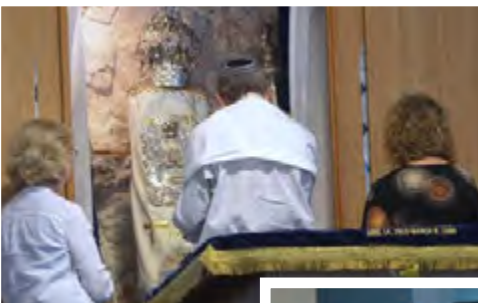
This happy South Florida couple, Stan and Laurie Gold, came to visit us to say Kaddish on

her father's Yahrzeit. (It's a way we meet many new friends for the first time.) The unexpected bonus, besides enjoying us and the service, was being introduced to our resident scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler. Jaws dropped and eyes filled. The Golds lived in Boca years ago and they were unexpectedly seeing the rabbi who had married them.

The morning following the Sisterhood-led service, March 3rd, saw Rabbi Agler's Torah Learning Service for March. The parshah for the week was Ki Tisa, the golden calf story, merely one of the most complex and multi-layered stories we have.



For the first time at KJCC, Ritual Chair Gloria Avner chanted directly from the Torah on Shabbat. Linda Pollack chanted the Aliyah before and after.



All photos on this page were taken during the Wednesday, March 7th talk at KJCC by Arlo Haskell about his book “The Jews of Key West - Smugglers, Cigar Makers, and Revolutionaries (1823-1969).” Did you know that the early, and wealthy, cigar-makers in Key West were all Jews? Or that Jewish businessmen had secretly helped José Martí plan and finance his revolution, including the smuggling of weapons?



Please see the Nosh item on page 4 for more details about our evening with Arlo. (He also left us a few copies of his book for those who couldn't be there to buy one that evening.)





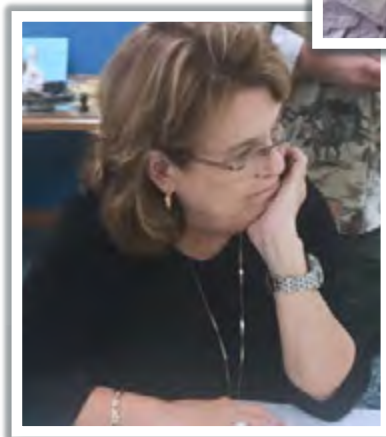
On the same evening as Arlo Haskell's talk, we also played host to and were joined by the first group of Scubi Jews affiliated with Rabbi Ed from outside Florida, from the University of Arizona. (Yes, they have a marine conservation program there in the desert.) The shirt they brought as a gift to Ritual Chair Gloria Avner, below left, says "Arizona" in Hebrew.



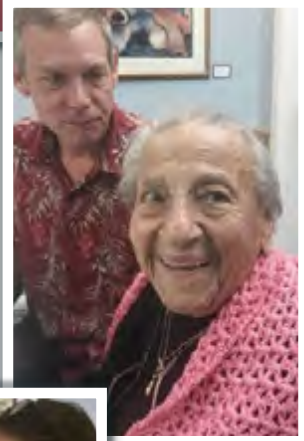
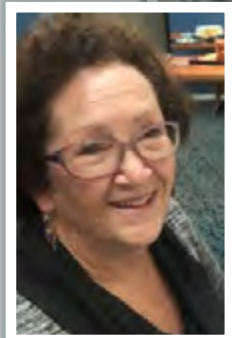
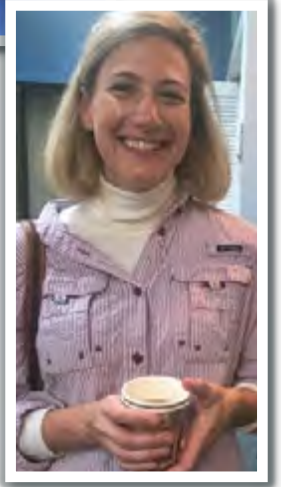
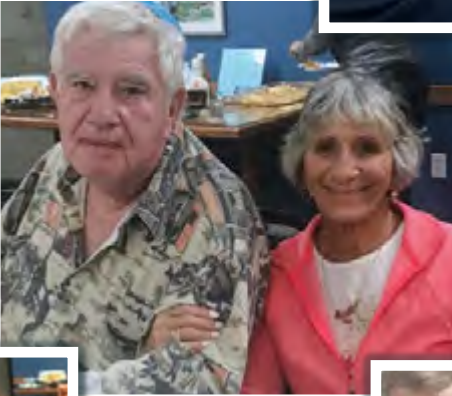
On Wednesday, March 14th, we had the second of our discussion groups on significant artists and their relationships with Jews, this time about one of the most famous artists of all, Rembrandt van Rijn of the Netherlands. He lived in Amsterdam's Jewish quarter for many years, and painted rabbis and scholars and just ordinary Jewish neighbors in addition to many scenes from the Hebrew Bible.



Some photos from the March 9th oneg. Steve Hartz had led the service. The oneg was sponsored by Medina Roy and Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis. Two of the Arizona Scubi Jews, Michael and Liv, after a long day of diving and reef clean-up, joined us for the service and, as you can see, were also given the honor of HaMotzi.



**Additional photos from the March 9th oneg. Two of the evening's oneg sponsors, Laurie and Gary, are shown at right. Pauline was extremely happy, below, with the brand-new shawl Nettie Seder had just knitted expressly as a gift to her.**





The photos here are from the oneg after the March 16th service led by Medina Roy. The oneg, as you can see below, had a full gaggle of sponsors that night, Steve & Jan Hartz and Susan Ellner and Lynn Nobil and Herb & Elinor Grossman. Jan's sponsorship was in honor of her sister Judy's birthday, shown at bottom left.

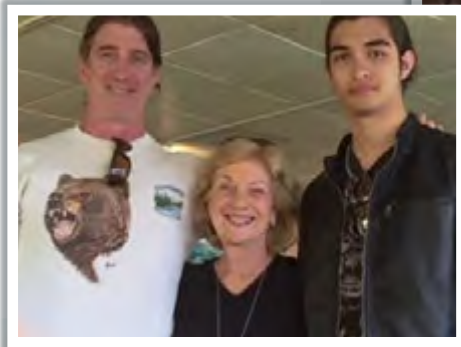


**Additional photos from the oneg after Medina's March 16th service...**



Jan Hartz has had a busy spring, with many of her photographs showing in local art shows, even as she traveled to the Silver Banks to swim with and photograph the majestic humpback whale. (That story begins on page 31.) Here Jan, at right, with her blue ribbon winning photograph from the Purple Isles Art Show. Her riveting black-and-white photograph just below won the People's Choice Award at the Garden Walk Art Show.

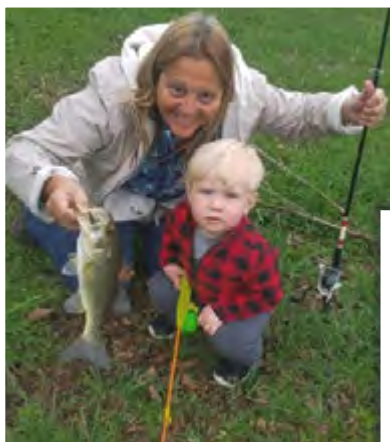
Joyce Peckman's granddaughter Michal is shown dressed as artist Frida Kahlo for Purim.



In the photo above, Suzi Feder as part of a performance by a local belly-dancing class. In the photo at left we see three generations of Pollacks: Roy at left,

with son Will at right and mom Linda standing on tippy toes (and two phone books) in the middle.

In the center photo, Randy Klein-Gross cutting a cake celebrating both Tomar's birthday and the grand opening of their new Indian Harbor home. Below, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and his latest group of Scubi Jews arrived on Saturday, March 17th, just in time for that evening's Film Fest offering, "Dancing in Jaffa."



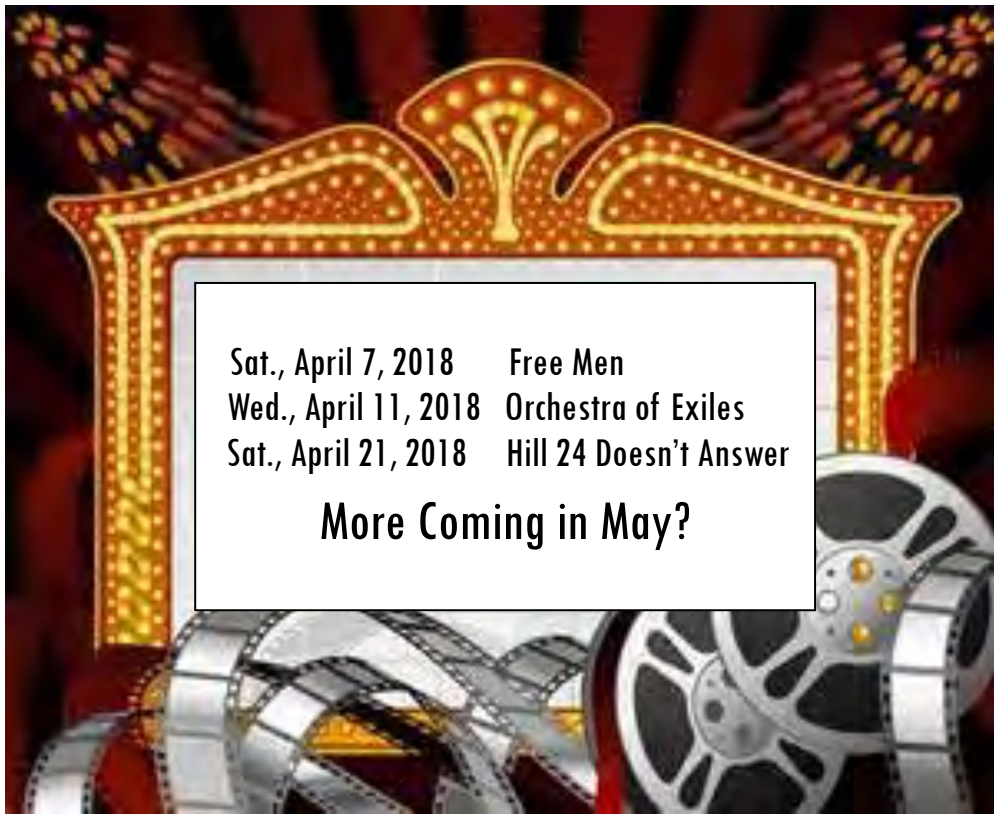
At left and below, Susan Gordon enjoying some quality Tennessee grandma time with her best beau, grandson Rhett.



Above, Rabbi Ed with the Scubi Jews après the long trip and pizza. At left, Shirley Karger in this year's Homestead Mardi Gras parade. A native of New Orleans, she'd been that city's parade princess in 1954. (Note the sash.)

**KJCC's Adult Education Program**  
Proudly Presents Its  
**Second Annual KJCC**  
**Winter Film Fest**

**A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic  
Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens**



Sat., April 7, 2018    Free Men  
Wed., April 11, 2018    Orchestra of Exiles  
Sat., April 21, 2018    Hill 24 Doesn't Answer

**More Coming in May?**

**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](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)**

# Tikkun Hayam:

## Journey to the Wonder of Whales

### *An Eye for Art and Nature*

*Jan Hartz (Louise Lindsay in her professional life) has had quite a successful photography season. In the last few months, she has won a People's Choice award for her giant "Dahlia" at the Garden Walk show, a first place blue ribbon for Digital Photography at the Annual AGPI Art Guild Show, and she has had three pieces displayed for a month in the National Parks Photographers' Show in Homestead. Below, she shares an experience taking photographs of whales, one month ago, 90 miles off the coast of the Dominican Republic. We are inspired. Two of her photos already hang in our halls. KJCC's Art Committee will build on that inspiration to create a new exhibit for 5779: "Art, Nature and the Jewish Perspective." A good part of the exhibit will focus on "Tikkun HaYam." Rabbi Ed's teachings and the work of his Hillel Scubi Jews from Florida and Arizona, (who were all visiting here in March) helping to restore our coral reefs and clean up Irma debris, are coalescing into artistic intent.*

## My Trip Swimming with Whales

### *And a Precious Moment of Intimate Eye Contact*

*by Jan Hartz*

**F**or my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday present to myself, I chose to take a trip to the Silver Banks to swim with humpback whales. Over time, I will share more of my pictures and stories. But here are a few tidbits of coming attractions.

As many of you know, I love encounters with nature of all kinds. I also love photographing experiences that speak to me. You may not know that I used to dive, but had to stop because of ear problems. I miss diving and photographing the view of the underwater world that comes with it. Last summer, while watching a video on Netflix, called *Tales By Light*, starring one of my favorite photographers, Darren Jew, I discovered that he created his beautiful images of humpback whales underwater by only snorkeling with them. Hence, was born the thought, "I can do that!"

I did have many trepidations as I got ready for my trip. I was grumbly about having to share my room with an unknown roommate, but now I have come away with a beautiful new friend. I was nervous about having the physical stamina to undertake such an adventure, as well as nervous about having the skills needed to get in and out of small boats in the water quickly, as well as the ability to stay safe during a weeklong trip at sea. I worked out for months, studied up on and ordered all sorts of gear, and pestered all of my friends for advice. Many of you gave me precious tips which made all of the difference. For that I am most grateful.

I almost canceled my trip because I could not find my way into a wetsuit. But the advice of many friends led me to find the perfect wetsuit that was easy to get into and that kept me warm in the water. Other people rec-



**“The rainbow with the boat photo shows the boat we lived on for a week - the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I tried to get a photo of a whale at the end of the rainbow, but that never worked out.”**

**“There were two boats. The photo of the small boat full of people, with the whale beside it, was taken by me from the second boat. It was pretty amazing.”**

commended safety equipment. I was so well prepared that I became known as the most prepared “gadget person” on the trip. My yellow bag that held all of my photography equipment and other gadgets became known as the magic bag of Mary Poppins that produced anything that was needed. I tried to grant the wishes of all of my fellow passengers to produce whatever was desired.

Many of my friends understandably confessed to me that they would be scared to get in the water with whales. That was the one fear I did not have. Indeed, I experienced a longing to be in the water with these magnificent creatures. Somehow, I have always had a way with animals. Being with creatures in an intimate setting has always been a rather spiritual experience for me. Certainly, my trip was as much of a spiritual quest as an adventure.

A search online for trips to swim with whales resulted in my choosing a trip to the Silver Banks, 90 miles out to sea northeast of the Dominican Republic. There are, I believe, only two places in the world where one is allowed to swim in the water with humpback whales, should they choose to encounter humans. One place is Tonga, near Fiji in the Pacific Ocean, and the other place is the Silver Banks. There are about 14 different families of whales, which live in cold waters but which congregate in various warm places around the world in the coldest months of winter. Whales, along with birds, are the original snowbirds, I guess. Whales did evolve after birds, about 50 million years ago. Human-like primates walking on two legs evolved about 4 million years ago.

The 5,000 – 7,000 whales who all show up every winter at the Silver Banks swim thousands of miles to get there. They leave their northern homes in Greenland, Iceland, Canada, and the northeastern United States, as well as Norway, and they then meet up in the Silver Banks, where they all originally were born. The females who have been pregnant for ten months make the long trip and give birth in the Silver Banks. They raise their calves there and prepare them for the long swim back up north. Other females and all of the males come to the Silver Banks to mate. Humpback whales are part of the group of baleen whales. Unlike Jonah’s whale, baleen whales could not swallow a person. They cannot swallow anything larger than a small apple. They eat tons of small crustaceans, such as krill.

Once they take off on their journey in December to their winter home, they do not eat until they return in April or May. There is no food for them in the Silver Banks.

From the beginning, my trip was lined with gifts for me at every turn. Some higher power clearly had a hand in co-creating this trip. I learned from others on my Silver Banks trip that the whale trips to faraway Tonga were not well organized and were rather chaotic. I was lucky I chose the Silver Banks trip. Still, each of the four weeks prior to my trip had been plagued with terrible weather in the Silver Banks, including winds so high that the smaller tender boats could not go out and with seas so rough that everyone was constantly seasick. I knew that rough, murky seas would be a risk but decided to give this chance-of-a-lifetime trip a go anyway. As it turned out, each day of my trip was better than the last, with calm seas, beautiful rainbows, and even the gift of the full moon rising as the sun set over the open water. The gifts kept raining down on me. I could not have designed a better week weather-wise or whale-wise. Normally, one has to book these trips two years in advance, but there had been a cancellation late last summer, which gave me the gift of this perfect week.

It is harder to write about my encounters with the whales, as there are few words to describe these experiences. My trip included wonderful, caring guides who helped us develop encounters.

We went out on 26-foot tenders. We could see whales breathing, breaching and slapping the surface, often in all directions. We moved slowly in our tender, approaching whales that, in our guides' accumulated wisdom, might want to encounter us. Sixty-foot whales can obviously swim away very fast if they do not want to have an encounter. There is no chasing down a whale. There is only a willingness to interact and the search for a mutual encounter. We were given detailed instructions, which included quietly slipping into the water, staying near our guide, and quietly floating on the surface, remaining receptive to what the whales might initiate.

During one such encounter, I slipped into the water and floated on the surface with our group of ten humans. Two adult whales rested about 30 feet below us. I floated above the head of one whale, aware of my own breathing and of a connection with this magnificent

creature. I thought, "I can't believe I am lying here, floating above this beautiful whale, feeling so peaceful and safe and connected." I floated there for what seemed like an eternity, although it was probably about five minutes. Whales are conscious breathers. Unlike humans who can breathe involuntarily and automatically, whales have to consciously take and expel every breath. They can stay underwa-

ter on one breath for up to 40 minutes, but they usually surface to take a breath every 10 to 20 minutes. I was aware of my gentle rising and falling with each breath while the



**"The up-close picture with the eye is of a mother whale. She swam right by me, with her baby just above her nose, where the babies often 'ride.' The brighter white streak is the baby's pectoral fin."**



whale below me remained still.

Then, first one and then the other whale started very slowly to surface, right underneath us. They had been resting with their pectoral (or side) fins angled out at about 30 degrees. We had been warned to stay far away from their pectoral fins, as each weigh one and a half tons. An accidental grazing of a fin can cause major damage to a human. The whales rose up slowly and moved slightly away from us. For the first time, I experienced a hint of fear, noticing that the closest whale was about eight feet away from us in the water and that

her pectoral fin was very close to us. The moment this fear arose, the whale moved her fin tight against her body, safely away from us. That was the moment it became very clear to me that these magnificent creatures are aware of us, are sensitive and intelligent, and are seeking interaction. The female swam right by me and gazed into my eyes and soul. The encounter was mutual and beautiful.

The whales were very generous in sharing their water world with us. They were as curious about us as we were about them. I came away with a sense of reverence for these whales, and a great respect. It is easy to feel a connection with God when one has been gifted with a week of so many miraculous connections and experiences.

Hopefully, I will get to share more stories with you. We also encountered a mother with a curious, playful baby, and we got to hear the beautiful soulful singing of one humpback whale. As I write this, I can still feel a hint of the rocking boat that stayed with me once I got back on land. Memories of rainbows, sunrises and sunsets, and one glorious full moon rise and moon set wind their way through my dreams. Picture-taking was sometimes a challenge because the water was rather murky from the weeks of preceding storms. I am making my way through the many pictures I did take, savoring the memories they hold for me, and hoping to develop a few images that might help share my experience with others.

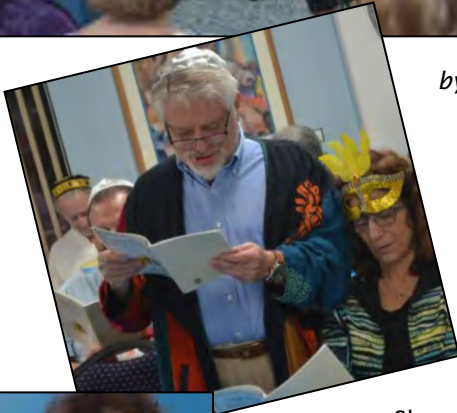
Even if you never encounter a whale, know that they are out there in the seas. They are curious about us. They are caring and generous and intelligent. They present us with many mysteries. They are spiritual creatures. ♦



**Jan was able to capture this dramatic moment when the pectoral fins of both mother and calf simultaneously breached the surface.**

# Purim Revisited

An Evening of Mitzvahs, Costumes, Laughter, Boos and Pizza



by Gloria Avner

It was a fine party. And 47 people, from age 4 to nearly 103, heeded the call to come and make *mitzvahs* – all four that the rabbis say we should complete. But before there were *mitzvot* (the correct Hebrew plural of *mitzvah*), the merrymaking had already begun. Sean showed up in a brand-new, full-body Black Panther costume. Masks were donned, shawls were turned into *kaffiyehs*, crowns were worn lightly or tossed to the ground. (Poor Vashti, the archetypal – and only recently fully appreciated – feminist.

She spoke naked truth to power and got the boot). Queen Vashti's rebellious refusal to bare her charms for royal guests may not have been appreciated by King Ahashueros, but the KJCC crowd loved it. Represented in song by Susan Gordon, accompanied by the accomplished Jules Seder on keyboard, Vashti brought the house down with a defiant cabaret song – sort of an ancient Persian version of “My Way” – and our own dynamic duo





**Ah, Purim. Sort of the Jewish Mardi Gras. When costumes allow inhibitions and typical reserve to be “masked” and inner imps to emerge. But rabbis would not have smiled at the Dionysian revelry of Mardi Gras. And the Book of Esther is full of sober lessons and an underlying motif about wits and survival being connected. But still, the costumes are lots of fun...**

set a wildly enthusiastic tone for the whole evening. Bring on the *groggers* (noisemakers) and stamping of feet; get Rachel Levine, chief Boo leader, to run back and forth along the Social Hall stage with her large lettered audience-guiding sign each time the name of the evil plotter against the Jews is mentioned (with occasional accompaniment by Maddy Bloom and Sean Kaufman, Boo-leaders in training).

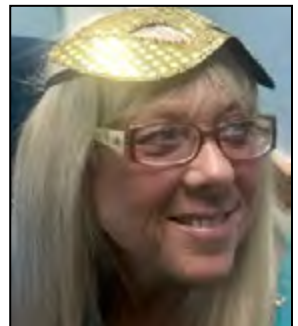
But wait. Some serious stuff needed to happen first. After the singing, it was time to set our intent. Mitzvah number one: We would participate in round-robin reading, but most important, as the mitzvah actually commands, we would *listen* and hear the Book of Esther, every word, the *ganze megillah*. Bernie Ginsberg, in his Coat of Many Colors (okay, so we occasionally mix Biblical metaphors) set us on course, sharing the fact that this is the only one of our scroll-stories that does not once mention the name of God. (And yet, the sages tell us, God’s hand is working tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the story.) Ever the sharer of fun facts, Bernie pointed out, on the authentic parchment scroll gifted to us years ago by a friend of the Aglers, the tiny delicate crowns carefully inked on the top of every appearance of “*melech*” (the Hebrew word for King).

Joyce Peckman, early initiator of KJCC’s Megillah reading ritual, took charge of the round-robin reading, moving it smoothly through threat of annihilation to the eventual



triumph of Esther and Mordechai, ending with the complete humiliation of Haman (boo, hiss). Once again we were saved from extinction thanks to the wiles and wisdom of a strong and dedicated Jewish woman, who not only saved her own generation but also, incidentally, the future of her entire people.

With Mitzvah number one fulfilled honorably, we moved on to numbers two, three, and four. We shared a joyous meal of pizza, salads and delicious *ibberglebbibineh* (Yiddish for leftovers) thanks to the gustatory riches of the recent Advertisers dinner. We distributed *mishloach manot* (baskets of food for friends and neighbors – gratefully accepted by Linda Pollack and Donna Bolton, who had helped create them). Finally, we raised nearly \$500 for *tzedakah*, many times more than we have ever done before, and with the Board's approval we will divide that sum between the Sara Cohen Tzedakah Fund and the KJCC Tikkun Olam Fund.





As for the fifth commandment, the exhortation to drink so much alcohol that we can no longer distinguish “blessed be Mordechai” from “cursed be Haman,” we did not, alas, do so well, but we did manage to stay awake and have a wonderful time, fully enjoying Medina’s film selection for the evening, “A Matter of Size,” in which four decidedly overweight Israelis decide to spurn failed diets and turn a negative trait into a positive one: they train to become Sumo wrestlers. Part funny, mostly warm, with psychologically complex and engaging characters, the film made for a fitting end to a *mitzvah*-filled evening. Next year, let’s do our own *Purimspiel*. In the meantime you might want to borrow that film from our ever-expanding library of good entertainment choices.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who made this night happen: To Medi-



na Roy, for finding and presenting the film. To Sam Vinicur, for technical help and photography. To Nettie Seder for her unending helpfulness and masterful *hamantaschen*-making. To Jules Seder and Susan Gordon for rehearsals and fine performances. Big thanks to Marc and Rachael Bloom for getting the pizza to us despite logistical challenges, to Bernie and Joyce for their erudition, to Jane for her delicious cookery and garden contributions, and to all the people I haven’t named who wore masks, sang

along with songs, spun *groggers*, read their parts, helped clean up, and put money in the basket. Take a collective bow, you cast of 47 *mitzvah*-making souls. Same *simcha*, next year? ♦



# - THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY -

## APRIL

**742** – Charlemagne, King of the Franks, is born, the son of Pepin the Short and grandson of Charles Martel (who had halted the Moorish invasion of western Europe at Tours in 732, confining their conquest to the Iberian Peninsula). The lands Charlemagne acquires become the basis of The Holy Roman Empire (which, despite its name, seldom includes territory in Italy during its 900-year reign). Resisting pressure from the Church, Charlemagne treats his Jewish subjects well and they play a prominent role in his realm.

**1199** – King Richard I of England dies in France from an infection following removal of an arrow from his shoulder. (He was almost never in England, and in fact could not speak English.) Richard's death puts his brother John on the throne. John openly exploits his Jewish subjects. His tyranny and overall incompetence has the English barons force the *Magna Carta* upon him in 1215, several sections of which specifically discuss how to manage debts to Jews.

**1453** – Mehmed II (sometimes called Muhammad II) begins his siege of Constantinople, the Christian Byzantine capital. After conquest it will be renamed Istanbul and become, until 1918, the Ottoman capital. Muslim rule greatly improves the lives of the city's Jews. Further, Mehmed actively solicits Jews living in Crete, Transylvania and Slovakia to relocate to Istanbul.

**1609** – English navigator Henry Hudson sets sail from Amsterdam harbor. His sponsor, the Dutch East India Company, instructs him to sail east in search of a shorter passage to the Indies. Fortunately for Jewish history, Hudson ignores these instructions and sails west, seeking more glory in attempting to map the fabled Northwest Passage to the Orient. Exploring river systems he thinks might be the gateway, Hudson sails past what is now New

York City and up what we now know as the Hudson River, claiming all surrounding land for the Dutch. Because of this act of disobedience, the 23 Jews deposited in New Amsterdam in 1624 by the Dutch Navy arrive in a territory controlled by the comparatively tolerant Dutch as opposed to Catholic Spain or France, neither of which would likely allow Jews to stay. (Try, if you can, to imagine New York without Jews.)

**1775** – Pope Pius VI issues the *Editto sopra gli ebrei* ("Edict Over the Hebrew"), a proclamation reinstituting all former anti-Jewish legislation. The *Editto* prohibits, among other things, the possession of Talmudic writings, mandates death to Jews who pass the night outside the ghetto, prohibits Jews from selling bread and meat to Christians, and forbids any Christians from entering a synagogue. It remains in effect until the arrival of Napoleon's army 25 years later, which tears down ghetto walls everywhere it marches throughout Europe and in effect allows modern European Jewish life to begin.

**1844** – A newspaper report states that a census conducted in Istanbul/Constantinople reveals 900,000 people living in the city. Over 11 percent, or some 100,000, are Jews.

**1874** – Ehrich Weiss is born in Hungary. His family later settles in Appleton, Wisconsin, where Ehrich's father, Mayer Samuel Weiss, serves as rabbi of the Zion Reform Jewish Congregation. After losing his tenure, Mayer moves to New York City with Ehrich in 1887, where they live in a boarding house on East Seventy-Ninth Street. Ehrich Weiss will later become the most famous escape artist of all time, using the stage name Harry Houdini. The name "Harry" supposedly comes from a pet name for young Ehrich, *Ehrie* (which of course sounds a lot like the way one might say "Harry" through a Yiddish accent).

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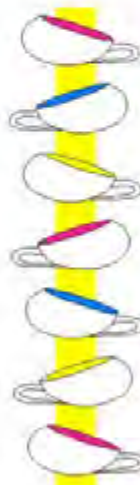
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**1897** – Walter Winchell is born. The son of Jewish immigrants, Winchell leaves school at 13 to go into vaudeville, appearing with other Jewish beginners such as Eddie Cantor. Winchell's career then takes a different turn. He enters the world of journalism, where he invents the gossip column. At his peak, Winchell's column appears in 2,000 papers every day and his 1930s radio show is heard by 50 million. Winchell dies a much-diminished figure in 1972. However, he is another example of a Jew inventing something often considered uniquely American.

**1903** – The Kishinev pogrom begins. The riot starts after a Russian Christian boy is found murdered. Though it is clear that a relative (later found) has killed the boy, the government chooses to call it a ritual murder plot by Jews. Mobs are incited by the editor of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Bessarabetz* and by the vice-governor, both using the age-old libel that Jews kill Christians to use their blood in preparation of matzoh. The Minister of Interior supposedly gives orders not to stop the rioters. At least forty-seven Jews are killed, with 92 severely wounded and 500 slightly wounded; over 700 houses are looted and destroyed. This pogrom is considered the first state-inspired action against Jews of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite a world outcry, only two rioters are tried and sentenced. This pogrom is instrumental in convincing tens of thousands of Russian Jews to leave for the West or for the pioneering life in Palestine.

**1904** – A thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her mother arrive at the White House with a supply of matzoh. With her mother waiting in the anteroom, the girl walks into the president's office and presents the unleavened bread to Theodore Roosevelt. The president thanks the girl for the gift and compliments her on her tact and courtesy.

**1909** – *HaShomer*, the first Jewish self-defense organization, is founded to protect Jewish settlements in Ottoman Palestine. Until *HaShomer*, local Arab militias are paid to protect farmers and others from marauding

bands. Early Zionists, providing their own farm labor, now decide to also provide their own protection. Arabs are not happy about this, an early example of how Zionists are resented not just for being Jewish, but also for failing to conform to corrupt local culture as well as reducing income from local Arab leaders. *HaShomer* is eventually absorbed into the *Haganah*, the Jewish defense force formed in the 1920s that becomes the foundation for Israel's IDF.

**1914** – Paul Heyes, a native of Bonn and the first Jew to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, dies at the age of 84. Upon receiving the award in 1910, he is lauded for his "consummate artistry, permeated with idealism, which he has demonstrated during his long productive career as a lyric poet, dramatist, novelist and writer of world-renowned short stories." One of the Nobel judges says "Germany has not had a greater literary genius since Goethe." Jews love to *kvell* about their Nobel laureates, but today Heyes is virtually unknown.

**1926** – *New York Times* correspondent T. Walter Williams writes that the American Zionist Commonwealth and the Palestine Securities Corporation are paying \$20 a *dunam* (quarter of an acre) to Arabs for land in Palestine and selling it to Jewish settlers for \$100 per *dunam*. Nice markup, yes, but also evidence that much land that will become the new Jewish state has already been legally purchased from Arabs.

**1930** – Haile Selassie is proclaimed emperor of Ethiopia. His title includes the honorific "Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah," a reference to the contention by Ethiopian rulers that they descend from a union between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

**1948** – A ship from Yugoslavia docks at Tel Aviv. Hidden in the ship's cargo of potatoes and onions are 500 rifles, 200 machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition. Jewish dockworkers unload the vital supply of munitions and deliver them to the *Haganah* despite close scrutiny by the British. ◊

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LAST HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR DIES?

## *Will Yom HaShoah Survive?*

By Gloria Avner

**Y**om HaShoah, 2017. A group of KJCC friends and members of our Holocaust Committee traveled off the rock to hear Medina Roy's childhood friend, Professor Deborah Lipstadt, (Medina has the high school yearbook to prove it) talk at an Aventura synagogue about her internationally famous battle against Holocaust denial and its practitioners. She spoke of her six-year fight against David Irving, whom she had referred to in her seminal book "Denying the Holocaust" as a pre-eminent modern practitioner of Holocaust denial. He sued her for libel in British court; under British law she was then forced to prove that her assertions about him were correct. (In American courts the plaintiff has to prove their case, not the defendant.) We had seen the movie ("Denial," starring Rachel Weisz as Profes-



sor Lipstadt) and knew she had in the end been victorious, but what we heard that day about liars and twisters of truth, about neo-Nazis dressed up as rational researchers, made me concerned then, and even more so now, that these battles will become harder, nastier, better-funded, and, if possible, more viciously underhanded, when there are no living people with tattooed numbers on their wrinkled arms available to tell young teenagers and old politicians their hard-won stories of survival. One thing we all certainly learned from Deborah Lipstadt that day in Aventura as far as strategy in dealing with the new avalanche of Holocaust denial: whoever it is, whatever their supposed credentials, demand proof of what they say or write, hold their feet to the fire of truth, and resist manipulation.

**D**eborah laughed when she first heard the words Holocaust denier. Who could dispute the most well documented event in human history? Look how many people would have to be wrong? The millions of victims. The hundreds of thousands of witnesses and bystanders. And the perpetrators themselves, who though they may have said they had no choice, never said it didn't happen. So she, a Holocaust scholar and tenured professor at Emory University,

laughed at the phrase and thought that serious people would give it no time or consideration.

Ten years later she was asked to do research about the deniers. She laughed again, at first. She was eventually persuaded, did her research and wrote her book. Here is what she found: Today's deniers are wolves in sheep's clothing. They don't wear swastikas or give Hitler salutes – they parade as researchers, researchers who publish journals

of “historical review.” A new name has been invented. The name is not Nazi or Neo-Nazi. Or White Supremacist. The new word is “revisionist.” But one inch below the surface of revisionism is racism and rabid anti-Semitism, parading as rational discourse.

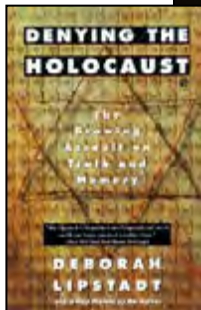
Professor Lipstadt knows, as we do, that there are such things as facts, opinions and lies. Deniers want to take lies and dress them up as opinions. Opinions can then encroach upon truth. She wrote her book outing David Irving as a Holocaust denier with facts. He then brought suit against her for libel.

She had the burden of proof. If she didn’t fight he would have won by default and been able to say the Jews had made everything up with the aid of the Allies to get money from Germany. He would be able to say that Hitler caused no suffering and the Holocaust never happened.

After a long trial, the British court found Irving to be a liar, and agreed that he did all his lying deliberately. His evidence was distorted, facts were changed, and he did not prove what he wanted to prove. This Neo-Nazi polemicist had a dual objective: Blame the Jews. Exonerate the Nazis. He lost.

Meanwhile, Jewish life goes on. At KJCC, we will have our Yom HaShoah ceremony and observance as we do every year. Six people will be called up to light one of six large candles, each symbolizing one million of the souls lost in HaShoah, murdered by perpetrators of the Holocaust. We will have our own survivor, Gunther Karger, light one of the candles. In Aventura that day one year ago, some survivors were helped to the stage with their canes and walkers. Others came in wheelchairs, pushed up a ramp by their children and grandchildren. The multiple generations crowding the stage were a moving, impressive testament to and metaphor of survival and resilience as well as truth. Our friends at the Aventura shul will also have a memorial service, though perhaps with fewer survivors this year.

I was listening to a Ted Talk today when I



**"There are facts, there are opinions, and there are lies," says historian Deborah Lipstadt. Scholarship often necessitates bravery, as she proved when she publicly confronted Holocaust denier David Irving.**

heard a familiar voice say, “Truth and fact are under assault.” Ah, Deborah. She went on to warn that social media, for all benefits, has allowed the difference between established fact and outright lies to be flattened. There are no burning crosses visible or hate-filled signs held aloft, but the same extremism parading as national discourse is expanding its reach.

What can we do? Not be beguiled by rational appearance, says Deborah. When someone makes an outrageous claim, no matter how high the office or how loud the voice, she says, we must demand proof. Go on the offensive; do not be defensive. We must ask, “Where is the evidence?” Indisputable facts exist. Galileo knew that the earth moves around the sun. Even though he was forced to recant by the Vatican, he still is purported to have said afterwards “and yet it moves.” The earth is not flat. The climate is changing. Truth is not relative.

So that the lessons of Yom HaShoah survive beyond the lives of its last survivors, we remember and honor our dead with regular ceremony. We must also balance prayer and ritual with action, paying close attention to Professor Deborah Lipstadt’s exhortation with which she ends her talk: “The truth is under assault. The time to act is now. Later will be too late.” ◇

# - 15th Annual Women's Seder -

## Honoring Joyce Peckman

As you are reading this overview of our fifteenth Annual Women's Seder, we, as a congregation, are looking back not at one, but three Passover seders. Photos of ceremony, merriment and camaraderie among friends and KJCC mishpocha at all three of our seders will adorn the pages of May Chai-Lights. For now, we are happy to share the most moving moments of the March 18<sup>th</sup> event in these pages as we get ready to go to press, filled with gratitude for a lovely and meaningful evening. Not only did all women give generously to the three charities named in Susan Gordon's Sisterhood Column, but we truly delighted in honoring Joyce Peckman as 5778's "Woman of the Year." Susan Ellner's delightful story-filled speech brought us to tears as well as laughter. Having three generations of Peckmans present to celebrate, and granddaughter Michal to chant the Four Questions, was a unique experience for us.

Big kudos to Erica Lieberman-Garrett and her team of committed workers for organizing the food, creating nameplates for us (thank you Donna Bolton) and arranging the room so that the 45 attendees felt as comfortable as if we were sitting at one big dinner table. We loved using and hearing the personal stories of the eight seder plates. Much appreciation to Sharon Silva, owner of The UPS Store for her work with Susan Gordon and Beth Hayden to produce a beautiful, functional new Haggadah for us, free of charge. To Terry Tainow, thanks for stepping up and working with Marcia Kreitman to create the honoree banner as Joyce Peckman joins the legion of productive inspiring women named artistically on



the textile that hangs proudly in our hallway leading in to the room in which we celebrate *mitzvahs* and *chagim*. We are sorry Susan Gordon was too ill to join us but grateful to her for spearheading so well this memorable event. ♦



## - 15th Annual Women's Seder -

Every year at the KJCC Women's Seder, we honor a woman from our congregation who has made an impact on us, Judaism and our community; at the same time we also honor an outstanding impactful woman from History. This year our Woman of the Year from the congregation is Joyce Peckman. It seems very fitting that Joyce, who often writes about and presents the honoree from history at our Women's Seder, has chosen a woman with whom she shares many qualities, those of a quiet, hardworking, dedicated and humble teacher.

### **Nehama Leibowitz Our Honoree from History**

*by Joyce Peckman*

Nehama Leibowitz was born in 1905 in Riga, Latvia, and grew up in a home filled with culture. She was brought up in complete intellectual equality with her brother, competing in their father's Bible quizzes. In 1919 the family moved to Berlin, where she taught, wrote articles and studied for her doctorate. She married her uncle, Lipman Leibowitz, who was many years her senior, and on the day in 1930 that she finished her doctorate in Bible Studies, they fulfilled their dream and moved to Israel. She was an excellent teacher and traveled around Israel on buses, taxis and airplanes teaching Bible and commentaries to teachers, new immigrants, soldiers, kibbutzniks and thousands of ordinary people. In 1942, some of her students decided that they wanted to continue studying her material even after the



school year had ended. So Nehama Leibowitz began mailing them her worksheets, adding challenging questions, and checking every answer. Word spread to friends and neighbors, who also wished to fill out these sheets. Eventually the correspondents ran into the thousands: young and old, religious and secular, kibbutzniks and city-dwellers.



Nehama Leibowitz functioned as a one-woman Open University Bible correspondence course for over thirty years. In 1957 she began lecturing at Tel Aviv University and became a full

professor eleven years later. She also gave classes at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and other educational institutions around the country. In addition to her writings, Leibowitz commented regularly for the Voice of Israel radio station.

She, and her students after her, revolutionized the world of Torah study; today, Leibowitz's question, "What's Rashi's difficulty?" is heard in every Yeshiva and Hebrew School, as is her method encouraging comparison and evaluation of commentaries.

However, Nehama, always the educator, was not satisfied with comparing and contrasting; she always emphasized a moral message from the study. Most medieval rabbis had written that Shifra and Puah, the midwives described in the Exodus story, were actually other names for Zipporah and Miriam, mother and sister of Moses. It is Nehama's teaching about the Egyptian midwives, taken from Maimonides, that we in-

## - 15th Annual Women's Seder -

clude in our Women's Haggadah. She wrote: "Neither moral courage nor sheer wickedness are ethnically or nationally determined qualities."

She was a passionate Zionist and refused to leave Israel even when offered large sums of money to lecture abroad. Nehama Leibowitz's modesty and humility were legendary.

She insisted that everyone call her "Nehama" and refused to let newspapers interview her or to allow people

to come simply in order to meet her, declaring, "I am not a museum!" She lived a very simple life, with little physical comfort. Famously, she gave a beggar a brand-new suit she had just bought herself. When challenged as to why, she responded, "Should I give him old and worn clothes?"

Nehama was very close to feminists such as Blu Greenberg, but opposed the ideas of secular feminism and the feminist movement. While she spoke up for equal pay and rights for women, Nehama did not want to change

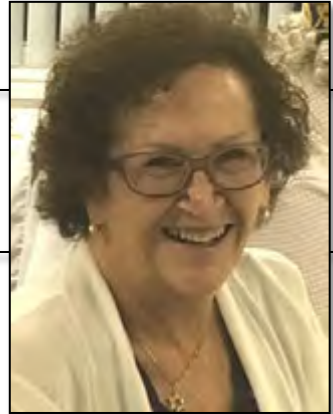
the balance of designated gender roles within traditional Jewish society. Yet her unique achievements changed Orthodox society's perception of a woman's capabilities and opened doors for the female Torah scholars who followed.

Nehama passed on in 1997. In accordance with her request, on her

gravestone was written only "Nehama Leibowitz: Teacher." To this day, she is still "teaching" Torah through her books, her methods and her students, many of whom are prominent teachers and rabbis in all branches of the Jewish world. ♦

### Notes about a life

## **KJCC's Woman of the Year, Joyce Peckman**



She grew up the elder of two sisters, first in Jamaica, Queens, and then in Valley Stream NY, so close to Jewish Community Centers that she didn't need a parent to take her. They became her second home. Her mom was wise enough to send her to Hebrew school and so she was the little child singing Ein Keloheinu on the bimah, then eventually leading Junior congregation. When she was 14 years old, the Hebrew school sent her to the United Synagogue Bible contest, where she became a national finalist. It was just about then, that her mother began her fight with breast cancer. In those days, no one spoke the C word, and nobody told her two daughters what was happening. When Joyce was 19, an education major at Queens College, her mother passed away.

A year later, her dad married Edna, a lovely woman with two younger children. Two years after that, she graduated and went with a group of volunteers to Israel, on one of the first flights after the Six Day War. She spent three months at Kibbutz Yad Mordechai on the Gaza border, picking fruit and learning Hebrew in their immersion Ulpan program. She was sent to Ashdod, now a bustling city



## - 15th Annual Women's Seder -

filled with art and culture; but in 1967 it was a port town with one main street, a few stores, some small areas of middle class homes, and brand-new housing projects built into the sand: bare-bones four story walk-ups that were being filled with poor North African immigrants. They put her in one of those apartments with two other young women volunteers and made her a teacher's assistant in an elementary school. Her high school French and very basic Hebrew helped her communicate with the young students on their level. It also helped her meet Israelis, one of whom, Margalit, was a teacher from Morocco with a brother in the paratroops. Her brother was the reason she stayed in Israel for two more years and learned to speak Hebrew.

When she decided she did not see a permanent life for herself there, she came back, and in 1972 married Leslie, a math teacher and guidance counselor. They honeymooned in a tent in the Florida Keys, and every Christmas vacation the two educators came back. Soon it was in a motor home with two sons and a dog. They eventually bought property here which would become her home after retirement. Joyce became a resource room teacher and worked with special needs students. In summers, it was time to get on the road in the camper, buy and sell antiques and have adventures with the family. The boys grew up and married lovely young women. Dan and Guisela worked in the Yeshiva and day school in Denver, where they raised Eliana, Yosef and Michal. Joyce was thrilled when this August they moved to Hollywood, Florida. Keith and Rebecca live in New Jersey, with now 9-year-old Libby and 4-year-old twins Isaac and Addie.

When in 2003, Joyce first arrived at KJCC and joined our Synagogue with Leslie, it became quickly obvious that these were people who would have a lot to contribute. Joyce came across as quiet but strong, knowledgea-

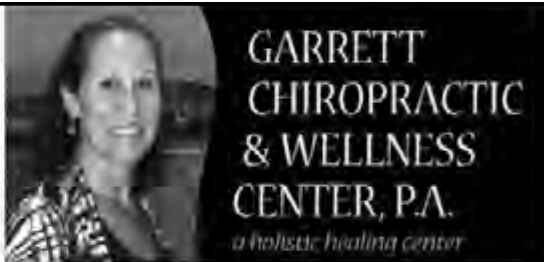
ble about Judaism, generous with her time, helpful and dependable. The first Purim after they joined us, Joyce and Leslie, somewhat horrified that we did not make a practice of reading the *ganze megillah*, presented us with a set of books and a request that we get started. We did. They brought the four mitzvahs to us. There were eight of us around the table the first year. We lost Leslie way too soon, just a year after they became part of us. But the Purim celebration lives on and keeps growing. It did not take long to discover this quietly strong small person's other gifts. She became a key member of Yardena's Thursday night Ulpan group. She became a substitute Sunday School teacher. She became President of Sisterhood and honed her leadership skills. She

became a key figure in all Ritual Committee programming and a respected leader of services. She wrote articles for Chai-Lights and when it looked like Chai-Lights was going to cease to be, she volunteered to keep it going. For several years she volunteered at Pennekamp State Park and at Mariners' Hospital. Her love of music led her to offer to help when one Upper Keys concert producing

group was foundering and a new one was trying to take shape. She stuck with it, was the major force behind its successful continuity, and now is President of the Florida Keys Concert Association.

Two years ago, this unassuming humble person, quick to give rides to persons no longer driving, quick to offer help to centenarians in need, quick to offer her house for a Havdalah or movie night, and to volunteer a delicious fish dish for a dairy dinner, was awarded the Joel Cohen award for Outstanding service to KJCC and the Jewish Community at large. She deserved it, and she deserves this. I love the way Erica put it, "I couldn't believe it, that Joyce had not been given this honor before. I had to go and look at the banner very carefully. She belongs there." ◇

*"I couldn't believe it,  
that Joyce had not  
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She belongs there."*



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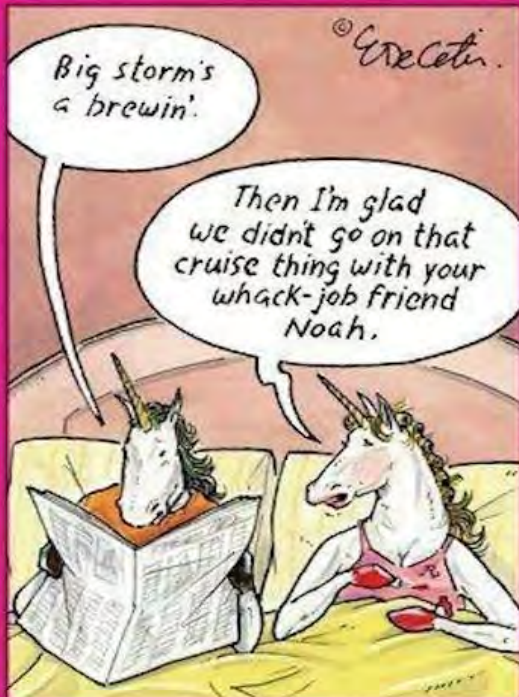


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**May 2018**

**16 Iyar - 17 Sivan 5778**

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**A Look Back at This Year's Seders - page 31**

**Shavuot and Lag B'Omer - page 45**

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# May 2018      16 Iyar - 17 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Lag B'Omer	4 Joyce Peckman <i>Sisterhood</i>	5 Film 7 p.m. <i>Zero Motivation</i>
6 Sisterhood Meeting 9 a.m. Board Meeting 11 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Erica Lieberman- Garrett  <i>Bernie Ginsberg &amp; Medina Roy</i>	12 Film 7 p.m. <i>The Story of the Six-Day War</i>
13 Yom Yerushalayim  Mother's Day	14	15  Rosh Chodesh Sivan	16	17	18 Shavuot Dinner Yizkor <i>Tikkun Leil Learning</i>  Bernie Ginsberg & Jeffrey Schocket  <i>Sisterhood</i>	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25  Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner  <i>Medina Roy</i>	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

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## President's Message Beth Hayden



Shalom u'vracha,

KJCC has just completed its annual round of Seders. It was indeed a whirlwind of celebration with the Women's Seder, KJCC First Night Seder and the Islamorada Fishing Club second night Community Seder. To Sisterhood and all the wonderful KJCC cooks and helpers – heartfelt thanks for your willingness to move tables, decorate, set tables, review haggadahs, print haggadahs, and perform the myriad tasks that need performing in order to make an event successful. Not only did you succeed, you excelled in creating a wonderful Pesach for all.

Pesach (Passover) begins on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Nisan and lasts for seven days (in Israel and for progressive Jews) or eight days for Orthodox, Hasidic, and most Conservative Jews living in *chutz l'aretz* (outside the land of Israel). Exodus commands the Israelites to celebrate Pesach for seven days. So why eight days outside the land? The answer lies in the way our forefathers observed and decreed holydays. The Jewish calendar, as we all know, is a lunar calendar. The beginning of a new month required two eyewitnesses to view a full moon (*rosh chodesh* – head or “start” of the month) and report back to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, which would then determine how many days fell between

the start of the last reported *rosh chodesh* and the newly reported *rosh chodesh*. Festivals and holydays were then calculated for the new month and word was sent out from Jerusalem. It took time for word to be circulated and mistakes had to be taken into consideration, therefore an extra day was added for celebrations outside the land to ensure festivals were not ended too early.

Pesach is also one of the *shalosh regalim* - (three pilgrimage) festivals which include Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. Pesach is the first of the “pilgrimage festivals”, so called because in ancient times when the Temple stood, Jews traveled to Jerusalem during these agriculture related festivals in order to pray and sacrifice. Thus, on the second day of Pesach, we begin counting the Omer so that in 7 weeks times 7 days we arrive at the festival of Shavuot (aptly named “weeks”). Shavuot is also known as *chag ha-bikkurim* (festival of first fruits) and *chag matan Toratenu* (Festival of the giving of our Torah). Traditionally Jews abstain during the Counting of the Omer from parties, weddings, cutting hair. Ashkenazi Jews relax this observance on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer and Sephardim on the 34<sup>th</sup> day – known as Lag B'Omer. ♦

# Nosh

## Book Club Meets Again

The ten women who attended the Sisterhood book club meeting at Mangrove Mike's on April 30<sup>th</sup> enjoyed a vigorous discussion. Gloria Goldreich's richly imagined and well researched book about the lives of the Chagall family (Marc, Bella, and daughter Ida) in France at the time of Hitler's rise to power in Europe gives one a real feel for the country and the struggles faced by Jews, whatever their social status. We heartily recommend it whether you are interested in the lives of Jews, art and artists of that fertile but dangerous period, or if you just like a well-written story with high drama, colorful characters and important Jewish themes. Next month's selection will be "The Book Club" by Mary Alice Monroe. The group will meet on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon; the location has yet to be decided so watch Beth's Tuesday announcements. Randi Grant assures us that the club will continue meeting monthly throughout the summer. Brava.

## Jane's Garden Grows

The Food Bank at Burton Memorial Church has never been able to offer as much fresh organic produce as it has during this past month. Each week Jane Friedman, organic farmer *extraordinaire*, harvests large overflowing boxes of everything from baby eggplants to bunches of bok choy, tomatoes, herbs and colorful peppers, and then hand delivers it, at the peak of freshness, to Betsy at Burton. (The gratitude goes both ways. They have been very kind in allowing us shower privileges for our Scubi Jews when they visit.)

If you have attended any Shabbat evening services recently, you know that we have been recipients of garden bounty as well. Gigantic bowls of artistic salads and sautéed mixed vegetable curries regularly appear on our tables, created by Jane with whatever is ripe that week. Our after-service oneg noshes have become more like healthy mini-dinners. Thank you, Jane. Another reason to come to KJCC on Erev Shabbat?

## Shavuot and Torah Learning

We may not be having Torah learning with Rabbi Agler at Shabbat morning services again until the fall, but we will have another chance to engage with Torah study under his guidance on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Come to our Shavuot dinner at 6:00 p.m., eat delicious dairy foods, stay for Shabbat and Yizkor services (the last *Yizkor* until *Yom Kippur*), and along with an oneg dessert of fruit and cheesecake, join Rabbi Agler for *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. *Tikkun* means repair. *Leil Shavuot* means Shavuot night. We will make up for our sleepy people at the foot of Mount Sinai millennia ago nearly failing to waken for the moment of receiving the gift of Torah. The Torah giving (sorry, not the cheesecake) is the true high point of this holiday and signifies our covenant, the signing on to be God's "chosen" people. We were chosen to shoulder tremendous responsibility. (Actually, "selected" or "appointed" would be better terms, as they don't have the historical baggage.) This will be our night to stay awake and study, just as the mystics of Tsfat decided to do, from the 1600s forward, from nighttime until dawn. (We'll hopefully make it through to ten p.m. :-)

## The Return of Sofers on Site

More than two years ago we (Sam, Bernie, Gene and I, Gloria) took our Holocaust Torah to Miami for a physical exam. Letters were flaking, some stitching was weak, places were faded or stained, and our sacred trust had lost its standing in terms of *kashrut*, or kosherness. The scribes (*sofrim*, in Hebrew) unrolled it (in what seemed to us a magical much too fast dance at the time), declared it beautiful, validated its time period and origin, told us what it would take to make it wor-

### Leaf on the Tree of Life

To celebrate the marriage of  
**Gerri & Frank Emkey**  
*ten years and going strong*  
by Linda and Skip

thy again, and then, as a congregation, we committed not merely to making it whole and kosher but to enhance its stunning beauty by removing stains and creating an event in which all of us could take part. Everyone whose hand touched the scribe's feather that day as he wrote a letter, got credit for the 613<sup>th</sup> commandment, or *mitzvah*: "Write for yourself a new song."

Rabbi Moshe Druin, who oversaw our restoration, will be visiting us soon, to inspect, and if required, to repair whatever needs updating for our scroll to retain its "kasher" status. We trust that our periodic unrolling and airing out (thank you if you were one of the helpers) will have kept up its good condition. The visit and inspection will happen sometime after Shavuot. Watch Beth's announcements for a date. This might be something you'd like to witness.

### High Holiday Leadership

We have much to look forward to this year. It is not always easy to find, and then retain, the kind of leadership that one wants for the most important holy days of the year: an accomplished rabbi, with gravitas, who is personable, inspiring, warm and intellectually articulate. It is the KJCC Board's and Ritual Committee's pleasure to announce once more that Rabbi Richard Agler will be our leader, educator and guide through the 5779 Days of Awe. He will work with us to shape our experience of sincere repentance and renewal. At his side will be the mellowly tuneful Cantor Michael Dzubin for the third year in a row. High Holidays may seem many months away, but we know how time flies and are happy to report the return of this nourishing team.

### May Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....28
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....46
<b>24th</b>	<b>Alfred &amp; Sue Ann Wehl.....59</b>
28th	George & Lori Richardson .....7

### May Birthdays

1st.....	Cheryl Margulies
2nd.....	Barney Coltman
2nd.....	Raymond K. Hess
4th.....	Laura Leigh Tallent
5th.....	Richard Palacino
7th.....	Murray Rapoport
7th.....	Scott M. Pearl
7th.....	Skyler Bella Strasser
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
9th.....	Gary Margolis
9th.....	Reid Schur
11th.....	Richard Agler
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
14th.....	David Ichel
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Brennan
18th.....	Sheree Savar
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
21st.....	Jerry Herson
22nd.....	Christian Strasser
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
23rd.....	Rita Williams
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
27th.....	Alan Beth
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
29th.....	Liati Mayk
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
31st.....	Judy Starr
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Wes Conklin

## A Recipe From Nettie

We have a long-standing summer tradition of having family dinners at our house when I am back in New Jersey. My daughters are picky about what I make. Most of the dishes are made from recipes passed to me by their grandmothers or great-grandmothers.

One of the most popular dishes is my grandmother's recipe for mock chopped liver. It originally came from Ratner's restaurant on the lower east side of Manhattan. It is something she made back when I was a child. My kids loved it. People who come to our Sisterhood dinners seem to like it, too. So here it is:



### Nettie's Mock Chopped Liver:

- Four hard-boiled eggs.
- A can of string beans, drained (yes, canned string beans).
- About two onions, chopped and fried slowly in a little more oil than you think you need, until they are golden brown.
- A good-sized handful of chopped walnuts. Salt and pepper to taste.
- I don't have a food processor so I chop it all with a board and knife. You can use a chopper if you have one, but don't chop the nuts too fine. Mix it all well. It is best made ahead and refrigerated several hours or even overnight.
- Serve with crackers or in a sandwich with nice fresh tomatoes. Enjoy.

—by Nettie Seder

## Last Films in Series

Don't miss the last two films in this year's KJCC Winter Film Festival series, coming to us on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>. Intriguing, well-produced films have filled our bill this year. We have been stirred, stung, moved to tears, and dissolved in laughter by this year's choices and once more we thank Medina Roy for her excellent taste. We also want to thank her Adult Education team (Sam Vinicur, Nettie Seder and Glo-

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May 4<sup>th</sup> - Sisterhood

May 11<sup>th</sup> - Bernie Ginsberg & Medina Roy in honor of their birthdays.

May 18<sup>th</sup> - Sisterhood

May 25<sup>th</sup> - Medina Roy in honor of her mother Bianka's 103rd birthday.

ria Avner) for helping select, organize and arrange for post-program nourishment during this long season of inviting, stimulating offerings.

## Coming Summer Attractions

Mitch Harvey, Activities Committee Chair, and Susan Gordon, President of Sisterhood, are talking about several outings in the process of being planned, starting in mid-June. Watch for details and dates for a sunset cruise, a half-day fishing trip, a baseball game, and possibly a short cruise. Two of these events were great successes last year, and lots of fun. If you have more ideas, talk to Mitch or Susan.

## Medina Wins 2018 Joel Cohen Award

For those who don't yet know, the winner (by unanimous vote of previous winners) of this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award is...Medina Roy. This award is given for long, productive and loving contributions to the life and soul of KJCC, and no one has ever deserved it more. To see more about this, with photos, please see the write-up in Photo Gallery on page 37.

## Leaf on the Tree of Life

Congratulations to

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*50 years in love, 50 years married*

by Linda and Skip

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**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 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 Channah David, 305-774-6048.

**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:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@gmail.com](mailto:lindap4000@gmail.com).

*Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).*

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

# **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, MAY 18, 2018, 6:00 PM**

**SHAVUOT CELEBRATION**

**DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE  
SERVICES at 7:30 P.M.**

**After Services there will be a TORAH LEARNING EVENT led by  
Rabbi Agler along with a delicious cheesecake-laden ONEG.**

**We can feed our brains along with our appetites.**



**- Contact Erica -**

**hippiejap@hotmail.com - (305) 393-1162**

**to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish,**

**Please rsvp by May 14th - No Charge -**

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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



**W**elcome to May, my favorite month here in the Florida Keys! The daily pace of life is reminiscent of my early years here in the mid-80s. Everything moves slower (except for the traffic, which is a good thing!), the days are longer, the seas are calm and warm, just perfect for boating, snorkeling, and fishing, the restaurants are emptier, we enjoy our year-round neighbors, summer tourism has not yet begun, the temperatures are not yet unbearably scorching, and best of all, it's not hurricane season! The month of May will be wonderful at the KJCC as well. Although we miss our seasonal members and we look forward to their return, we manage to keep busy while enjoying our smaller group of year-round *mishpocha*.

Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m., an hour earlier than our usual starting time, to accommodate the KJCC Board meeting which will follow the Sisterhood meeting at 11:00 a.m. We are now planning the Shavuot Dairy Dinner, which will be held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the dinner. However, RSVPs are requested. Please contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to let her know you plan to attend.

The next Sisterhood gathering in May is the monthly luncheon meeting of the KJCC Sisterhood Book Club. It will be held on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 12:00 noon, location to be decided. The title of this month's book is "The Book Club," by Mary Alice Monroe. This will be the fifth month that the KJCC Sisterhood Book Club has been meeting. Many thanks to Randi Grant for suggesting that we offer this wonderful activity. Judging by the regular participation of dedicated women, it is obvious that our community was in need of such a club. Last month's book was *The Bridal Chair*, by Gloria Goldreich. The meeting was held on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Mangrove Mikes Café in Islamorada. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding the

Book Club, please contact Randi Grant by email at [rkcgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkcgcpa@bellsouth.net) or call her at 1-954-383-4320. She will be glad to hear from you!

Looking back to last month, April felt like a "winding down" month for me. We had just held, on the last night of March, one of our largest and most successful planned events of the season, the second night Passover Seder, which was once again held at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Bright and early the next morning, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, to my delight, I was joined by eight dedicated women for our Sisterhood Meeting. I truly appreciated the involvement, great ideas, motivation, and positive energy that we shared around that table! It is because of that positive energy that we are able to accomplish so much for the betterment of the KJCC. We had another celebration to plan, the Shabbat Dinner, which was enjoyed by all who attended on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>. This was a very festive event to celebrate Israel's Independence Day, *Yom HaAtzma'ut*. The formal establishment of the State of Israel happened 70 years ago, in 1948. We celebrated this most important holiday in our own style, complete with table decorations, Israeli food favorites, music from Israel, and some Israeli folk dances! We were also celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Joel and Toby Bofshever, who generously sponsored the evening's festivities.

At our last meeting, we needed to make an immediate change in our Corresponding Secretary position and were able to do so. I was thrilled when Jan Price enthusiastically volunteered to take on the task! I would like to thank Michele Riley for doing such a wonderful job until now, and we appreciate and understand that it was time for her to step back from the position. So, if you have sponsored an *oneg* or dinner, expect to receive a lovely hand-written note of thanks from Jan Price! ♦

**KJCC's Adult Education Program**  
Proudly Presents Its  
**Second Annual KJCC**  
**Winter Film Fest**

**A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic  
Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens**



**Saturday, May 5, 2018:**

**Zero Motivation**

**Sat., May 12, 2018:**

**The Story of the Six-Day War**

**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](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com)**



*In Memoriam May 2018*

## In Memory Of

## Martin Roaman

By Carol Roaman

## In Memory Of

## Ben Horwitz

By Pauline Roller

In Memory Of

## Rene Rose

By Skip Rose

## In Memory Of

**Lilyan Sax**

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

## In Memory Of

## Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

In Memory Of

**Elaine Beth Silverman**

By Morton & Gene Silverman

In Memory Of

## Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

In Memory Of

## Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

In Memory Of

**Susan Cimkowski**

By Stephen Steinbock

In Memory Of

## Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

In Memory Of

## Benjamin Weber

By Judith Weber

In Memory Of

**Irma Weihl**

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl

## ***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 Yochebed*.)

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

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

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

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Israel Receives Prestigious Award

At the end of March, Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli non-governmental organization (NGO), received an award from UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund (formerly known as the UN Fund for Population Activities.) Established by the General Assembly in 1981, the award recognizes "outstanding achievement in population and health." Save a Child's Heart was founded in 1995 at the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, a city on Israel's central coastal strip south of Tel Aviv. The non-profit organization is a world leader in providing life-saving cardiac surgery for children from developing countries. To date it has served some 4,599 children from 55 countries. ([www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org), 3-28-18)

### SOLD! For Over \$500,000!

In mid-March, a violin once owned by Albert Einstein sold for \$516,500 at the New York-based Bonhams auction house. The instrument was reportedly a gift to the scientist in 1933 by Oscar Steger, a member of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. Steger made the violin himself and inscribed it "Made for the Worlds [sic] Greatest Scientist Profesior [sic] Albert Einstein By Oscar H. Steger, Feb1933 / Harrisburg, PA." Sometime later, when Einstein worked at Princeton University, he gave the violin to the son of Syllas Hibbs, who worked as a janitor at the university. It remained with the Hibbs' family until the auction. The violin sold for over three times its estimated price. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-12-18)

### Stephen Hawking

Famed physicist Stephen Hawking, who died in mid-March at the age of 76, visited Israel on several occasions, giving lectures at both Israeli and Palestinian universities. But his relationship with the Jewish state was an uncomfortable one. In 2013, he boycotted an

academic conference in Jerusalem based on what a spokesman at the time said was the "unanimous advice" of his Palestinian colleagues there. Israeli organizers of the conference felt doubly betrayed because the conference honored then-Israeli President Shimon Peres, who was widely seen as an international symbol of peace. Hawking, however, has an Israeli scientist to thank for some of his most groundbreaking research. By the early 1970s, Hawking had already done work on black holes – cosmic gravitational fields – and he disagreed with Jacob Bekenstein, then a doctoral student at Princeton. (Bekenstein was the son of Polish-Jewish parents in Mexico, had Israeli citizenship and later taught at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for 25 years. He died in 2015.) In his 1972 doctoral thesis, Bekenstein theorized that black holes had entropy – disorder in its system – and so, according to the laws of physics, they had a temperature. Hawking disagreed, claiming that black holes could not radiate anything and therefore had no temperature. At a conference in France that year, Hawking and a few of his colleagues angrily confronted Bekenstein. But later in 1974, Hawking proved Bekenstein's idea through a complicated quantum theory calculation. At first, Hawking kept his finding a secret, afraid to admit his mistake. Eventually though, he made his discovery public and today it is considered one of his most important achievements. The entropy of a black hole is known as Bekenstein-Hawking entropy. Many believe Bekenstein, who won Israel's prestigious Wolf Prize in 2012, should have won the Nobel Prize for his contributions to science, but the award is not given posthumously. (Hawking said he wanted the Bekenstein-Hawking entropy equation engraved on his tombstone.) ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 3-16-18)

## Thank You, Eddie Jacobson!

Seventy years ago, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948, David Ben-Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence establishing the Jewish State of Israel. Just eleven minutes later, U.S. President Harry S. Truman recognized the new Jewish state. What is not commonly known, however, is that Truman's quick recognition might not have happened without one Eddie Jacobson, a Jewish man from Kansas City who had been Truman's army buddy and also a former business partner. Born to poor Lithuanian Jewish immigrants on New York's Lower East Side, Jacobson had little connection to his Jewish heritage and left New York for Kansas City, working as a stock boy in a shirt store at the same time Truman toiled as a bookkeeper at a nearby bank. Their friendship grew, and in 1917 they both reported for basic training in Oklahoma. Truman was named canteen officer and, lacking business experience, he chose Jacobson as his manager. After serving in the 129<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in World War I, they decided to go into business together, opening Truman and Jacobson Haberdashery in 1919 in downtown Kansas City. Jacobson did the buying while Truman kept the books and sold clothing. When the recession hit in 1922, they suffered great financial hardship and were forced to close the store. But the friendship endured, even as the two took different paths in life.

Immediately after he became president, Truman found himself under tremendous pressure from all sides regarding the situation in the Middle East. He was concerned about the Jewish refugee problem created by the Holocaust, but he refused a meeting with Chaim Weizmann, leader of the Zionists. In the 37 years that Truman and Jacobson had been friends, Jacobson had never tried to exert influence. However, having met Weizmann, and by then become an ardent Zionist, Jacobson went unannounced to see Truman in March of 1948. "Your hero is Andrew Jackson," Jacobson said. "I have a hero, too. He is the greatest Jew alive...Chaim Weizmann...He has traveled thousands of miles just to see you. And now you are putting him off. This isn't like you, Harry." Five days later Truman

met secretly with Weizmann and they spoke for over an hour, Truman ultimately agreeing to support the Partition Plan and the establishment of the State of Israel. He gave his friend Jacobson the pen he used to sign the document. ([www.ReformJudaism.org](http://www.ReformJudaism.org), 4-3-18)

## A Significant Advancement

Scientists at the Kaplan Medical Center in *Rehovot* (a suburb of Tel Aviv) say they are close to developing a better method of screening for prostate cancer, taking a giant step forward in removing guesswork from the process. Prostate cancer is the second-most-common cancer among men worldwide, but testing for increased levels of prostate-specific antigens (PSA) in the blood – the main diagnostic in use – remains controversial. Elevated levels of PSA often show up years before a cancer develops or, in benign conditions, lead to unnecessary biopsies and anxiety. Now, in a study using 59 urine samples, *CellDetect*, a new screening product of Micromedic Technologies Company, offered a sensitivity rate of 91.3 percent, meaning that it could rule out cancer accurately in most patients. The company also reported a 75 percent specificity rate, indicating that it could detect cancer in three-quarters of people who had it. "The currently available diagnostic testing is known to be unreliable," Micromedic CEO Guy Lerner said. "With these clinical study results, we have the potential to transform prostate cancer diagnostics, offering patients a non-invasive, accurate and reliable test, and one that could improve the healthcare system through considerable cost savings." Tests of *CellDetect* have proven similarly high efficacy rates for detecting cervical and bladder cancer, but the product has not yet received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 2-17-18)

## Game-Changing Technology

Researchers at Israel's Hebrew University (HU) in Jerusalem have reportedly discovered technologies that would enable standard 8-16 gigahertz computers to run 100 times faster through the use of terahertz microchips. The findings were made by HU physicist Uriel Levy

and his team after three years of research. But creating the terahertz microchip is a bit of a challenge due to overheating. Levy, head of HU's Nano-Opto Group, working with professor emeritus Joseph Shappir, has shown proof of the concept for an optic technology that integrates the speed of optic (light) communications with the reliability of electronics. Optic communications are super-fast, but in microchips they become unreliable and difficult to replicate in large quantities. But Levy's team has used a Metal-Oxide-Nitrite-Oxide-Silicon (MONOS) structure to create a new integrated circuit that uses flash memory technology: the kind used in flash drives. If successful, this technology could create new and more powerful devices that could transmit data at a much greater speed than currently possible. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com), 4-1-18)

### **“What World Are We Living In?”**

At the end of March, some 10,000 people participated in a memorial march in Paris after the brutal killing of Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor who was found murdered in her apartment. She had been stabbed eleven times before her apartment was set on fire. The attack shocked her neighbors, France's Jewish community and the country as a whole. The march was covered heavily by French media and was encouraging news for French Jews who have felt ignored by their government. Among the mourners at her funeral was the 27-year-old African Muslim man from Mali whom many consider a hero, having hidden a dozen people from the terrorist who killed four Jews at a kosher grocery store in Paris in 2015. “Mireille Knoll's murder...is a painful reminder of the face of anti-Semitism in France today,” said Paris-based American Jewish Committee's Europe director Simone Rodan-Benzaquen. Two suspects, men in their 20s, have been placed under formal investigation on charges of murder with an anti-Semitic motive. It was a particularly sad end for the very French and very Jewish Mme. Knoll, who as a child had escaped deportation to a Nazi death camp when French police rounded up Jews in Paris in 1942. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-29-18)

### **In Memoriam**

- Johan Van Hulst, former seminary leader and Dutch politician who saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish children during the Holocaust, died recently. He was 107. Van Hulst ran a Protestant seminary whose yard bordered on the crèche (nursery) of the Hollandsche Schouwburg, a theater across the road. The theater had been annexed by the Nazis and was being used as a deportation center to the concentration camps. Van Hulst and his helpers, some of whom were students at the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht, would sneak the Jewish children into the seminary, often shielding them as one of their own and then running them to safe houses, ultimately saving more than 500 children. In 1972, Van Hulst was recognized by Yad Vashem as *Righteous Among the Nations*, one of more than 5,000 from the Netherlands. Van Hulst worked in Dutch politics and was a professor of pedagogy at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. He was a prolific author and published his final work when he was 95. He also loved to play chess and was an active competitor until late in life, winning a special tournament for former Dutch parliamentarians at the age of 99. As chairman of a chess club in Amsterdam, he protected the club's Jewish members towards the latter half of the 1930s. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 3-28-18)

- Stephen Reinhardt, a federal judge and outspoken advocate on Jewish as well as legal issues, has died at the age of 87. Dubbed the “Liberal Lion,” his rulings were often overturned by a more conservative U.S. Supreme Court; when asked about that record he said that he was not going to help the Supreme Court take away the rights of citizens. Reinhardt was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit of Appeals in 1980. He served there until his death. Among his controversial decisions was that the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance were unconstitutional, as were the bans on same-sex marriage and physician-assisted suicide. Reinhardt was born Stephen Shapiro but changed his name when his parents divorced and his mother married Gottfried Reinhardt, a movie screenwriter, director and producer (“The Red Badge of Courage,” “Town Without Pity”). ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-31-18) ♦

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# 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.*

## **First Night Seder**

Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Kaplan, Linda  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

## **Fundraiser**

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Ellner, Susan  
Goldfinger, David & Toby  
Hayden, Beth  
Kluger, Nancy  
Pollack, Linda

## **In Honor of**

Feder Concert  
Feder Concert  
Feder Concert  
Feder Concert  
Feder Concert  
Feder Concert  
Feder Concert

## **General Fund**

Plutzer Family  
Pollack, Linda

## **In Memory of**

Ann Plutzer, Al Roller &  
Joel Pollack  
Ellen Liebowitz

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

Pollack, Linda & Rose, Skip  
Pollack, Linda & Rose, Skip

## **In Honor of**

Gerri & Frank  
Emkey's vow renewal  
Toby & Joel  
Bofshever's  
wedding anniversary

## **Library**

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## **In Honor of**

Medina Roy receiving  
Joel Cohen award

## **Meditation Garden**

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## **In Honor of**

Joan Boruszak

## **Oneg Sponsorship**

Blum, Laurie &  
Margolis, Gary

## **In Memory of**

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

## **In Honor of**

Grossman, Elinor & Herb  
Smith, Geri

the 61st anniversary  
of their engagement  
their 53rd anniversary

## **Sisterhood**

Hartz, Steve & Jan

## **Yahrzeit**

Blum, Laurie &  
Margolis Gary  
Wohl, Joan

## **In Memory of**

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

Dr. Milton Wohl



# The Limitless David Feder

**Listening** to Dave Feder play a concert of original music is like committing to a magical journey without itinerary. You're not sure exactly where you're going but you know you'll enjoy every stop and the scenery along the way. His work is a marvel of technique, heart and imagination. KJCC members, family, friends, and Dave Feder fans from all parts of the Keys gathered in our sanctuary on the night of March 28<sup>th</sup> to hear the master of "hillbilly flamenco" stretch himself.

We could all have been in his living room, or sitting on his porch. The casually intimate patter and rambling storytelling captured us almost as much as the music, and we have hopes that in addition to turning on the recording equipment as promised for his out-of-state dad, Dave will make a CD out of the evening for the rest of us. We'd happily wait in line for it.

Many people worked hard to make this evening possible. We would especially like to thank those who gave generous support: Joe and Kathy Shabathai, Linda Pollack and Beth Hayden were our Angels. Steve and Jan Hartz, David and Toby Goldfinger, Nancy Kluger (so delighted





that you were back in the Keys to attend the concert, Nancy and Wolf), Joyce Peckman and an anonymous two stepped up to round out the group of donors. Big thanks also go to Donna Bolton and her crew for organizing a special (and delicious) pre-party for these supporters. The tone was happy re-union and cheery expectation.

The music was great, and the magical journey came to a grand finale beyond expectation. Dave and Suzi's son Nyan, with a mere 24 hours notice, had flown home from his new place and gig in Nashville, to be with family for Passover (a delightful presence in the first row) and join his dad on stage for two resounding numbers, followed by a cacophonously demanded standing ovation curtain call encore. Words fail. If you were there, you know how fine it was to see and hear all those talented Feder fingers playing passionately in perfect harmony. Thank you, Dave and Nyan, and all you behind-the-scenes KJCC organizers and worker bees, for a successful evening and delightful cultural experience for all lucky or wise enough to be there.

—Gloria Avner



**Before the concert, Angels and Sponsors were invited to join Dave and Suzi for an intimate pre-party in the KJCC Social Hall, transformed for the evening into a boulevard café.**



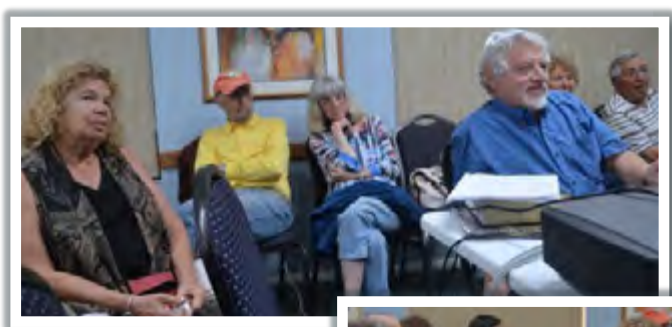
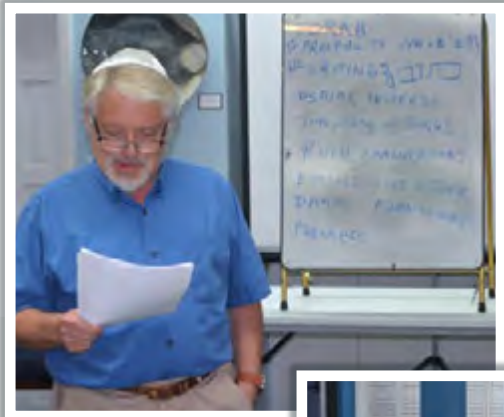
**It was an eclectic group that filled the KJCC sanctuary that night, KJCC members and fervent local Feder Fans, teachers and close friends and extended family and New York gallery owners and international business executives and fellow professional musicians and even the sound engineer and former retailer who'd recommended to us and then installed all by himself the amazing KJCC sound system.**

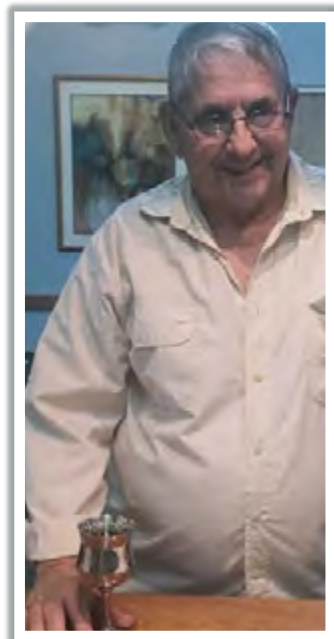
# Photo Gallery

All the photos on this page were taken during the final Jewish Art and Artists discussion of the season on Wednesday, March 21st at KJCC. The evening was led by artist and educator Marcia Kreitman. The subject was Judy Chicago, still living and still creating, once named by Newsweek as one of ten artists who “rocked the ages.” The series, sponsored by KJCC’s Adult Ed Committee, included Jewish context and commentary provided by Rabbi Richard Agler, KJCC’s Resident Scholar. It became one of the most stimulating and informative program series we’ve ever had.



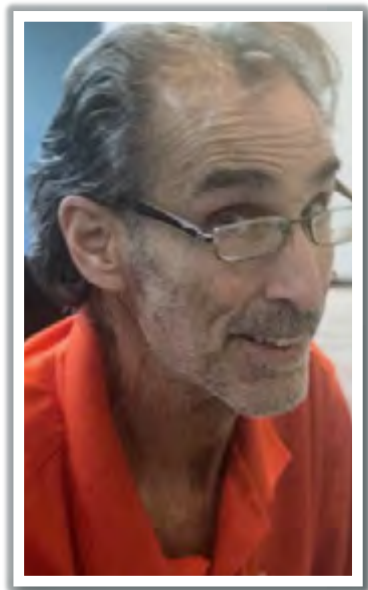
**All the photos on this page are from the Adult Education talk Bernie gave to KJCC on March 24th. It was all about the books of the Hebrew Bible that Jews — and presumably others — seldom read. Utilizing his patented combination of practiced bedside manner and shoulder-shrugging modesty, infused with his lifelong delight at discovering and sharing things, he took particular joy in reading from Proverbs and then asking all present to say what common homily the text reminded them of. He also pointed out the historical and cultural sameness of Jewish wisdom alongside that of other ancient middle eastern cultures. And showed clearly that human foibles and folly are the same as they were three thousand years ago...**





**This page's photos were all taken at the oneg on March 23rd. Steve Steinbock had led the service. The oneg was jointly sponsored by Jane Friedman, shown just above blowing out the representative candles on a cake celebrating her birthday, and Toby and Joel Bofshever in honor of their 50th anniversary.**

**Some additional photos taken at the March 23rd oneg, one of the last full nights of membership attendance before our snowbirds began to flit and flutter their way back up north. (Some even drive.)**



Scenes from the oneg after services on April 6th. Joe Shabathai had led services and then, as you see at right, also the Kiddush. It was the last night of Passover, so instead of cutting or tearing samples of challah, there was the breaking of matzoh into small, therefore semi-digestible, pieces. We were able to get, at bottom, a photo of Joe and Kathy's entire local family. On this special evening the group included Joe's sister Hannah, left front, visiting the Keys for the first time, from London. (How many of you know two British Jews who were both born in India?)



The oneg that evening was sponsored by Jules and Nettie Seder, at right. No one makes edible *Pesadich* confections quite like Nettie does...





## Sisterhood Book Club

**Monday  
May 21, 2018 - noon  
Islamorada  
Venue to be decided upon**

### ***THE BOOK CLUB*** **BY MARY ALICE MONROE**



***THEY ARE FIVE WOMEN FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE,  
EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE. AND AS THEY SHARE  
THEIR HOPES AND FEARS AND TRIUMPHS, THEY WILL HOLD  
FAST TO THE TRUE MAGIC OF THE BOOK CLUB—FRIENDSHIP.***

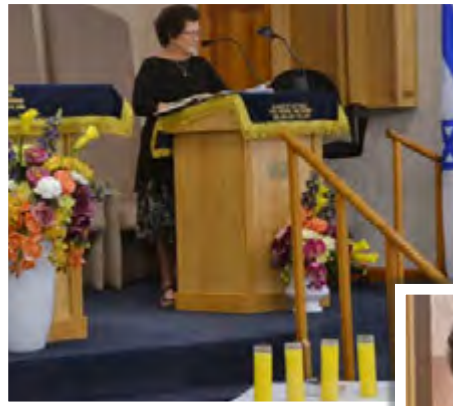
***MARY ALICE MONROE INVITES YOU TO MEET FIVE REMARKABLE  
CHARACTERS AS SHE EXPLORES THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP  
WITH TENDERNESS, HONESTY AND UNDERSTANDING.***

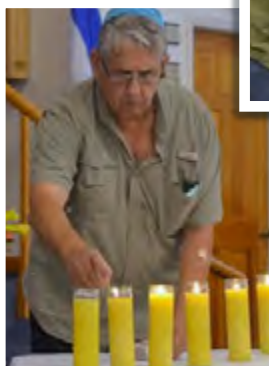
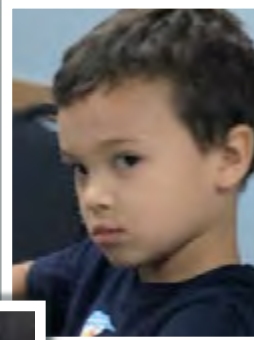
**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant  
rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**

**Additional photos from the oneg on April 6th. That huge pile of greens in front of Jane Friedman in the photo just below is organic bok choy she had just harvested from the Harry and Jane garden on the grounds of KJCC. Some of it went toward a salad for those lucky enough to be at the oneg. The rest was, following the garden's original purpose, donated to the food bank at our neighbor Burton Memorial Methodist. Fresh and nutritious produce is so often missing from food banks.**



Each year, on the Friday closest to Yom HaShoah, a service is dedicated to those — mostly Jewish but also political opponents and those mentally and physically disabled and various additional groups of “others” deemed inferior by the Nazis — hunted down, swallowed up and systematically destroyed by the Holocaust. A symbolic candle is lit for each of six groups. The first lighting was reserved, lower right, for Gunther Karger, just turned 85, KJCC’s own Holocaust survivor. Wife Shirley, along with Medina, below, had initiated Shabbat by lighting those candles.





**Additional scenes from the April 13th Yom HaShoah service and oneg. We had a triumvirate of oneg sponsors that evening: Susan Ellner for her birthday, Geri and Stuart Smith for their 53rd anniversary, and Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Arlene Sugarman Margolis. (And, yes, we were back to challah being served at the oneg.)**



The photo at right was sent by Gerri Emkey. She and Frank are shown formally renewing their vows in honor of their 10th anniversary.

The photo below shows Joyce Peckman with grandson Yosef burning the last of their house's *chametz* (stuff made from flour), thereby eliminating its taint in keeping with the commandment, a ritual performed by observant Jews prior to every Passover. In the photo at bottom, ten women who attended the Sisterhood book club meeting at Mangrove Mike's on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

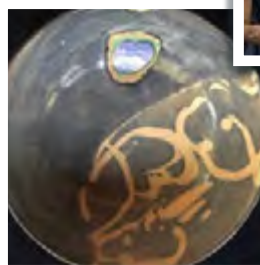
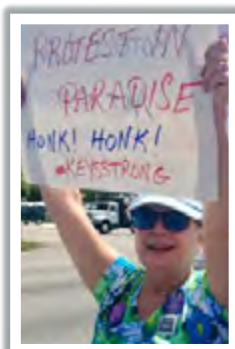


I was playing music (dulcimer) in the library just prior to Passover. When we took a break I

saw I had three phone calls from the same number. Yep, Rabbi Zucker, above, was on a matzoh mitzvah mission, delivering the real *schmear* goods to Jewish friends all the way up the Keys. He was at MM100 when I called back so he was able to come over to the library and hand deliver. Cute. — Gloria



**T**here are many ways to repair the world. As a people, we agreed by covenant to take on this work when we received the Torah at Sinai over three millennia ago. (We'll be celebrating that commitment soon at our Shavuot celebration.) KJCC people work at it in many ways. When we march or carry signs and advocate to relieve suffering, we are, in Rabbi Abraham Heschel's words, "praying with our feet," just as Rabbi Heschel put his prayers into action when he marched alongside Rev. Martin Luther King for civil rights in Selma, Alabama.



**W**hen artists donate the work of their hands to benefit those without access to health care, they are praying with their creativity. When we support fundraisers like "Soup and Salad Daze," at Our Place in Paradise Gallery, and we buy the donated pieces, we are praying with our pocket-books. KJCC people are generous with skills, time, creative energy and money. We admired and purchased works of KJCC potters Medina Roy, Marcia Kreitman, John David Hawver, Barbara Bernstein, and moving-force-behind-the-event Beth Kaminstein. We loved the bowls, the soups, the salads and the cause. Long live the Good Health Clinic, the work it does and all others who work for *Tikkun Olam*.

# Woman's Seder Turns Fifteen!

## Two Extra Questions Answered

**Our** 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Seder was far richer than the grand party we enjoyed, and more than four questions were asked, and answered, though hearing the prescribed *feir kashas* (that's Yiddish for the four questions) sung in the clear, confident voice of honoree

Joyce Peckman's young granddaughter, Michal, was easily the most moving moment of the evening.

The first added question was: Why do we do this – commit ourselves to a third (and extra) seder, involving more cooking and preparation, when we already have two seders that call on to us to satisfy required *mitzvot*? And

this was the second: For whom do we do this??

If the first question appeared on a multiple-choice test, the answers below would be the choices. Spoiler alert: all answers are correct. But some are more important than others. Choose your own order.

A. *The food is incomparable, delicious, healthy, and climaxes with Suzi Feder's fine dark chocolate bark and Judy Greenman's cake.*

B. *We love our tradition of speaking our mother's and their mother's names as we all listen, with strong memories evoked. This year we also loved hearing and telling the stories of our family seder plates.*

C. *We want to honor one of us*



# Woman's Seder Turns Fifteen!



*who has worked tirelessly for our good, and hear what we've never heard about her life. Yay, Joyce.*

*D. We look for a woman from history, perhaps one we've never heard of, who has made a huge difference in the lives of world Jewry.*

*E. We want to do something! We want to change the world, renew it, repair it, refresh it, make it more fair and life-enhancing for the oppressed, the abused, the unfree, especially women and children.*

And so we choose to cook more, to travel far (thank you, Myra Brahms and women of Marathon, especially Sharon Silva, who prepared and printed new Haggadahs for us, and gave them to us

# Woman's Seder Turns Fifteen!

as a present), and to continue adding names of new visitors to our colorful Women's Seder tablecloth, thanks to Marcia Kreitman, inspired by the work of iconic feminist artist Judy Chicago ("The Dinner Party"). We choose to raise money and donate it to causes supporting children within our local Jewish community (KJCC Scholarship Fund), our greater community (Key Largo School Emergency Fund), and the international community (the Talia Agler Girls Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya).

The answer to the second question is easier, but also layered. We do it for the faces in these photos – ourselves, our friends and family. And we do it for the world, for vow-keeping, for remembering with gratitude all that was done for us by our foremothers, our forefathers, and the Creator, with whom we made a covenant, who brought us out of Egypt.

Some member faces seen here have left us for the season. We will miss you.

*Zai gezundt* (stay healthy, in Yiddish)! May we sit around the big table again, committed to taking action for the good of the world, next spring, at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of KJCC's Women's Seder. *Dayenu!*

—Gloria Avner



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# Erev Pesach - First Night Seder



*The* tableau: KJCC's Cathy Kaplan Social Hall at sundown on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, transformed from casual rows of tables facilitating mingling to the more formal arrangement befitting a banquet, each table preening with fresh white linen and connected to one another around the room in an ordered, dignified procession. Or if not a banquet then a formal dining setting with 67 honored guests, all of whom are chefs and participants and all of whom are knowing fellow voyagers on the great and eternal Jewish journey that begins, every year at least in memory, with this ritualized celebration of the first reported mass striving toward human freedom. As we are commanded, we personally remember the dehumanizing slavery from which all of us, twelve tribes of displaced wayfarers soon to be melded into a people, were once redeemed. And, of course, we remember by Whom. This annual event is, among many things, a thorough and elaborate reminder that we are not the deliverers but the humbly delivered.

We are there to honor and re-tell the most dramatic and enduring story of the Hebrew scriptures. The order of the



# Erev Pesach - First Night Seder



evening (*seder*, in Hebrew) recreates an event that, if we are to trust our literature and teachers and timeless traditions (given precious little help by archeology), took place over 3,200 years ago, shepherded by the most famous and yet most mysterious figure in all of Jewish history. It is an annual celebration, one of only three specifically mandated in the Torah. Yet it is by far the most remembered and continuously



familiar. In survey after survey, more Jews cite Passover as the important Jewish event they observe most regularly and in which they find the most meaning. (Chanukah doesn't count.) It's so imprinted into the *world's* memory that one of that world's most famous paintings, one depicting a long table full of Jews but that few if any consider a Jewish painting, clearly depicts its celebration two thousand years ago. Passover, and the table settings associated with it, is so embedded in the Jewish mind that groundbreaking modern artist Judy Chicago (née Cohen) used it, mixed in with a dollop of



# Erev Pesach - First Night Seder



anger and a soupçon of irony, as the model for probably her most famous (and yes, controversial) work, *The Dinner Party*.

This is the third consecutive year in which we've celebrated a first-night seder at KJCC. We envisioned it at first as a seder for strays, those without family to go to or host. But 40-some showed up the first year. And over 50 last year. This year, as noted, it was 67. (Special thanks go to Nettie Seder – no relation other than to Jules – for brilliantly coordinating and presenting the dinner.) The Board has voted to make the first-night seder a permanent fixture of the KJCC calendar.

There's something unique about the fit. We cook for each other, and share wine, and listen to a familiar story in a comfortable setting. Perhaps the comfort allows the deeper meanings to touch us a little more, to gently seep in to where the spirit of possibility lives. In this place, in this room, the ancient story is ours and we pass it forward... ♦





# KJCC Meditation Garden

Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.

Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# 2018 Joel Cohen Fellowship Award

*It* was just at the break of the first seder, right before dinner. The perfect time to present this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award. I asked the previous winners of KJCC's most prestigious and important award who were there that night – Pauline Roller, Steve Smith, Susan Gordon, Marc Bloom, Steve Steinbock, Gloria Avner and Jules & Nettie Seder – to please stand. It seemed fitting for all of them to join Gloria and me as one to publicly honor this year's winner.

I reminded everyone that KJCC is an organization of volunteers. And that, as they all know, not all volunteers pitch in with the same vim and vigor. KJCC was very fortunate to have been founded by a remarkable group of people. They weren't perfect, but they were motivated and determined to make KJCC both a haven and a success. But even in that group, some just gave more. One of the founding couples was Joel and Sara Cohen, who have both left their imprint on KJCC in many ways.

At some point it became clear to the founders that an annual award needed to be established, to recognize those who stood out, who seemed to just have bottomless reserves of their time, their talents and especially their hearts to give to KJCC. The first recipient of that award was Joel Cohen, and from that time it has become formally known as the Joel Cohen Award. It was then and remains the highest honor that KJCC has to bestow. (A plaque listing all winners, by the way, hangs in the sanctuary.)

Each year the previous winners – and only the previous winners – get together to determine who should join their club. Nominations are made, and arguments made.

Once I explained the process to all at the seder, I asked Gloria to read the inscription on this year's plaque. (No need to repeat it here...you can read it in the photo.) As you all now know, the winner, by unanimous acclamation, was Medina Roy. About halfway through the reading, at almost the exact same time, Medina's head snapped as she realized the plaque was describing her and Gloria began to choke up with emotion.

History should note that when I then called Medina up to accept her award, she couldn't find one of her shoes. So she gave up and came anyway, only partially shod but fully beaming and to loud applause and "bravas" from around the room.

—Sam Vinicur



# Second Night Community Seder

## The “Us”-ness of Us

by Gloria Avner

*Every few years, someone asks a fifth question: why do we have to have two seders? Isn't one enough? And if you've gone to the Women's Seder prior to the official two, you just might say "aren't three seders too much?" Here is a little explanation for why we do what we do. Seeing who we are, the smiling faces on these pages, will also help answer the question.*

*We* prepared for 64 people at the Haimische First Night Family Seder around the great big dining room table in KJCC's Social Hall turned XXL Dining Room. Members with family, members with friends, friends with friends – they all came, contributed food or funds, and were happy to be there. Read Sam's summation for details and insights, and check out the faces there, too.

Interestingly, the same number of people came to the second night Community Seder, organized beautifully by Sisterhood and catered well by (and at) The Islamorada Fishing Club. It's one more tradition. For once, we do not do the cooking. But we do (substitute the name Erica for the word “we”) train the cooks – hence the big fluffy matzoh balls in delicious veggie and meat-laden chicken soup. It may have been the same number, but the people were different – not all, but a significant portion. Some were new or mulling membership. Many



# Second Night Community Seder



were members that we never or rarely see at other occasions or times of year. We were delighted to interact with a whole table of Susan and Joe Sachs' children and grandchildren.

They sang the Four Questions with our Rachel Levine, Sean Kaufman, and Maddie Bloom, helped in the search for *afikomen*, read parts of "our story" beautifully, and helped us have a solid kids' quotient for the most important Haggadah *mitzvah*, the retelling.



And then there was Michael Klimpl, sharing a table with the Temkins, who made a point of saying not just hello and thank you, but that this was his 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive Community Seder with us and he was thrilled to be here.

And at another table, enjoying the seder with Stu and Geri Smith and Jan Price (plus Luigi, of course) was an old member who had just rejoined, Leo Haviv, with a friend from Israel who not only enjoyed the seder but helped lead by taking charge of the first few verses, in Hebrew, of *Had Gadyah* and that little goat somebody's father bought for two *zuzim*.

We had one of our youngest member with us, Sean Kaufman (age 4), and our

**Two birthdays were also celebrated at the Seder. Maddie Bloom was four, and Jane Friedman was... once again over 21.**



# Second Night Community Seder



oldest, Pauline Roller (soon to be 103). The

leaders were the same both nights, but the food and the energy, both good, were different. We gave more people a chance to experience Pesach. Some things are hard to quantify, but Passover, with its springtime energy of new beginnings, encouraging us to re-enact our flight to freedom and relive our birth as a people, re-awakens something primal in us. We hear, smell and



taste memories of childhood, when we were the ones listening to and learning the story, eating the ceremonial food and struggling to stay awake so we could find the *afikomen*. Pesach is the *Chag* that, more than any other, makes us want to be with others of us, our community, where we feel at home around that large, familial, familial table, grateful to be part of something larger than ourselves. It's the table where we commit to *tikkun olam* and helping all who suffer. Hey, it also gives Elijah

one more chance to walk through that door and join us.



— Gloria Avner

# - THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY -

## MAY

**1282 B.C.E.** – This is the traditional date marking the fall of the walls of Jericho to Joshua and the army sent by God and Moses to conquer Canaan.

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

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

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

**1718** – The city of New Orleans is founded by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville. In 1724, the French adopt *The Code Noir*, which deals primarily with the issue of slaves but also

mandates the expulsion of Jews from the city. The first record of a Jewish residence is that of Isaac Rodrigues Monsanto in 1757. The Jewish community begins to grow after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 (which for a total price of \$15 million practically doubles the size of the fledgling United States), when Americans assume sovereignty and, in one of history's ironies for the antebellum South, eliminate the Black Code.

**1847** – The first Australian opera is performed at the Royal Victoria Theatre in Sydney. "Don John of Austria" is a collaboration of composer Isaac Nathan and librettist Jacob Levi Montefiore.

**1849** – The May Uprising in Dresden begins, the last of the German Revolutions of 1848, also called the "March Revolution." These uprisings are a widespread rebellion against the rigid, autocratic structure of the states of central Europe that occupy the former territory of the Holy Roman Empire. Middle and working class Germans demand increased political freedom, democracy and liberalization of social policies. The conservative aristocracy withstands this challenge to their rule and the movement fails. Many Jews participate in this movement toward liberalism and modernism. Its failure is a major spur toward the large migration of German Jews to the United States in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, bringing with them Reform Judaism, education, banking and commerce, widespread middle-class prosperity, and a thorough change to the face of American Judaism.

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

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

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

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

**1891** – An article entitled "Russian Jews" appears in the *New York Times*. It opens with the statement that "Every American will be glad to see...a scheme to colonize the Jews expelled from the Czar's dominions on an immense tract" of land in Argentina, in a project being underwritten by Baron Hirsch. The United States, says the article, already has too many Jewish immigrants from Russia. It describes Russian Jews as impoverished, ignorant, a burden on society and a mass that will never assimilate into American life.

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

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

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

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

**1934** – The district of Birobidzhan in remote Russian Siberia is established as a Jewish Autonomous Region by the government of Josef Stalin. It is to cover an area of 36,000 sq. km., with Yiddish as its official language. It will also solve a centuries-old Russian vexation with its Jews. Within two years Stalin has a change of heart and has its Jewish socialist leaders liquidated. Although a library and theater are established, it never reaches a population of more than 18,000. (Despite decades of emigration, the Jewish population of Soviet-held territory is at that point still somewhere between one and two million.) ♦

# Shavuot

## Childhood Memories

.....

### Milk, Cheesecake, and Torah

by Joyce Peckman

A large bowl sits on the kitchen table, filled with a mixture of pot cheese and cream cheese. My mother stands stirring with a wooden spoon. Near the bowl is a tiny bottle of vanilla, the large container of sugar from the pantry, and paper towels. On the stove is a mysterious mixture of eggs and flour, which, when poured into the frying pan, would produce the thin, delicate rounds which were neither omelets nor pancakes. She knew how much to pour into the pan, and how many seconds to let each one cook before turning it out onto the growing stack of paper towels that kept the rounds from sticking to each other. In the refrigerator, sour cream and strawberry jam waited to crown the end products of her labor. This is my childhood memory of *Shavuot*. My mother seldom made those wonderful blintzes (never again, once I became a teenager and she went off to work), but the memory of their richness has made the paltry store-bought variety seem not worth the calories.

*Shavuot* was the holiday we didn't really celebrate. It didn't have the drama of the High Holidays, or Passover's *matzah* and family seder, reading the *Haggadah* around the table. There was no *lulav* and *etrog* to shake



in the *sukkah* at the Temple. We were allowed to take the day off from school on *Shavuot* only if we went to services at the temple, but since final exams were quickly coming up, it seemed risky.

Apparently, things haven't

changed much over the years. When I called my religious grandchildren to ask them how they celebrate *Shavuot*, the reply was, "We go to shul and eat cheesecake."

Yet *Shavuot* is an important holiday, commemorating the vital wheat harvest in Israel. The word *Shavuot* means "weeks." The Torah mandates the seven-week counting of the *Omer* from the second day of Passover. On Passover, the Jews were freed from slavery. Seven weeks later,

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they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, ready to accept the Torah and commit to serving God. The holiday is one of the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals, when the Israelites used to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices. Other than that ancient requirement, and the traditional festival meal, special added prayers and abstention from work, there are no mandated *mitzvot* for this holiday.

There are, however many customs (*minhagim*). My childhood memory comes from the custom of eating dairy for the main meal. The reason for this custom is not clear. Some say it is because in the “Song of Songs,” Torah is compared to milk: “Like honey and milk, it lies under your tongue.” Others say it is because the laws of *kashrut*

had just been given, and since the people had not yet prepared a second set of dishes and pots, they refrained from cooking meat. Some note that the Hebrew word for milk is *chalav*, which has

a gematria numerical value of 40, corresponding to the 40 days Moses spent on the mountain obtaining the Torah.

The custom of all-night Torah study (*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*) goes back to 1533 when Rabbi Joseph Caro, author of the *Shulchan Aruch*, then living in Ottoman Salonika, invited Rabbi Shlomo Halevi Alkabetz and other Kabbalistic colleagues to hold Shavuot-night study vigils for which they prepared for three days in advance, just as the Israelites had prepared for three days before the giving of the Torah.

According to Moshe Sokolow of Yeshiva University, the mass consumption of coffee in the Ottoman Empire was a factor in the emergence of the all-night study. The earliest use of coffee is reported in the 15<sup>th</sup> century



among the Sufis of Yemen. Those Muslim mystics depended on it to keep them awake during their nighttime devotions. By the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, coffee drinking had spread throughout the Middle East, and coffeehouses became popular for secular as well as religious purposes. And so the KJCC, under the guidance of coffeemeister and

bagelmon Marc Bloom, carries on a venerable historic tradition. (Not to mention millions of grateful college students around the world, in former Ottoman lands and beyond.)

In 1967, one week before *Shavuot*, the Israeli army recaptured the Old City and reunited Jerusalem. On *Shavuot* day, the Western Wall was opened to visitors for the first time since 1948. Since then, each year tens of thousands of people finish their *Shavuot* night-time study by walking to the Western Wall and joining in sunrise prayers.

*Shavuot* this year will be Sunday and Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be celebrated at KJCC on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> with a dairy dinner at 6 p.m., followed by services including *Yizkor*. *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* learning will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler after services. ♦

# Light the Lights

## *The Dramatic Story of Lag B'Omer*

by Gloria Avner

*This year Lag B'Omer (the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of counting Omer) falls on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, or according to the Hebrew calendar, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of Iyar. We've been counting omer (a measure of grain offering), since the night of our second seder. We're almost two-thirds of the way through seven weeks, and to borrow a question from Passover, why is this single day different from the other days? Our newly freed slave selves were walking the long way round to Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah, but what were our slightly more recent ancestors, and we, (or some of us) doing that day, other than counting, and why?*

**T**here is a great story here, a day of great joyousness and celebration on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of counting grain sacrifice since Passover. At this point there will be only 16 more days until we mark the full forty-nine, seven weeks (*Shavuot* means weeks) of wandering in the desert, marking the span from our escape from slavery to our arrival at Mt. Sinai and the completion of our spiritual preparation to receive the Torah.

I am stunned at how much there is to learn from this supposedly minor holiday. Most of us probably know a few tidbits: people go out in the country and have picnics and children play with bows and arrows. Some of us may know that there is a period of serious mourning during the whole forty-nine days, and that you are not allowed to celebrate *simchas* (happy occasions). During the full seven weeks we are supposed to be working seriously on our inner spiritual



development. You can't give a child a first haircut. You can't wear perfume, take luxurious baths, or even get married – except on this one day. *Lag B'Omer* (*lamed gimel* being the numerical equivalent of 33) is the exception. This day is supposed to be totally joyous.

But there are so many questions. What have we been mourning? Why have we been mourning for so many days? Why are we so happy today? The answers are layers thick and deep, of course. This is Judaism, history and legend, mysticism and miracles. (There is so much drama to the story I am surprised no one has written a mini-series about it.)

The main characters are Rabbi Akiva, Shimon bar Kochba, and Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai. During the years 132-135 C.E., some 60 years after the first rebellion against Roman rule that resulted in the destruction of the Second Temple, Shimon Bar Kochba led what was at first a successful revolt against Roman rule. He had the

backing of Rabbi Akiva (a late learner, who went to school with his own children before becoming the preeminent Torah scholar of his time). Rabbi Akiva believed Bar Kochba could be the Messiah, and declared him so. But though this began with what seemed like a genuine chance, it did not end well. It was to be the third and final rebellion of the Jews against Roman rule.

Bar Kochba had tremendous strength, leadership skills, and scholarly knowledge. He fielded an army of 100,000 men who actually succeeded in ejecting the Romans from the land of Israel (which at that point they had ruled for about 200 years). The Jewish people declared independence and started preparing the building materials for the Third Temple.

Rome could not allow this. Emperor Hadrian sent Julius Severus (conqueror of England), to crush the revolt. At first the Romans were unsuccessful; the entire 22<sup>nd</sup> Roman legion was destroyed. By the end of the Bar Kochba revolt, the Romans had placed almost half their entire army – 12 of 28 legions and 120,000 soldiers – in Judea trying to put down the Jewish revolt.

But Bar Kochba did something that Rabbi Akiva could not stomach; he killed another rabbi whom he thought had betrayed secrets. Rabbi Akiva withdrew his support. It took the Romans two more years, but they ground down the rebellion, and when it ended, some 500,000 Jews had lost their lives. A thousand towns and cities were wiped out.

During the next three years, Rome saw to the massive spiritual and physical destruction of Judea. Many of the generation's leading sages, including Rabbi Akiva, were executed. Jews became a minority in the land of Israel for the first time in 1,000 years and would remain so for nearly 2,000 years.

Those are the bones of the story. But the flesh consists of the actions taken by Rabbi Akiva, believing that Bar Kochba could have been the Messiah. He made his students join the fray, spiritual scholars joining forces with Jewish warriors. There are hints of misbehavior, of egos, of people held to a high standard, not treating others with respect. A

plague struck the students and 2,400 of them died within the first days of counting the omer. And then the plague stopped, on this 33<sup>rd</sup> day – *Lag B'Omer* – leaving a handful alive.

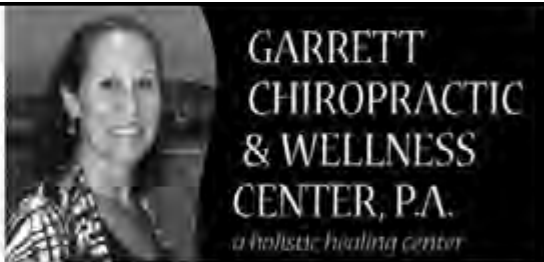
We mourn the students and we mourn the half million. We also mourn the end of hope, for more than 1,800 years, for a rebuilt Israel.

Still, there is always balance. A ray of light is visible through the darkness. We celebrate the end of the plague, but, more important, we celebrate the life and work and *yahrzeit* of Shimon ben Yochai, one of Rabbi Akiva's surviving students. It was he who, seeing the decimation of Rabbi Akiva's students, decided to put the secret oral teachings of the Torah into writing so that they would not be lost. Tradition tells us he created the *Zohar*, the text of the Kabbalah.

Today, in Israel, on *Lag B'Omer*, nearly 250,000 people make pilgrimage to Rabbi Shimon's place of birth. It is said that when Rabbi Shimon was writing down his teachings, a blindingly bright light came from his head. In honor of that light, children scavenge wood for months in advance and build structures up to 30 feet tall. On *Lag B'Omer*, the wood is set alight and bonfires blaze from streets to rooftops. Giant tents are set up with food and drink for visitors. There is dancing and singing in the streets. Planes flying over Israel are confused. Smoke, fire and celebration illuminate everything.

There *is* much to celebrate. The dream of an independent Israel was greatly delayed but not destroyed. The teachings from Mt. Sinai are with us. And gifted teachers are with us, too. Most of all, we have the gift of Torah to help us be a light to the world. Sixteen days after *Lag B'Omer* (well, maybe a little earlier this year), we will celebrate that gift, eating cheesecake and taking part in learning under the guidance of our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler. Celebrate *Shavuot* at KJCC on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, enjoy May 3<sup>rd</sup> to the fullest. If you've been waiting to get married or longing for luxurious baths, or wishing to have a bonfire, now is the time. *Chag Sameach!* ♦





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**18 Sivan - 20 Elul 5778**

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**A Jewish Summer Story - page 47**

**Judy Chicago, artist and innovator - page 50**

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# June 2018      18 Sivan - 17 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Joyce Peckman  <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett &amp; Jane Friedman</i>	2
3  Sisterhood Luncheon noon	4	5	6  Fishing Trip 9 a.m.	7	8  Beth Hayden  <i>Donna &amp; Bill Bolton</i>	9
10  KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	11	12	13  Flag Day	14  Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	15 Barney Coltman & Beth Hayden  <i>Donna &amp; Bill Bolton</i>	16
17  Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22  Steve Hartz & Susan Gordon  <i>Lynn Nobil</i>	23
24	25 Sis'hood Book Club Noon	26	27	28	29  Erica Lieberman-Garrett  <i>Michael &amp; Lorena Kaufman</i>	30

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## President's Message Beth Hayden



As I write this column, tomorrow (Monday), the United States will move its Embassy to Jerusalem, recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Palestinian demonstrations have been threatened in Gaza and the West Bank. On Tuesday, the "nakba" (disaster, as the "founding of Israel" is called by the Palestinians), will be remembered. More demonstrations and violent activities are planned. I have been interested as I read the US news reports describing the "mostly peaceful" Palestinian demonstrations in Gaza - I contrast those words with the horrendous videos coming out of Israel documenting the Gaza actions: flaming kites flown across the border fence burn Israeli crops, burned tires provide a terrible stench and black smoke which blinds eyes to what is being done, slings are wound up to greater and greater speed to throw rocks at Israeli troops, grappling hooks are affixed to the fenced barrier separating Gaza from Israel. These barriers have been breached more than once.

No one claims the Israel Defense Forces are perfect and the truth is, there are some bad eggs. However, as a whole, there are few armies in the world that do more to try and avoid civilian casualties than the IDF. I remember conversations in my living room in Israel, where neighbors

serving miluim (reserve duty) and permanent members of the IDF discussed the issues of serving in the occupied territories. The Israel Defense Forces ARE for defense of the country. They were never meant to be an occupying force tasked with overseeing a hostile population. Even when I lived in Israel, many years ago, this was a hot topic of conversation - and for the first time, ever, in the history of the IDF, some people refused to serve in the occupied territories. They paid a very high price for their ideals. They also spoke about how it felt and how frightened they were to stand and have rocks thrown at them at high velocity. As one so vividly remarked, "A rock on your head or in your eye can kill you or wound you as well as a bullet."

These are very tough days for Israel. Nevertheless, just as there is a silent majority in America, there are silent Palestinians who only want to live their lives, watch their children grow, prosper and live in peace. They are ill represented by their government; these days we might ask who is well represented by their government. Let us continue to hope that a day will come when reason and moderation will lead to a viable solution to the current conflict.

—*B'shalom, Beth*

# Nosh

## Reverse Tashlich

Last month we received an invitation from Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and the Scubi Jews of Sun-coast Hillel to join in a program originally intended to bring together the Tampa Bay Jewish community in *tikkun olam* activity. With KJCC participation, it will become a statewide (or at least long :-)) event.

Background: Rabbi Ed's *Tikkun HaYam* program, the repair of the seas, is part of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) but intended to focus solely on the marine environment, raising awareness of our obligation as Jews to preserve and protect the sea and all of its creatures. As it states in Psalm 95:5: אשר לו הים, "The Sea is God's."

You all know we perform Tashlich prayers on the afternoon of *Rosh HaShanah* day one. We go to the ocean with a bag of bread (or bagels), and symbolically cast our sins into the water, leaving old unworthy behaviors behind us (which also

makes a lot of fish and seagulls happy...a lovely synergy), so we can start the New Year with a clean slate. This year Hillel and the Scubi Jews aim "to do things differently, with a lot more unity, reflection, and service." Let's join them in role reversal. Susan Gordon and Linda Kaplan's *Tikkun Olam* Committee will, with the help of as many members who are willing and able to take part, organize a "Reverse Tashlich" cleanup project, taking debris out of our waters instead of throwing more in (we will probably do both). Let's combine our efforts with those of all the synagogues in the Tampa area on the Sunday after *Rosh HaShanah*, September 16<sup>th</sup>, in beginning the job (made necessary by our fellow humans) of cleaning the seas. If you'd like to earn your own KJCC mitzvah points, please contact: [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com).

## Shabbabecue (and Pauline at 103)

For more years than we can count, KJCC has been celebrating our nation's Independence Day with a hot dog and hamburger Shabbabecue on the nearest Shabbat to July 4<sup>th</sup>. Ever since Pauline Roller reached the youthful zenith of 100 years of age (her birthday also being on July 4<sup>th</sup>), we've linked the two celebrations. Who knew we would be celebrating her 103<sup>rd</sup>. This year Pauline is the star. Yes, our men will be manning the grills: Skip Rose, Bernie Ginsberg, and Stuart Smith. Jane Friedman and Marc Bloom will be doing the shopping. Donna Bolton will be taking RSVPs (see poster on page 6). We may even have a few sparklers going. But accepting the major kudos and kisses and mazel tovs will be Queen Pauline.

## Membership Packets Coming Soon

If you've been wondering when you are going to get a new KJCC Directory, wonder no more. Watch your mailboxes in July. The indispensable phone/address/e-mail book for 2018-2019 will arrive along with your membership packet. Enjoy it. Then please return the sheets inside your envelope as quickly and filled out as thoroughly as you can, especially if you want your loved ones' names, complete and correct, in the *Yizkor* Book

## Oneg Sponsors for Summer 2018

- June 1st - Erica Lieberman-Garrett in honor of her wedding anniversary. Jane Friedman in honor of Harry's graduation.
- June 8th - Donna & Bill Bolton in honor of their birthdays.
- June 15th - Donna & Bill Bolton in honor of their 25th anniversary.
- June 22nd - Lynn Nobil in honor of her grandchildren's birthdays.
- June 29th - Michael & Lorena Kaufman in honor of their anniversary.
- July 6th - Sisterhood in honor of the Shabbabaque
- July 13th - Joyce Peckman in honor of her birthday.
- July 20th - Beth Hayden in honor of Kohengi's birthday.
- July 27th - Marc Bloom in honor of his birthday.
- August 3rd - Michael & Lorena Kaufman in honor of Sean's birthday.

for the year's first *Yizkor* on Yom Kippur. High Holidays are very early this year, and the book will go into production in early August, as soon as we get your filled-out responses back. If you can be extra generous with your donations to the Rabbi-Cantor Fund this year, as well as your other favorite causes, that too will be appreciated, along with your membership checks. We treasure our members. You are our *mishpacha*, and we do our best to provide the most nourishing, educational, cultural, and *Yiddishkeit* activity-rich Jewish community that we can. But none of this is something that "they" take care of. Perhaps unique in all synagogues, there is no "them" here at KJCC. There is only "us."

**Scubi Jews and Goliath Grouper**

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Scubi Jews were in the news recently for their work advocating keeping protected status alive for the potentially endangered Goliath Grouper. Bravo. We look forward to seeing you Hillel students again this fall and winter. Do any of you know when the name Jewfish disappeared? Originated?

**KJCC Summer Activities**

Forget summer doldrums. There will be none for KJCC members who choose to stay home for June, July, and August. Susan Gordon and Mitch Harvey have been busily plotting to keep us out in the air, on the water, breathing in sunshine and enjoying some summertime baseball. Game date and sunset cruise date are yet to be determined so keep your eye out for news in Beth's weekly announcements. But the half-day fishing trip for only \$35.00 plus tip is happening soon. (Please see ad for details on page 28.)

**Leaf on the Tree of Life**

*In loving memory of my sister*  
**Sondra Lundy**  
**11/2/1929 - 3/25/2016**  
*Elaine & Alan Schulberg*

**June Birthdays**

2nd.....	Barbara Osder
2nd.....	Myra Kaplan
3rd.....	Abraham Rakov
3rd.....	Elanor Forbes
4th.....	Alfred Wehl
5th.....	Dorothy Wolfe
5th.....	Joseph Sachs
6th.....	Donna Bolton
6th.....	Nancy Kluger
6th.....	Suzanne Gilson
7th.....	Carrie Smith
7th.....	Joan P. Wohl
8th.....	Eina Fishman
8th.....	Elaine Solas
9th.....	Renee Brodie
9th.....	Zoe Moshe
12th.....	Kevin M. Silverman
13th.....	Israel Mayk
13th.....	Justin Greenbaum
14th.....	Jennifer Nobil
15th.....	Deborah Weiss
15th.....	Haley Mayclin
15th.....	William Bolton
16th.....	Marvin Blumenfeld
17th.....	Leo Haviv
18th.....	Amelia Kasinof
18th.....	Kim Haviv
20th.....	Harvey Klein
20th.....	Judy Schmidt
21st.....	Aaron Quesada
21st.....	Nancy Hershoff
21st.....	Roberta Chester
21st.....	Sam Janowitz
21st.....	Taryn Nobil
23rd.....	Dale Chasteen
23rd.....	Steve Levine
24th.....	Delaney Rohde
24th.....	Rita Bromwich
27th.....	Frank Emkey
27th.....	Kristy Moss
28th.....	Alan Cooper
29th.....	Milo Tainow
30th.....	Bob Friedman

## June Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jim & Rita Williams.....34
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....32
5th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garrett..24
<b>7th</b>	<b>Richard &amp; Sheila Steinberg.....59</b>
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman.....22
11th	Medina & Carl Roy.....46
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz.....42
12th	William & Donna Bolton.....25
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler.....42
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake...31
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax.....44
<b>25th</b>	<b>Herbert &amp; Elinor Grossman.....61</b>
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin.....48
28th	Lloyd & Rae Wruble .....49

## A Bit About High Holidays

Yes, our *Yamim Noraim* (Ten Days of Awe) are happening unbelievably early this year; the first event, *Selichot*, the short prayer service in which we begin praying for forgiveness (followed immediately by our traditional program of pizza and a movie), will take place on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Because the next issue of Chai-Lights will not come out until shortly before September, we have included the High Holiday Schedule in this issue. We hope it is helpful to you in making your holiday plans. We will have an *Erev Rosh HaShanah* dinner here this year (barring unexpected weather visitations akin to last September's — ptooeey, ptooeey, ptooeey). (See ad for *S'lichot* on page 32, dinner on page 44, and High Holiday schedule on page 40.)

## July Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross....18
9th	Terry Willner-Tainow & Jon Tainow....46
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick.....23
21st	Dick & Rita Bromwich.....44
30th	Andrew & Randi Grant.....29

## Meditation Garden Tree

**Jacob M. J. Shabathai**

**1917—2016**

**Mourned and loved by his family**

*By Joe & Kathy Shabathai*

## August Anniversaries

	Years
3rd	Augie & Kristy Moss.....5
<b>7th</b>	<b>Larry &amp; Dorothy Wolfe.....61</b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>Paul &amp; Susan Roberts.....50</b>
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles.....19
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman.....36
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk.....46

## Summer Service Leaders

July 6th: Steve Hartz  
 July 13th: Bernie Ginsberg  
 July 20th: tba  
 July 27th: Joyce Peckman

August 3rd: Susan Gordon and Donna (the *d'var* diva) Bolton  
 August 10th: Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
 August 17th: tba  
 August 24th: Sam Vinicur and Beth Hayden  
 August 31st: tba

## Help Us Mail to the Correct Address

Sometimes we know who's here and who's at their summer residence. But often, unless you've given us a schedule, we don't. If you don't already have a schedule on file, please make sure we know where to send your September issue. Todah.

## Summer Activities

What do you do in the summer? Are you planning a trip to family far afield? Going on a cruise to Alaska? Teaching a grandchild to swim? Sunbathing in your own backyard? Perhaps some of you (at least two that we know of) are staying *au courant* with world events by checking in personally on your ham radio? Keep us in the loop by sending photos and descriptions.

We'll enjoy seeing them in the September issue. Send to Gloria at [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com).

## See You in September

As is our custom, this is the tenth and final issue of Chai-Lights for the season, with no separate issues for July and August. We'll miss you, and hope you'll miss us. But, as things go, the next issue will be in your hands before you know it.

## Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

**BOOKPLATES for siddurim:** Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for information, or send your desired inscription to [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

**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.

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

**CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, for annual rates.

**DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will be featured prominently in our Membership Directory. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067, for annual rates.

**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.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**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 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 Chanah David, 305-774-6048.

**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, YAHR-ZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

*Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).*

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Happy Birthday to  
Pauline Young!!!  
103 Years



4th of July  
Shabbabaque

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 5:30 BARBECUE DINNER

7:30 SERVICES

COME, EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY AND WISH  
OUR PAULINE A HAPPY 103RD BIRTHDAY!

CONTACT DONNA WITH QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS

LT0N9993@BELLSOUTH.NET, (305) 393-1351

## July Birthdays

1st.....	Alex Hudson
1st.....	Eitan Loi-Kamely
1st.....	Jennifer Gilson
1st.....	Nelson Chester
1st.....	Patti Gross
2nd.....	Elissa A. Denker
2nd.....	Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
3rd.....	Max Finkelstein
3rd.....	Michael Kaufman
4th.....	Mindy Rosenthal
4th.....	Pauline Roller
7th.....	Lucy Moss
8th.....	Gary Sherman
9th.....	Joyce Peckman
11th.....	Steven Hartz
12th.....	Rebecca M. Schur
12th.....	Richard Steinberg
13th.....	Dot Brooking
13th.....	Leslie Reamer
14th.....	David Gross
14th.....	Paul Eric Bernstein
15th.....	Danna Levy
17th.....	Foster Davidson
17th.....	John Hawver
18th.....	Luzviminda Levine
20th.....	Lyn Sherman
20th.....	Roosmary Benowitz
21st.....	Arlington Garrett
21st.....	Brian Smith
21st.....	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
21st.....	Linda Perloff
22nd.....	Millie Tainow
23rd.....	Barat Barefoot
23rd.....	Carrie Temkin
26th.....	Carol Field
26th.....	Lance Royce Kaufman
27th.....	Marc Bloom
27th.....	Rachael Bloom
28th.....	Lila E. Juenger
28th.....	Mary Anne Pearl
29th.....	Andy Loi-Kamely
29th.....	Barry Neumann
29th.....	Bruce Boruszak
29th.....	Candy Stanlake
29th.....	Mary Lee Singer

30th.....	Molly Bloom
31st.....	Drew Nobil
31st.....	Mark Steinberg

## August Birthdays

1st.....	Lori Richardson
1st.....	Nicholas Rivera
2nd.....	Marc S. Field
4th.....	Jessica Forman
5th.....	Nissan Mayk
8th.....	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
19th.....	Pamela Friedman
20th.....	Amanda Nobil
21st.....	Rachel Zinner
23rd.....	Dave Mont
24th.....	Carl McNew
26th.....	Mikhaela Bitton
27th.....	Jaimee Marshall
27th.....	Judy Greenman
30th.....	Robert Temkin
30th.....	Sue Ann Weihl
31st.....	Brynn Borisoff

### BOOK PLATE

in memory of  
**Ellen Coltman**

*by Barnet Coltman*



## Sisterhood Book Club

**Monday  
June 25, 2018 noon**

***THE WOMAN WHO HEARD COLOR*  
BY KELLY JONES**



**Monday  
July 30, 2018 noon**

***STILL ME*  
BY JOJO MOYES**



**Monday  
August 27, 2018**

***LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE*  
BY CELESTE NG**



**VENUE TO BE DECIDED UPON**

**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant  
rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**

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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



As we enter into the slow, hot days of summer here in the Florida Keys, I would like to reflect on some of the Sisterhood activities which took place during the month of May. Thanks to Jane Friedman's green thumb, we have been treated with fresh, delicious, expertly prepared vegetables from our KJCC vegetable garden throughout the entire month. The garden has been thriving, and we are very fortunate to enjoy such healthy onegs each week!

Sisterhood met on the morning of May 6<sup>th</sup> for our monthly meeting. We had a lot to discuss and several events to plan. Randi Grant reported that the Book Club will remain active throughout the summer months. There is a core group of about nine women who are enjoying the monthly book discussions and luncheons held at various local restaurants.

The *tikkun olam* donations, which were raised during the Women's Seder, were distributed to the three recipients. We donated a total of over \$1,300. Checks were given to The Talia Agler Girls Shelter in Kenya, Nairobi, The Key Largo School Needy Fund, and the KJCC Scholarship Fund. During the May 6<sup>th</sup> KJCC Board meeting, Sisterhood was also happy to present a donation to the KJCC in the amount of \$2,000.00.

On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Sisterhood sponsored a dairy dinner as part of the greater celebration of Shavuot at the KJCC. The evening began with the dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Shabbat & Yizkor services at 7:30 p.m. After services, Rabbi Agler led a Torah Learning event during the oneg. Many thanks to Erica for chairing the Shavuot dinner, coordinating the food, and making it an enjoyable evening for all who attended!

Working together with the KJCC, Sisterhood is helping plan one of our favorite mid-summer events, the Annual Shabbabecue and Celebration of Pauline's (103<sup>rd</sup>) birthday! Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Donna Bolton at

lton9993@bellsouth.net to RSVP.

We are taking a summer break from our monthly Sisterhood meetings during June and July, but will meet again on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to attend this important meeting; we will be planning the Rosh Hashanah dinner and luncheons, as well as the Yom Kippur break-the-fast dinner.

If you are reading this issue of Chai-Lights prior to Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, please join together with other KJCC Women for our Annual End of Season Luncheon. We plan to meet at 12:00 noon at the Bayside Grill, upstairs, at Mile Marker 99. This will be a relaxing and enjoyable gathering in appreciation of all of the dedication and hard work done all year by our amazing group of women!

I have been assisting Mitch Harvey on the KJCC Activity Committee. We are working to put together some fun activities for us to enjoy during the summer months, such as a half-day fishing trip and a sunset cruise out on Florida Bay! Who says that Jewish women don't fish? Let's show the men what we can do with a rod & reel on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will go out for a four-hour fishing excursion on board the party fishing boat, Sailor's Choice. The boat will leave the dock at 9:00 a.m., and return at 1:00 p.m. Please check in and pay at 8:30 a.m., at the ticket booth by the Holiday Inn at Mile Marker 100. Our rate is \$35.00 per person, and does not include the customary mate's gratuity. You may bring drinks and snacks, but no glass containers. The Sunset Cruise will be scheduled during the month of July. This will be a delightful two hours, leaving from the Marriott Bay Beach Resort in Key Largo. Details will be included in the President's weekly announcements.

We have so much to enjoy during the summer months here in the "Fabulous Florida Keys!" ♦













# 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**

Coltman, Barney

## **In Memory of**

Ellen Coltman

## **Oneg Sponsorship**

Peckman, Joyce

## **In Honor of**

her birthday

## **Fundraiser**

Hughes, Christy

Roy, Medina

Steinbock, Stephen

Vinicur, Sam

Feder Concert

Feder Concert

Feder Concert

Feder Concert

## **Oneg Sponsorship**

Rose, Skip

## **In Memory of**

Rene Rose

## **Scholarship Fund**

Sisterhood

donation from Women's Seder

## **Leaf on Tree of Life**

Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

## **In Memory of**

Sondra Lundy

## **Unrestricted**

Sisterhood

donation to KJCC

## **Meditation Garden**

Shabathai, Joe & Kathy

## **In Memory of**

Jacob M. J. Shabathai

## **Yahrzeit**

Emkey, Gerri & Frank

Emkey, Gerri & Frank

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Temkin, Robert

Weihl, Al & Suzi

## **In Memory of**

Alex Pearl

Gertrude Weisberg

Morris Kornbloom

Shirley Lieberman

Phillip Temkin

Irma Weihl

## **Oneg Sponsorship**

Bolton, Donna & Bill

Bolton, Donna & Bill

## **In Honor of**

their birthday's

their 25th wedding

anniversary

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

***Yahrzeit Plaques:*** KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemaah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

***Tree of Life Leaves:*** We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

***Garden Bricks:*** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Some Troubling Statistics

According to a recent study commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (commonly referred to as the *Claims Conference*), some 22 percent of U.S. millennials (ages 18-34) “have not heard of or are unsure if they have heard of the Holocaust.” The study included 1,350 interviews with Americans aged 18 and over. Thirty-one percent of all respondents and 41 percent of millennials believe that the number of Jews who perished during the Holocaust is two million or less. Forty-five percent of all respondents could not name a concentration camp or ghetto from World War II, and 41 percent could not identify Auschwitz. The study also found that the vast majority of respondents support Holocaust education. “We are alarmed that today’s generation lacks some of the basic knowledge about these atrocities,” said *Claims Conference* President Julius Berman. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 4-15-18)

### The Origin of a Custom

Americans look forward to observing Memorial Day with barbecues, picnics, shopping, etc. Israel, in striking contrast, observes its Memorial Day (*Yom Hazikaron*) and Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom HaShoah*) in a much more reverential way. Both are regular work days, but at a designated hour, air-raid sirens blare throughout the country for two minutes. The entire country comes to a standstill and people stop what they are doing – even on the highways – remain silent and reflect on both those who have fallen serving their country and those lost in the Holocaust. (If you’ve never participated or seen the highly emotional experience, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYeOEaSHS78>.)

How did this custom originate? The tradition dates back to South Africa. In 1918, the mayor of Cape Town initiated the Two-Minute Pause to remember the fallen soldiers on

Europe’s World War I battlefields. South African author and politician Sir James Percy FitzPatrick was in England when the war ended. He had lost a son in battle and suggested to King George V that they also adopt a moment of silence. It became part of Armistice Day events throughout the British Empire. The custom was imported to Palestine (ruled by the British from 1918 until Israel proclaimed independence in 1948). The British installed air-raid sirens across Palestine at the onset of World War II. At first, the new State of Israel used the sirens sparingly, primarily for ceremonial purposes such as when Zionist leader Theodor Herzl’s remains were flown in for burial. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 5-4-16)

### Electronic Noses” To Detect Breast Cancer

Israeli scientists at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) and researchers at Soroka-University Medical Center have come up with a new screening method that detects breast cancer more accurately and earlier than all other methods. Using readily available technology, they have been able to identify biomarkers using two electronic nose gas sensors (e-noses) for breath, along with gas-chromatography mass spectrometry to quantify patterns of substances in urine. The findings have recently been published in the journal *Computers in Biology and Medicine*. In the study, the researchers were able to detect breast cancer with more than 95 percent average accuracy using two different electronic noses (e-noses) that can identify unique breath patterns in women with breast cancer. In addition, urine samples submitted by both healthy patients and those diagnosed with breast cancer showed an 85 percent average accuracy. “Breast cancer survival is strongly tied to the sensitivity of tumor detection...Our new approach utilizing urine and exhaled breath sam-

ples – analyzed with inexpensive, commercially available systems – is non-invasive, accessible and may be easily implemented in a variety of settings,” said Professor Yehuda Zeiri, a member of BGU’s department of biomedical engineering. “With further study, it may also be possible to analyze exhaled breath and urine samples to identify other cancer types as well,” he said. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 4-25-18)

### **An Inspiration to the Disabled**

At the end of April, Simon Kindleysides, 34, from Norfolk, England, became the first paralyzed man to finish the London Marathon, an amazing accomplishment that took him 36 hours to complete. He managed to walk the entire 26.2 mile course with the help of the *ReWalk* robotic exoskeleton suit, a wearable device developed in Israel that allows paraplegics to mimic the function of the legs and hips. The London Marathon dubbed him #SpiritofLondon award winner for 2018, even though he did not win any official medals. *ReWalk* was created some 20 years ago by mechanical engineer Amit Goffer. He began working on the device after a road accident left him paralyzed in 1998. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 4-25-18)

### **Update**

In the April issue of *Chai-Lights* we reported that Israel was preparing for a mass deportation of thousands of African migrant asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan. The migrants had illegally crossed into Israel through the Sinai desert. Originally, Israel was scheduled to begin deportation of the migrants in early April under a plan and budget that was approved by Israel’s Cabinet back in January. Then, in mid-March, the Supreme Court froze the deportations after a petition was filed by opponents of the ruling. But now the Israeli government has abandoned the plan altogether. “At this stage, the possibility of carrying out an unwilling deportation...is not on the agenda,” the government wrote in response to the court. The migrants can now renew residency permits every 60 days, as they were able to do before the

push to deport them. The matter is still hotly debated: the migrants and human rights groups say they are seeking asylum, fleeing war and persecution; the government claims they are seeking jobs and that it has every right to protect its borders. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 4-24-18)

### **A “Snake” to Pick Fruit (or Fix a Satellite)**

A team of researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev has developed a “minimally actuated serial robot” (MASR) that travels back and forth along a structure and rotates using its own motors. They’ve dubbed it “the snake” since it travels along a thin path, kind of like a snake. David Zarrouk, head of the school’s Bio-Inspired and Medical Robotics Lab, said the MASR is ideal for agriculture (as in picking fruit), industry, search-and-rescue and even fixing, docking or refueling satellites in outer space. In contrast to other snake-type robots that travel using many connected motors, MASR uses only two, reducing the robot’s weight, size and cost. The device can also add or eliminate track pieces quickly, making it possible, according to Zarrouk “to target quick repairs in isolated sections.” Zarrouk’s next project is a robotic pill that moves through the intestines like a worm and can be controlled remotely by healthcare professionals. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 4-8-18)

### **In Memoriam**

• Judith Leiber, 97 and her husband Gerson, 96, died within hours of each other at the end of April. (The night before they died, Gerson reportedly told his wife, “Sweetie, it’s time for both of us to go.”) Judith was known for her small crystal-covered handbags - called minaudières - carried by celebrities, several First Ladies and Queen Elizabeth II. Her handbags – many priced well into four figures per bag – are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Chicago Historical Society and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gerson, known as Gus, was an abstract painter, lithographer and sculptor. His work has been featured in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Judith was born in Budapest. She learned all the stages of handbag manufacturing in an artisan guild. She was able to use that knowledge to escape the Nazi concentration camps by sewing Nazi military uniforms.

Gerson, born in Brooklyn, was an Army Signal Corps sergeant stationed in post-war Budapest when he met Judith. They married in 1946 and settled in New York, where he studied in art school. After Judith worked more than a dozen years for other manufacturers, the couple opened their own handbag business in 1963. She received most of the fashion industry's major prizes. They sold the company in 1993 for a reported \$16 million. (Judith later told people, "Hitler put me in the handbag business.") In 2008, they opened the *Leiber Collection*, a museum dedicated to both of their work on their property in the Hamptons. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 4-30-18)

- Sam Bloch, who dedicated his life to the rescue, welfare and rehabilitation of Holocaust survivors and to rebuilding Jewish life, has died. He was 94. His goal was to strengthen the memory and lessons of the Holocaust. Bloch grew up in Ivie, Poland (today Belarus) speaking only Hebrew. His father Joshua was one of the founders of the modern Hebrew movement and the head of Ivie's Jewish Day School. The elder Bloch was murdered when the Nazis arrived in Ivie and targeted the leaders of the community. Sam rescued his mother and five-year-old brother by escaping with them, finding temporary haven offered by righteous Christian farmers and hiding in the woods. While there they were discovered by one of the Bielski brothers, who brought them to the Bielski partisan base deep in the Nailboczka Forest. There Sam joined the fight against the Nazis and helped rescue other Jews. He, his mother and brother were among the 1,400 Jews who survived in the Bielski brigade. Bloch went on to become the youngest leader of the Jewish committee that governed the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, the largest DP camp in Germany and a major center for the rehabilitation of 50,000 survivors of the Holocaust as well as the flight and rescue operations of survivors in Europe, bringing them to

Israel. Bloch published 30 volumes of Holocaust memoirs, history and poetry in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. A life-long Zionist, Bloch was the recipient of many honors and awards. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 2-6-18)

- David S. Wyman, author, historian and leading scholar of the United States' response to the Holocaust, died in March at 89. The grandson of Protestant ministers, Dr. Wyman recalled his parents conveying "not just tolerance but a high degree of respect for all different people." He taught at the University of Massachusetts from 1966 until his retirement in 1991. Wyman was in graduate school when he began researching what was done by the United States on behalf of the millions of Jews who were rounded up and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. His seminal work, "The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust 1941-1945" (winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a nominee for the National Book Critics Circle), was published in 1984 and was a best-seller that drew from both private and government records. Those records revealed widespread indifference and hostility to the Jews in Europe, even though their persecution and extermination was well documented. Wyman found fault with both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, the U.S. government, mainstream newspapers and movies and the anti-Jewish feelings of the general public. He showed how the federal government was slow to act and enforced strict immigration quotas while refusing to bomb the concentration camps. He alleges that President Roosevelt was more concerned about angering anti-Semites than about helping the Jews. Dr. Wyman's book has been credited with inspiring the 1985 American rescue of 800 Ethiopian Jews who were stranded in Sudan. At the time, Vice President George H.W. Bush said the book was a major factor in the U.S. decision to airlift the Ethiopians and bring them to Israel. Wyman often spoke about how difficult it was for him, as a Christian, to be confronted with the evidence of the lack of response by American Christians to news of the Holocaust. ("The Abandonment of the Jews" can be found in the KJCC library in the Holocaust [HOL] section.) ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 3-16-18) ♦

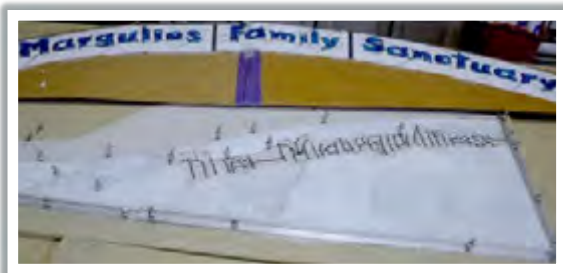
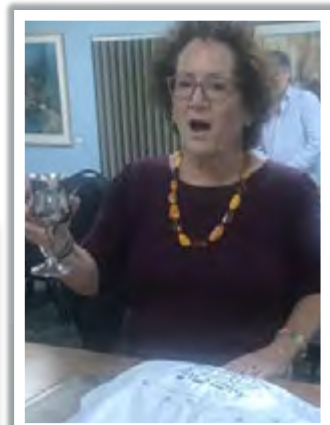
# Photo Gallery



Scenes from the April 28th Saturday morning Torah service, Rabbi Agler's last of the season. Gloria read from the Torah. Stan Margulies chanted the Aliyah. In the photo bottom left, the rabbi wanted to illustrate a point from that week's Torah teaching, where it says to leave "a corner" of your field for the poor. How much, then, do the rabbis discern the Torah means by "a corner?"



The top three photos were taken during the oneg on May 4th. Joyce Peckman had led the service and then, as you see at right, the blessings for wine and bread. It was nice to see our two favorite denizens of the Plantation Key Nursing and Rehab facility. Plus one resident who comes from Duck Key, one who will leave shortly for Tennessee and one leaving the next week for the Philly burbs of S. Jersey. We are nothing if not a well-traveled and eclectic group.



The three photos at right and above show an original work of stained glass art in progress. You've all seen the sign above the sanctuary door announcing its renaming as the "Margulies Family Sanctuary." We've also commissioned a new stained glass piece saying the same thing that will sit above the Ark. At right, the local artist, Veronica Gutierrez, cuts a tiny piece of blue glass to fit into the "y" of "family."



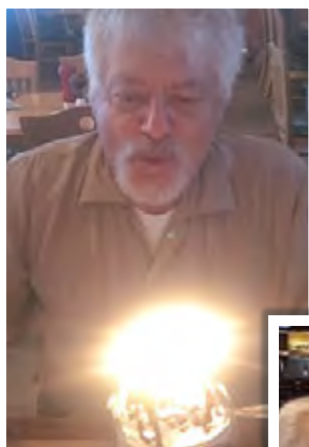


Scenes and moments from the May 11th service and following oneg. Erica Lieberman-Garrett had led the service. The oneg, as you see, was jointly sponsored by (in chronological order) Bernie Ginsberg and Medina Roy in honor of their shared birthday. (For the few who don't know, they also grew up in the same small Jewish seaside enclave of Far Rockaway, New

York, as did, Bernie loves to point out, one of his physics heroes, Richard Feynman. As did, the siren song of truth bursts in to demand, a famed criminal or two.)



**We had, courtesy of Medina's Adult Education Committee, a second season of amazing and (usually) fabulous Jewish-themed films, many of them Israeli. The top four photos were all taken after the film on May 12th.**



**In the two photos at left, plus the one just above left**

**where it looks like Bernie is oohing and aahing at a miniature version of the sun but is in fact blowing out candles on a birthday cake, some friends gathered at Pilot House to help Bernie ring out that year's birthday. The entire place, of course, ended up regaled by a lifetime's collection of jokes, some pushing the elastic boundaries of a PG-13 rating. Think of it as a little Catskills plopped temporarily into a roadside diner in, say, rural Indiana.**



All the photos at top show this year's Sisterhood contributions to KJCC: one (with Gloria, top left) showing one of three contributions from the Women's Seder, to the Key Largo school for their emergency student fund; one to Rich Agler, center, for the Tali Fund, and the third lower left to Beth and treasurer Linda Kaplan for the KJCC Scholarship Fund. The other photo, with Beth and Gloria lower right, shows the giving of Sisterhood's annual contribution to KJCC from their various programs.



## KJCC Scholarship to Harry Friedman

Congratulate Harry, Jane, and Steve Friedman, the next time you see them. They say it takes a village to raise a child. We are all proud to have been part of Harry's greater *mishpacha* and supportive community from the time his family moved here when Harry was just 7 years old. He is now 18, an advanced Eagle Scout who created a burgeoning organic garden on KJCC grounds and who will graduate from Miami's Coral Reef Senior High School on June 6<sup>th</sup> with a 4.3 GPA. Harry will be a freshman at University of Florida in Gainesville this fall, working hard to achieve his goal of becoming an engineer in the United States Navy. We are happy to announce that Harry will receive a \$2,000.00 scholarship from KJCC to help him on his way to a successful college experience. Come back to us as often as you can, Harry. We love you and look forward to hearing you chant *Hatzi Kaddish*.



**Earth Day was April 22nd. We show two ways of celebrating. In the photo below we show our neighbor Burton Memorial Methodist's wonderful food bank, overflowing with fresh vegetables courtesy of Jane Friedman's organic KJCC garden...**



**...and at left Jules and Nettie Seder (well, at least Nettie) hold a fellow whose forebears preceded ours to earth by millions of years.**



**On April 24th Susan Gordon celebrated her birthday in two ways, with gathered KJCC friends, above, and with musical friends from her regular band gig.**



**In the two photos at left we show two sides of Sean Kaufman at onegs. (Michael says that every Friday, just after he gets home, Sean runs up to him and says, "are we going to Temple tonight?") In the shot above left, you can see that it was time to leave. But before that there were a few pointed questions for Bernie...**



**KJCC friend Arlo Haskell, author of “The Jews of Key West,” is shown above in Tallahassee just after receiving his Gold Award for Florida books for “Jews,” his first work of non-fiction. In the center photo, Susan Gordon is shown in Tennessee with daughter Rose Marie during a Mother’s Day visit just before the birth of Rose Marie’s second son.**



**The two above photos show Gloria and Joyce’s recent visit with Alan and Candy at their new(est) house in St. Petersburg. For those who still think of St. Pete as “God’s Waiting Room,” it’s a very different scene now.**



**The two photos at bottom show Joel and Toby Bofshever on a sojourn in Texas and visiting two**

**groups of fellow KJCC members in two different cities, at far left with Stuart and Lauren Sax near Dallas, and just left with Roy Pollack and Elizabeth Giddens in Austin.**



# The Kargers Set Sail . . .



Shirley and Gunther Karger went cruising for ten days in May on the *Princess Caribbean*. What a fine way to celebrate Gus's 85th birthday, their coming 64th wedding anniversary, and Gus's voyage to America 72 years ago,

a 13-year-old war orphan from Sweden, penniless and without a word of English. Gus traveled on the *MS Gripsholm*. The ship (pictured below



with him on it) was one of three Swedish American Line transatlantic passenger ships built in 1926, the first new ships since the Titanic went down in 1912 and the largest of its time (1800 passengers). — *Mazel tov, Shirley and Gus!*



As you can see above, this time Gus got to enjoy the company of the ship's captain, perhaps symbolic of a life well and productively lived.



# **Keys Jewish Community Center**

## **Let's Go Fishing**

### **KJCC Fishing Trip**

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

**4 hour trip 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Check in at the dock ticket booth at 8:30 a.m.**

**\$35 - includes rod, reel, and bait.**

**Tip is extra and customary.**

**byob/snacks/no glass containers**



**Boat is Sailors Choice**

**located at MM 100 across the canal from the  
Holiday Inn, oceanside.**

**Reserve with Susan Gordon before June 4th  
susangordon424@yahoo.com - 305-766-3585**

# Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Israel

## *Yom Huledet Sameach*



**We** at KJCC always know how old Israel is because our own Medina Roy was born on the same day and given the name Medina, Hebrew for “State” (of Israel), in honor of the existence of the new nation. We chose to celebrate it a little differently this year and threw Israel a dinner party. The food was excellent, and so was the upbeat Israeli music and décor. Thank you, Sisterhood, for a delicious and fun-filled event. In the country’s honor we made it an Israeli dinner.

We were awash in homemade hummus, pita bread, olives of all kinds, magnificent Israeli salads, tabouli, tzatziki, and falafel with all the trimmings (made for the first time by Jane Friedman).

For many of us, these were first-time outings in the realm of Israeli cookery. Beth Hayden, on the other hand, having lived in Israel for ten





years, was in her element, and delighted us with Moroccan Israeli dishes and exotic desserts made with rosewater. Joyce Peckman brought a tasty salmon dish. Donna Bolton's honeyed baklava disappeared in a few heartbeats and the shredded melt-in-your-mouth halvah brought by the Bofshevers brought living color memories of the KJCC odyssey to Israel back to those who had made that trip with Rabbi Agler in 2013. We owe many thanks to the Bofshevers for sponsoring this Israeli birthday dinner in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mazel tov, Joel and Toby!

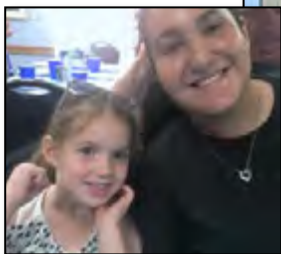
The service led by Beth Hayden that night was a meaningful one. It was the Shabbat on which we commemorate *Yom HaZikaron*, Remembrance Day, a day on which we honor those who fought and died to achieve the freedom and Israeli independence we celebrated at our dinner. A lovely poem was read as a memorial to the soldiers' sacrifice, a reminder that we were not handed the nation of Israel on a silver platter. The silver platter that brought us Israel was wrought of the spirit of soldiers, men and women of all ages and nationalities who chose to take the ultimate risk because it was worth it to achieve a homeland, a country of their own, for the Jewish people, even at the cost of their lives.

The party continued after services and did not end with oneg desserts. We soon adjourned to the schoolroom to be treated to a teach-in of Israeli dances.





Participants of all ages, including 3-year-old Bin-yamin and four-year-olds Maddy Bloom and Sean Kaufman, gathered in a circle (many more than we anticipated) to move in the ancient steps of “Zemer Attik,” “Mayim, Mayim,” and “the Hora.” We danced and sang and laughed until we were



breathless, forgetting for the moment that we were not the 15 and 18 and 23-year-olds we were when we had last whirled in circles to these joyous tunes. We love that our men, Bernie Ginsberg and James Brush among them, joined us in the rhythmic circular free-for-all. The smiles were large and infectious. We stopped to catch our breath and started up again. It was a

fine way to celebrate *Yom HaAtzma'ut*, Israel's Independence Day. Next year we will learn more songs and dances, even some lovely slow ones.

—Gloria Avner



# S'lichot

## Pizza, Popcorn, and Redemption

Before High Holidays comes Elul,  
a month of t'shuvah, returning, atonement, and asking for Divine mercy.

Some synagogues blow the shofar each day and read Psalm 27,  
asking God to "hear our voices and be gracious unto us."

S'lichot prayers for forgiveness on the Saturday before Rosh HaShanah  
are the culmination of Elul's spiritual self-examination.

**Saturday, September 1, 2018**

**6:00 p.m. S'lichot Service to be led by Beth Hayden**

**6:30 p.m. Pizza and Salad followed by a movie**



A Hologram for the King is a 2016 comedy-drama  
film starring Tom Hanks as a washed-up corporate  
salesman, who goes to Saudi Arabia to propose a  
business deal.

rsvp to Linda Pollack  
lindap4000@ymail.com  
(so we know how much pizza to get)

Sponsored evening - No charge

# When You Touch the Torah...

*...The Torah, Emotionally and Profoundly, Touches You*



by Gloria Avner

*Usually*, our Torahs are clothed in blue velvet, white satin, and gold embroidered, embellished garments, carefully stored in our safe or *Aron Kodesh* (holy Ark) on the *bimah*. We at KJCC are fortunate to have three of them behind the Ark curtain on Shabbat and holidays. And though we pay most attention to our Holocaust Torah, celebrated and refurbished with an elaborate re-writing event just over two years ago, now that our consciousness is raised about the importance of airing out our living “trees of life” (*Aytzim Chaim*) to maintain *Kashrut* (its Kosher status), we know it is important to give protective attention to the other two as well. In our desire to honor them we had neglected them.

We changed that on the April 28 Shabbat when Rabbi Richard Agler, our Resident Scholar, was scheduled to give his last-of-the-season Shabbat morning Torah Learning service. With his help, we undressed and unrolled both scrolls after Erev Shabbat service the Friday evening prior and then carefully, under his guidance, re-rolled each that morning after *Shacharit* (morning services). We are beginning to get good at this. It is not unlike a dance.

We worked in pairs, sensitive to each other’s rhythm, making sure one did





not get ahead of the other, neither too fast nor too slow, neither holding too tight nor too loosely, and always there was something in the script or the physical presence of the parchment to catch our eye. Sometimes it felt like a relay, one pair of people each handing over their wooden handle to the next



two, so that all who wanted could have a turn at "holy rolling." On one scroll we noted masking tape reinforcing the parchment in a key place. And yet, there did not seem to be general weakness. The lettering on each scroll was strong but even, uniform but not dull. Both Torahs seemed to be in excellent shape, much better than we had hoped or feared. We suspect that they are nowhere near as old as our treasured Holocaust Torah, with its proliferation of darkened stains, many of which we had lightened and repaired when we did the extensive work on its deteriorating text in 2016. There was no trace of the shininess of recently refurbished letters either, or of tears and weak seams.

Rabbi Agler has always pointed out passages and layouts of interest when we have unrolled and rerolled our Holocaust Torah. It was exciting to be able, on our own, to see and recognize some of these special places for ourselves: "oh, that must be the Song of the Sea," and "look, there are the Ten Commandments."





**After a full night of airing, breathing and renewing in our classroom (yes, the room was appropriately refrigerated for the night), the re-rolling began the next morning at the conclusion of Rabbi Agler's service. He showed us how to begin the process — to roll, then carefully tighten, then roll some more, then more tightening. We took a moment to drink it all in before returning both Torahs to the safe.**



I have heard it said that when you take serious, nurturing care of something or someone, it is natural to fall in love with, or at least feel love for, that something or someone. I noticed how tenderly people were performing their tasks and how carefully the Torahs were being held when they were carried back from the schoolroom to their secure storage place. They were held as if they were babies, children for whose welfare we were responsible. If that is so, what a mutual and simultaneous role reversal! We call the Torah, in a masterful metaphor, a tree of life for those who hold fast to it; its ways are pleasantness and peace. If we follow the *mitzvot*, we will have rain in due season. Our crops and our lives will flourish. We take care of the Torah, and the Torah, the guiding spirit of our people, takes care of us. ◇

# - THIS MONTH IN JEWISH HISTORY - JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

## June

**1242** – Pope Gregory IX and King Louis IX (Saint Louis) decree all copies of the Talmud to be confiscated in Paris. Study of the Talmud, they believe, is the reason for the Jews' stubbornness. Twenty-four cartloads of Hebrew manuscripts are publicly burned. Ruling for over 40 years, Louis IX dies in Tunis in 1270 under arms for the Eighth Crusade.

**1541** – Jacob Pollack, the first important Polish-Jewish Rabbinic scholar, dies. His major contribution is to help establish the Talmudic method of study called "Pilpul." Many are frustrated over the years by the complex hair-splitting and disciplined logic of his method, and this type of Talmudic study also helps give rise to Chasidism. But it also helps refine and sharpen the Jewish mind and prepare it for eventual entry into the larger European world.

**1594** – Roderigo Lopez, a Marrano, is hanged in England. Arriving in England as Francis Drake's prisoner of war, he rises to become Queen Elizabeth's physician. Accused by court intrigue of being a Spanish spy trying to poison the Queen, he is arrested. Initially the Queen refuses to carry out the death sentence, but finally consents. Throughout his trial he is vilified for being a Jew.

**1648** – In Poland, bitterness over heavy-handed Catholicism by the Jesuits and taxes collected by some Jews for the nobles helps ignite the Cossack uprising. Led by Chmielniki, their victories over the Polish army encourage the serfs to join them. Jews, hated even more than Poles and

church and army and Cossacks despise each other, are massacred in almost every town. In ten years over seven hundred Jewish communities are destroyed and between one hundred and five hundred thousand Jews are killed. Many see the Cossack Uprising as a major cause of the messianic movement among the Jews of Russia and Poland, which soon followed.

**1815** – Napoleon, who has emancipated Europe's Jews by tearing down ghetto walls, is defeated at Waterloo. Fearing a return to their previous legal status, Jews send a Christian attorney to act on their behalf at the Congress of Vienna. An agreement is reached whereby Jews are "given rights in proportion to accepting the duties of citizenship." It is the first time that Jewish rights become enshrined in European Treaty Law.

**1849** – Article 84 of the new Danish Constitution negates discrimination of "any person on the basis of religious grounds." Ninety years later the Nazis will discover that Danes are true to their word, even with their country and their very lives at risk.

**1920** – The Haganah, the pre-Israel self-defense force, is formed during a meeting of the *Ahdut Avodah* party. It is dedicated to "havlagah," or pure self-defense.

**1936** – Leon Blum is elected as the first Jewish premier of France. A socialist, Blum institutes the 40-hour workweek and many important social reforms. Parliament does not support his financial program and his government lasts but one year.

**1967** – After weeks of bombardments from the Golan Heights, the closure of shipping lanes by Egypt and the departure of all U.N. observers, Israel attacks in what becomes known as the Six-Day War. Initially, young King Hussein of Jordan does not join the fighting, but when his forces cross the cease-fire line at Government House, Israel retaliates. On June 7, 1967 at 10:15, with the radio confirmation, "The Temple Mount is in our hands," the Israeli flag is raised above the Western Wall, its first time under Jewish sovereignty for almost two thousand years.

## July

**1099** – Godfrey de Bouillon enters Jerusalem at the head of the First Crusade, drives all the Jews into the synagogue, and sets them afire while marching around the synagogue singing, "Christ, we adore thee." This marks the end of Jerusalem as a Jewish center for centuries.

**1605** – A Jesuit missionary traveling through China writes a letter describing his meetings with Ai T'ien, a Chinese Jewish teacher. Most of what we know regarding the Kai-feng Jewish community is from this correspondence.

**1654** – Jacob Barsimon leaves Holland for New Amsterdam, to become its first Jewish resident. A few months later, other Dutch Jews sailing home from Brazil accidentally join him, when kidnapped by Caribbean pirates and then rescued by a Dutch Navy ship. Taken to the closest Dutch port, New Amsterdam, they become the original 24 now-legendary New York families called the Grandees.

**1656** – Baruch Spinoza, 23, is excommunicated by rabbis in Amsterdam, accused of denying the existence of angels, the immortality of the soul and that the Torah was given intact by God. Offered leniency, Spino-

za refuses to apologize. The council forbids anyone to communicate with him in any fashion or to read any of his books. His magnum opus, titled "Ethics," is published posthumously in 1677. It destroys medieval ideas, lays the groundwork for the Enlightenment, initiates modern Biblical criticism and causes no less than Hegel to assert that "you are either a Spinozist or not a philosopher at all."

**1776** – During the American Revolution there are fewer than 2,500 Jews total within the colonies. More than six hundred fight in the war, including the great-grandfather of future Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

**1858** – Sir Lionel Nathan Rothschild (the first Lord Rothschild) takes his seat in the House of Commons after a long and bitter fight. The Christian oath is amended so that non-Christians can also serve in the House.

**1873** – The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the first American Reform group, is launched in Cincinnati under the leadership of Dr. Isaac Meyer Wise.

**1882** – *Rishon Lezion* is founded by a group of 10 families in Palestine. Baron Edmund de Rothschild, in response to the Russian pogroms and a plea by Rabbi Samuel Mohilever, agrees to help the new *Moshava*. It is the beginning of Rothschild's deep involvement with settlement activities.

**1942** – Adam Czerniakow, the leader of the Jewish council of Warsaw, the *Judenrat*, commits suicide. He leaves behind a diary of over 1,000 pages, chronicling the formation of the ghetto up to the beginning of the forced transports. When ordered by the Germans to provide them with a list of names for deportation, his response is a list of his own name written hundreds of times. The day before his suicide, the Nazi officer in charge of the deportation procedure

threatens to shoot his wife if he doesn't cooperate. In his suicide note he writes: "I am powerless, my heart trembles in sorrow and compassion. I can no longer bear all this."

## **August**

**1338** – Host desecration riots erupt in Wolfsburg, Austria. Jews are accused of having stolen the Eucharist, making it bleed, and trying to burn it. Over 70 Jews are burned at the stake and their community destroyed.

**1393** – King John I of Portugal, to prevent "backsliding" by converted Jews, prohibits them from living in the same quarter or even eating together. He is known in Portuguese history as John the Great.

**1447** – Following a fire in Posen (Poland) where the original charter granting Jews "privileges" had been written by Casmir the Great, Casmir IV renews all Jewish rights, making his law one of the most liberal in Europe. The charter is revoked less than a decade later.

**1670** – Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I evicts Jews from Vienna, sells the Jewish quarter for 100,000 florins and has it renamed Leopoldstadt in his own honor. The synagogue and *Bet Midrash* (study hall) become St. Margaret's Church.

**1840** – British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston, in a letter to his ambassador in Constantinople, writes: "There exists...among the Jews...a strong notion that the time is approaching when their nation is to return to Palestine. I strongly recommend to the Turkish Government...to encourage the Jews of Europe to return to Palestine."

**1917** – The Jewish Legion of the British Army is established during World War I. Championed by Zev Jabotinsky, it is based on the

Zion Mule Corps. Although initially against the idea, most of the leadership of the *Yishuv*, including Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi, join after the Balfour Declaration. Over 2,700 men from around the Jewish world volunteer for the Legion. Many see action against the Ottomans in the fall of 1918. The Jewish soldiers also see the end of the near 600-year reign of the Ottoman Empire, which controls all of original Palestine, and the establishment of the British Mandate, both at war's end.

**1919** – Hungary limits the number of Jews in commerce, law, medicine, and banking. An estimated 5,000 Jews convert to Christianity during the weeks before the law goes into effect.

**1925** – From an original proposal by writer Nahum Shtif, European intellectuals such as Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud establish YIVO (the Yiddish Scientific Institute) in Vilna (or Vilnius), Lithuania. Its goal is to promote scholarly research in Yiddish, especially on Jewish life and history in Eastern Europe. It standardizes Yiddish spelling and gathers thousands of documents on Jewish culture and folklore from much of Europe.

**1930** – After the 1929 Arab riots in Palestine, Sir John Hope-Simpson is sent by Colonial Secretary Lord Passfield to look into Arab economic complaints. He decides that Palestine has no industrial prospects, and recommends the cessation of all Jewish immigration and a settlement freeze. His report forms the basis for the infamous Passfield White Paper.

**1943** – Led by a small group of prisoners using primitive weapons and pistols, inmates at the Nazi death camp of Treblinka attack the guards and burn down the barracks. Between 300 and 500 prisoners escape, though most are either captured or turned over by Polish peasants. The German government decides to close the camp. ♦

# Summer Exhibits: *Focus on Photography*

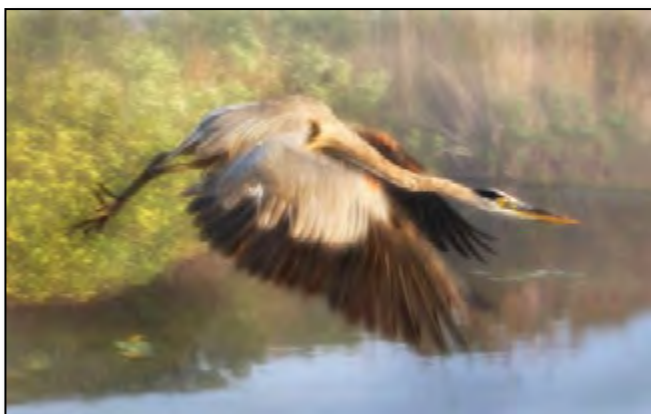
*by Jan Hartz*

Beth Kaminstein has set up a wonderful underwater photography exhibit for the Ocean Charter School's students, which will be held at the Our Place In Paradise Gallery in Islamorada, MM 88.7 oceanside. I, Jan Hartz (Louise Lindsay in the photography world), have also been asked to exhibit three or four of my underwater pictures created during my trip swimming with humpback whales. At Beth's invitation, a few other local photographers' underwater artistry will also be exhibited. There will be an opening for the exhibit on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Be sure to check it out as well as to enjoy the many oil paintings that are always part of the gallery's exhibits.

This is a busy summer for photography. At least two of my pieces will also be exhibited at the Ernst Coe Visitor Center in the Everglades National Park. This exhibit starts in June and will run at least through July, if not through late September or October. The dates are yet to be determined, but be sure to stop and look at the exhibit at the Visitor Center if you take a trip to the Everglades. The exhibit will include several photographers' images, all made within Everglades National Park or very close to it.

Finally, be sure to check out the second floor of the Tassell Building at Mariners Hospital in Key Largo if you are in the area. The Art Guild of the Purple Isles has just set up a new exhibit there that will run through the fall. Many KJCC member artists

have pieces hanging in this exhibit. My "Sunset Awe" and "Pelican Connection (1)" images are there. (These have hung in the halls of the KJCC and might look familiar.) Gloria Avner and Geri Smith also have artwork included. ♦



**At left, "Grace," one of the stunning photographs by Jan Hartz (as Louise Lindsay, her professional name), now hanging at the Ernst Coe Visitor Center at Everglades National Park.**

# KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5779 (2018)

*Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin*

## **Saturday, September 1st**

Pizza/Movies/S'lichot service 6:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, September 9th**

Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner – RSVP required 6:00 p.m.

Erev Rosh HaShanah service 7:30 p.m.

## **Monday, September 10th**

Rosh HaShanah, Day 1.

Shacharit (morning service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after shofar sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf service 12:15 -- 1:30 p.m.

Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.

Taschlich at Ocean Pointe (bring bread) 4:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 11th**

Rosh HaShanah, Day 2

Shacharit (morning service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after shofar sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf service 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Kiddush lunch 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, September 14th**

Erev Shabbat service and oneg 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, September 15th**

Shabbat Tshuvah

(led by Beth Hayden) 10:00 a.m.

Followed by Kiddush 12:00 noon

Havdalah service

at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 18th**

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre service 7:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, September 19th**

Yom Kippur morning service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor (memorial service) 11:30 a.m.

Children's service 11:30 a.m.

Break after morning service 12:15 p.m.

Musaf 12:30 p.m.

*Afternoon activity times are approximate:*

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler 2:30 p.m.

Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler 4:00 p.m.

Neillah (Story of Jonah)  
and Maariv service 5:45 p.m.

Havdalah 7:15 p.m.

Break-the-Fast 7:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, September 23rd**

Sukkah decoration at KJCC 10:00 a.m.

## **Friday, September 28th**

(start of Sukkot: evening of September 23rd-30th)

Family Sukkot service (oneg in Sukkah)

7:30 p.m.

## **Monday, October 1st**

Yizkor service and Simchat Torah celebration

7:30 p.m.

# Finding the Meaning of Shavuot

## *The Food, the Covenant, and Learning with Rabbi Agler*

**On** May 18<sup>th</sup>, we counted the 49<sup>th</sup> day of Omer. It was Friday evening, Erev Shabbat. The seven weeks of grain offerings mandated by God in the Torah were over, and, as is often our KJCC *min-hag* (Hebrew for “custom” or “practice”), we were celebrating a major holiday, Shavuot (Hebrew for “weeks”), not on the exact day but on the closest Friday.

Festivities started even before we counted the last day. In honor of the “land of milk and honey” that God promised us, we ate thematically. For Jews, feast and festivities go hand in hand. Forty came to share our dairy meal. It was *haimische*, we fit into one room easily, and it was good! Thank you, organizers Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Donna Bolton and all the dairy divas that prepared the meal for us. Jenny Margulies, Jane Friedman, Beth Hayden, and Linda Perloff outdid themselves on desserts. The tables nearly groaned with the abundance of cheese and cream-enhanced offerings. Vegetarians were happy, too.





A Colorado friend of Mitch Harvey's joined us for dinner, and two visitors from Daytona, enticed by the warm, welcoming message on our answering machine, joined us for services. Youngsters Maddie, Bin-yamin, and Sean, totally at home in KJCC, ran exuberantly around the hall (and I had the private, added pleasure of hearing Sean Kaufman whisper "Baruch Atah Adonai" into my ear).



Bernard Ginsberg led an energetic Shabbat service and Jeffrey Schocket took over for the fourth and final Yizkor service of 5778. We prayed for the welfare of Israel and for our own country, that we endure and perse-

vere wisely through these troubling times. And in a lovely, appropriate gesture, Jeffrey asked all veterans in attendance to join him and Bernie on the *bi-mah* for *Aleinu* and the final Kaddish. Remembering those we'd lost this year and over our lifetimes, though hard, was appropriate on this night when we also remember our *ganza* lineage, the ancestors, just 49 days out of servitude in Egypt, who received the Torah. Following the oft-repeated Torah injunction, we imagine it is we ourselves, not some vague someone else, at the foot of Mt. Sinai being given this



history-changing gift and who has signed on to living its *mitzvot*.

And so, after services, we re-treated to our social-turned-study hall to learn Torah with Rabbi Agler. It, too, was good, nourishing in an even deeper way. It is traditional to study, one chapter per week, a tractate of the *Mishnah* called *Pirkei Avot* (the “teachings of the fathers,” or rabbinic sages), during the seven weeks of counting *omer* leading up to Shavuot. Our text this night would be the sixth chapter, a series of various rabbis’ teachings on the *kinyan* (or “gaining”) of Torah. The overall premise is strong and clear: study of Torah for its own sake is the highest good and goal. Do we study Torah to become intelligent, to gain *kuvvet*, influence, affluence, honor, or power?

As guided by Rabbi Agler and his Socratic method of teaching by questioning, we come to a clear answer: “No.” Wisdom must have a heart; a head full of learning is not enough. Learning also must lead to action, and we who study are instructed to then personify what the Torah teaches, applying those teachings to repair and create a better world (*tikkun olam*). As people of the book, we are obliged to study it and be led to deeds of loving-kindness, continuously fighting for justice among the downtrodden in an imperfect, often unkind, world. How grateful we are to have this treasured Resident Scholar in our midst. We left our *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, though with admittedly less than the full night of study envisioned by the 16<sup>th</sup> century Kabbalists of the city of *T’sfat*, inspired and re-charged as well as full. Just another vital and important evening at KJCC.

—Gloria Avner



**Gloria’s night was made when Sean leaned over and whispered a blessing, in clear Hebrew, into her ear.**



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know what side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

Cost \$10

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If you are not bringing a dish, an additional donation is requested.



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305-766-3585

Please send in your payment payable to  
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# A Jewish Summer Story

## When the Livin' was Easy (Unless You Had to Speak Hebrew)

by Gloria Avner

**S**ummertime is coming. Close your eyes. The word conjures more than a song, more than a magical hiatus from life as it ever was. Heat. Freedom. Lightning bugs. Nearly endless days and an expanded sense of time.

In some of our East Coast parents' and grandparents' generations, it meant a physical hiatus from home, transferring the family to places like the Catskills, rustic cabins, water sports, fathers commuting to join the family on weekends, entertainers at night with heavy emphasis on Jewish humor. For most of us it spoke of a season of possibility, a time for growth and abundance, fresh vegetables, sun-tanned limbs, developing new skills, forming new and lasting friendships. And there was camp.

Raise your hand if you have ever been to summer camp. I see Bernie and Jeffrey's hands and smiles. Keep your hand up if you have ever been to Jewish summer camp. *Masaad? Ramah?* We need to talk.

It was the mid to late 1950s. Rock and Roll was in delicious infancy. Summer Camp was not in my lexicon of longed-for

activities. But my parents had joined a new synagogue. And I had just begun

going to Hebrew High. I was entranced by the Hebrew language, and my teacher, Rabbi Gaynor of blessed memory, insisted that my parents send me to *Machaneh Masaad*, a recently opened Jewish camp two hours north of Toronto at Lake Muskoka. My synagogue, in a suburb of Buffalo, New York, housed in a rickety wooden building that used to be a church, with a tiny smattering of Jewish students, was Reconstructionist. The camp, four hours away, down country roads dark with shade from trees that grew together to make an arbor overhead, was Orthodox. Zionist, underfunded, and "Hebrew speaking." I knew nothing. If I hadn't quickly learned the words *acharayich* and *acharecha*, Hebrew for "after you," I might have starved. The Orthodox services were new to me, too, and so were the songs and dances. We sang of the "Palmach," the under-

ground fighters. We performed musicals like Oklahoma, but in Hebrew (Oklahoma, *Aleph Vav!!*). Strangeness faded as friendships formed and soon I loved it all, especially the Israeli counselors and the elaborate, leisurely Shabbat dinners with boisterous table-pounding renditions of “Grace” (*Birchat HaMazon*) after the meal.

Bernie and Jeffrey’s camp, the Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp, was different. It was not Jewish and was made up of five camps of 100 boys each. Bernie went there for years, two weeks every summer. They did all the normal water and sports activities of any summer camp, but since at least half of these New York City boys were Jewish, there was a “good enough” Orthodox Shabbat service every Saturday morning. Bernie waxes fond and misty-eyed when he speaks of the huge outdoor amphitheater and the rough log building where services were held. It is a 3-D memory and Bernie swears he still has a photo of the Shabbat space with all the boys there looking handsome, healthy and young.

If you look closely at the Jewish calendar, the summer months look strikingly bare, void of all holidays except for bleak ones, the fast of Tammuz on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the even-more-serious fast day of *Tisha B’Av*, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day commemorating the destruction of both our First and Second Temples and nearly every other tragedy that has befallen the Jewish people over two millennia. It is an anomaly in the midst of our relaxed, outdoorsy summer, a time to go within, to remember and to mourn, to darken lights and read from the Book of Lamentations, to abstain from eating, singing, dancing, bathing, and work. Since Judaism has many layers of meaning for everything, perhaps this “holiday” is a harbinger of what is to come as well as a reminder of what has been, our never-ending cyclical spiritual roller coaster, the ceaseless see-saw from triumph to tragedy, feast to fast and back again, all meant to keep us in balance and on track to remember the covenant we just finalized one more time on Shavuot.

So in the middle of a joyful summer we keep intact the knowledge of where that joy

came from, the hardships and the deaths, the deeds of those who fought to keep the flame, the everlasting light of the *Ner Tamid*, alive. Days will inevitably get shorter, playtime will end, and High Holy Days approach. The last part of summer, the month of Elul, beginning with *Rosh Chodesh* on August 12<sup>th</sup>, is the time to start preparing, to think about how we can correct our not-so-great behaviors and become our best and better selves.

The Hebrew word for summer is “*kayitz*.” It shares a root with the word for “end” (“*ketz*”) and the word for chopping wood, “*katzaz*.” One source explains the words’ similarity this way: “summer was the time in ancient Israel when trees would be dry enough to be chopped for firewood. Rabbinic sources even point to *Tu B’Av* – an ancient holiday falling smack in the middle of summertime – as the optimal time to bring firewood to the altar in the Temple in Jerusalem.” And why did we need wood at the Temple? It must have been for sacrifices and other sacred cleansings.

To those of you who will be here for the summer, you are the “*kayitz*,” and we thank you for keeping the home fires burning. To those who will enjoy the fruits of summer off the rock, we say travel safely, refresh your spirit and return whole. To those who will send children off to camp or who went to camp themselves, cherish the memories. When I looked for some history of my one-time decrepit camp on its undeveloped lake, I found a high-end community of summer homes for the rich and famous. I found that the camp closed in 1977 due to decaying facilities and lack of funding for repairs. I also found that one of its most illustrious alumni was, of all people, Leonard Cohen. He might have been the young man always sitting by the biggest tree, strumming his guitar. The person who was my first boyfriend turned out to be a one-time teacher of Rabbi Agler’s. The boy I sat next to on the bus, all the way to camp and back, at age 14, was David Gitin, then 15, who returned to share my life fifty years later. The gifts of summer are as mysterious as they are wondrous. Enjoy yours. ♦

# A Summer Focus on Kosher Ham

## *KJCC's Radio Boys Contact the Holy Land*

*by the KJCC Amateur Radio Society Public Relations staff*

In celebration of *Yom HaAtzma'ut*, the KJCC Amateur Radio Society, consisting of Bernard Ginsberg (callsign KC6P) and Steve Hartz (callsign AK4LZ), spent a busy day with Ham Radio. They journeyed to the intellectual heights of the parking lot of the University of Miami Physics Department to participate in an early morning flea market of old radio equipment sponsored by the "Flamingo Net" amateur radio club. Bernie found some old radio treasures, while Steve helped scope out some newer technology, drones that were being remotely controlled by radio and were buzzing the crowd. This was followed by a nutritional and celebratory breakfast.

Upon returning to Key Largo, the Radio Society (both of them) decided it was time to rev up some newer ham radio equipment. While looking for stations on the radio, the boys heard a number of stations involved in one of the common ham radio contests in which hams try to make as many contacts as possible in a short time. In searching for the rules of one particular contest, they discovered a little-known but challenging contest sponsored by the Israel Amateur Radio Club in celebration of *Yom HaAtzma'ut*. Using sophisticated digital techniques, the dynamic duo utilized remote control (yes, from Key Largo) to operate a short wave ham radio station in Summit, New York with a massive antenna tower. They pointed the antenna on the tower directly at Israel and overcame terrible atmospheric conditions to make contact with three different Israeli hams in the Tel Aviv area using a mixture of English and Hebrew.

It was an amazing feeling, wishing *Shabbat Shalom* to short wave amateur radio stations in Israel and scoring points in the contest. (Which they didn't win, alas. Rigged? Hmmm...)

*Samchu! ♦*

**Bernie and Steve (wearing their official Radio Club shirts) in the radio room at the Hartz home. Jasmine the poodle has the classic female response to boys happily playing with their toys.**



# KJCC Talks Art And Falls in Love with Judy Chicago

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As told to Gloria Avner by Marcia Kreitman

*If you missed the three-part monthly Art Discussion Series this winter, you missed a unique KJCC experience. Three of our own member-artists gave voice (with pictures) to their fascination with an artist influential in the world of art as well as that of Jewish life and culture. Beth Kaminstein started us off in January with an evening on Chaim Soutine, a troubled but important French expressionist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; I, Gloria Avner, followed up in February with a presentation on Rembrandt and his Jewish subjects in the golden age of painting and Jewish life in 17<sup>th</sup> century Amsterdam, and Marcia Kreitman gave us a grand finale in March with a slide show on the work and life of contemporary feminist icon and ground-breaking conceptual artist, Judy Chicago. Rabbi Richard Agler, KJCC's own Resident Scholar, added valuable Jewish context and insights to each of the evenings, much to the delight of all who attended. Now, because Judy Chicago will be appearing, possibly with a new exhibit, in Miami this coming winter, we want to share some of what fascinates Marcia, and the rest of us, about Judy, in hopes that KJCC will make a field trip to see the artist and her work in person. Marcia doesn't like to write so we talked, and I've tried to capture her enthusiasm and insights.*

Judy Chicago, née Judith Cohen, was born in 1939. Alive and thriving, constantly re-inventing her art and herself according to her passions, she continues to amaze us. When Marcia said yes to being part of Beth Kaminstein's original idea – three discussions led by three individual artists – Marcia went through a list of Jewish artists in her head. She thought about Diego Rivera and Helen Frankenthaler, but when Judy Chicago crossed her mind, something clicked. Chicago's strong use of unabashedly feminist imagery in the face of rejection left Marcia awestruck by the woman's courage.

At first Judy wanted to be accepted and seen as one of the guys – an artist among artists. With acceptance in



**In 1970, Judith Sylvia Cohen announced her name change to Judy Chicago, an act identifying herself as an independent woman.**

the 50s and 60s posing a challenge, she soon realized she did not want any part of a name given to her via patriarchy. She didn't stay a Cohen for long (or Gerowitz, the name of her first husband, who died shortly after their marriage) and chose to identify with the vibrant city that nourished her. Yes, her family came from a long line of Cohens. Born into a family of Orthodox rabbis in Lithuania, dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, her father went secular. His daughter was brought up with no religious training at all, but in a household of social activists, in which her father was a passionate union organizer, the Jewish values of social activism and working for justice were woven into her being.

Chicago's life became a performance piece. She and other artists like her were part of what was happening at the time and raised creative feminist energy to powerhouse levels. She and Miriam Shapiro were the first to open a place specifically geared to nurturing creative women who were having difficulty being accepted by the mainstream art world. It was in California and they named it Womanhaus. Judy Chicago later established the first program at University of California for Women and the Arts. Times may have been tough for women artists but change was afoot. (How did I not know until this talk that our own Marcia Kreitman, in the 1980s, was one of the original members of the National Museum of Women and the Arts in Washington, D.C.? These women are definitely peers.)

"The Dinner Party,"

Judy's ground-breaking and huge and complex representation of feminism throughout history, created a huge stir when it was first exhibited in 1979.. There had never been anything like it. Collaborating over many years with hundreds of women, she created an alternate version of the Last Supper, to be attended by a panoply of heroic women from Sappho to Sojourner Truth, a visual, tactile, historical document in unabashed, highly adorned vulvic



**Judy Chicago's, *Earth Birth*, 1983, one of her many pieces in the *Birth Project*.**

shape; it was her first project to make us, as well as the entire art world, pay attention. (And ultimately influenced a project here at KJCC, The Women's Seder, now approaching its 16<sup>th</sup> year.)

Next for the restless Judy came her "Birth Project," for which she rewrote part of Genesis. Instead of accepting the idea of creation as the work of a masculine deity, she imagined the world birthed by women, in cooperative, communal effort. She created designs for fiber projects, using techniques that have essentially and traditionally been women's art forms – weaving, embroidery, applique, and needlepoint – the object being to elevate "women's



**Judy Chicago's ground-breaking installation artwork "*The Dinner Party*" functions as a symbolic history of women in Western civilization.**





**Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman's, *Rainbow Shabbat*, 1992, stained glass, 54 x 204 in., a piece from Judy's *Holocaust Project: From Darkness into Light*. (1985-93)**

work." Hundreds of women artists brought her designs to life.

Despite her focus on the feminine, Judy Chicago was and is not anti-masculine. She created one of her most powerful pieces with her current photographer husband Donald Woodman: *The Holocaust Project*. Take time to watch some of the videos listed at the end of this article. Seeing and hearing her talk about her process, her work, her revelations, is both moving and inspirational. She and her husband, though both were Jewish, realized that they knew nothing about Judaism. After viewing the film "*Shoah*" in New York, they decided they wanted/needed to learn. They embarked on a journey that led to spending the next ten years studying, researching, traveling to Europe, and visiting all the concentration camps; they even found and visited the synagogue where Judy's ancestors had been the spiritual leaders for three centuries. The work they created as a result of that journey, a combination of her artistic designs, women artist collaborators, and his photography, is profound and visually arresting. It changed them and their perspectives on the world.

The work was not without controversy. Up until their Holocaust Project, very little had been done in the way of art relating to the Holocaust. Their focus was not merely on the Jewish Holocaust, but on genocide worldwide. Some greeted this wider view with hostility. Yet surely the lessons of *Pesach* and *Shavuot*,

our being granted freedom from slavery and being given the gift of Torah, teach that we as Jews cannot be truly free unless we work to free all who are oppressed and are treated not with cruelty but compassion. Seated around the Project's table Judy and Donald depicted people of every color and ethnicity. Judy Chicago had heeded the ancient call to be a light unto the nations.

Though her work has focused on the feminine, her lack of disrespect for the masculine is explained beautifully in a poem she wrote called *Merger*, in which she envisions what a world would look like without dominance.

### "Merger Poem"

by Judy Chicago

And then all that has divided us will merge  
And then compassion will be wedded to power  
And then softness will come to a world that is  
harsh and unkind

And then both men and women will be gentle And  
then both women and men will be strong  
And then no person will be subject to another's  
will

And then all will be rich and free and varied  
And then the greed of some will give way to the  
needs of many

And then all will share equally in the  
Earth's abundance  
And then all will care for the sick  
and the weak and the old

And then all will nourish the young  
And then all will cherish life's crea-  
tures

And then everywhere will be called  
Eden once again.

Judy has gone on to make  
erotic illustrations for "the Song  
of Songs," (the guess here is that  
King Solomon would have ap-  
proved), She's made seder plates  
and Elijah's Cups, and now, at 78  
years old, her newest project is this: Mortality.  
The exhibit, titled "The End: A Meditation on  
Death and Extinction" will make its debut in  
2019 at the Washington, D.C. National Muse-  
um of Women in the Arts. But we also have  
word that Judy Chicago is coming to Miami.



**Judy Chicago in N.Y.C. December 2017. Photograph by  
Collier Schorr, Styled by Suzanne Koller (nytimes.com)**

There will be an exhibit in December at  
the Institute of Contemporary Art, but despite  
Marcia's calls, even the people in charge can't  
tell us what the exhibit is about. They don't  
know. Stay tuned. Whatever she is showing,  
we can hardly wait to meet her. ◇

## ***Getting to know Judy Chicago... check out these great sources***

**"I am an artist and a troublemaker"  
A short general intro to her life:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=NIH85Kgdnq0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIH85Kgdnq0)

**A long, but fascinating explanation of  
"The Dinner Party", narrated by Judy  
Chicago:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=9yMtdWxAc60](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yMtdWxAc60)

**This is a long article but extremely well  
written and complete. Read this one!**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/07/t-  
magazine/judy-chicago-dinner-party.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/07/t-magazine/judy-chicago-dinner-party.html)

**... and this one:**

[http://gallery.stkate.edu/exhibitions/judy-  
chicagos-birth-project-born-again](http://gallery.stkate.edu/exhibitions/judy-chicagos-birth-project-born-again)

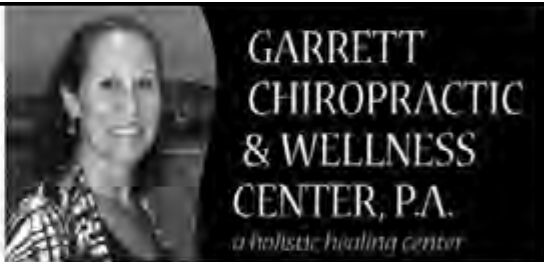
**A 29-minute video by Judy Chicago about  
the holocaust project:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psu4uS\\_Fwcl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psu4uS_Fwcl)

[http://www.judychicago.com/gallery/holocaust-  
project/hp-artwork/](http://www.judychicago.com/gallery/holocaust-project/hp-artwork/)

**The Birth Project:**

[http://www.judychicago.com/gallery/birth-  
project/bp-artwork/](http://www.judychicago.com/gallery/birth-project/bp-artwork/)



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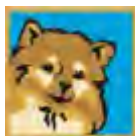
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# Chai~Lights



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**September 2018**

**21 Elul 5778 - 21 Tishrei 5779**

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**High Holiday Section - page 46**

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# September 2018

21 Elul - 21 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 S'lichot Pizza & Movie 6 p.m.
2	3  Labor Day	4	5	6	7  Barney Coltman  <i>David &amp; Pat VanArtsdalen</i>	8
9 Erev Rosh HaShanah Dinner 5:30 p.m.	10 Rosh HaShanah Day One 9:30 a.m. Tashlich at Ocean Pointe 4	11 Rosh HaShanah Day Two 9:30 a.m.	12	13	14 Erev Shabbat Shuvah  Erica Lieberman -Garrett	15 Shabbat Shuvah Beth Hayden 10 a.m. Havdalah
16 Reverse Tashlich Ocean Clean Up TBD	17	18 Erev Yom Kippur 7:30 p.m.	19 Yom Kippur Yizkor, Havdalah, Break- the-fast	20	21  <i>Ken Atlas</i>	22
23 Erev Sukkot	24  1st Day of Sukkot	25	26	27	28 Family Sukkot Service  Steve Steinbock	29 Sukkot, Havdalah, Pot Luck at Agler's 7 p.m.
30						

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## President's Message Beth Hayden



**T**his year on the evening of September 9<sup>th</sup> we will enter our beautiful KJCC Stanley and Jenny Margulies Family Sanctuary to mark the beginning of the High Holydays as we conduct evening services for Rosh HaShanah. Last year at this time, September 10<sup>th</sup>, Irma descended on the Florida Keys unleashing the full power of a Category 4 hurricane with widespread destruction and damage throughout the Keys. The vast majority of us were scattered far and wide as we obeyed urgent calls for evacuation. Miraculously, the KJCC building survived without a single scratch and with uninterrupted electrical service. KJCC never flinched and went on to offer full High Holyday services with the strength of Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin.

Now, the cycle is again completed and we look forward to the inspiring thoughts and traditions that characterize our High Holydays. Rosh HaShanah (the "head" of the year) is also called the birthday of the world. Rosh HaShanah ushers in the time of the "Eserot Yamei Tshuvah" (ten days of repentance) as we prepare for Yom Kippur. Rabbi Nachman of Breslau suggests that just as we celebrate HaShem's creation of the world, so we should recreate ourselves during this period

by reflecting on our failures and successes. This is a time to look inward and reflect on our individual strengths and weaknesses.

As we move into Yom Kippur, it is not only that we are not to wear shoes made of an animal's skin – we are to wear no makeup, no jewelry, no fine clothing, no perfume – our fleshly vanities are to be totally forsaken. It is a day of such self-abnegation we are enjoined not even to wash or clean our teeth. This is a time in which we are enjoined to look deeply inward into who we are, what we value, what we want to accomplish – it is a time of self-introspection from which we should emerge newly recommitted to being a better person.

Most of us in the Keys appreciate the wonderful world we are privileged to share with other life forms and species. We can all, if nothing else, do more to ensure we protect and cherish the wonderful world in which we are privileged to live. Rabbi Nachman of Breslau wrote the "Da l'cha": "Know that for each blade of grass there is a special song all its own and from the singing of the grasses is created the melody of the heart."

I wish for all of us an introspective, thoughtful and meaningful High Holydays. ♦

## Nosh

### Come Decorate Our Sukkah

Susan Gordon promises new fruits to decorate with this year when we gather at our KJCC Meditation Garden. Bring children and be part of the creative mitzvah of making a Sukkah. It's always a good time, a way to deepen friendships and, of course, there will be refreshments. Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date; 11:00 a.m. is the time. We'll gather gratefully in the Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake Parents' Memorial Pergola to create our eight-day festival shelter, and on Friday night, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, we will shake our lulav, sniff our etrog, say our blessings and share an Oneg, eating a mini-meal under the stars after Shabbat services are concluded.

### September's Book Club Meeting

Thanks to a devoted core of readers, discussers and enjoyers of social lunches, the KJCC Sisterhood book club has not missed a monthly meeting since it began. Impressive. September's meeting will take place on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at noon, in Islamorada's Marker 88 Restaurant. The book is called "The Fortune Teller's Kiss," written by Brenda Serotte. For details, see Poster on page 26 or contact Randi Grant at [rkgcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpa@bellsouth.net). Thanks for shepherding this so well, Randi.

### A Heartwarming "Good/Bad"

It's always sad when a synagogue has to close its doors for the last time. This phenomenon, called sunsetting, is what happened to Congregation B'nei Jacob in the small town of Ottumwa, Iowa, this past June. It had been a vibrant community for over 100 years, established in the early 1900s by Jewish immigrants from Russia, but membership and attendance had plummeted and their story was ending. That was the bad. The 40-year-old Rabbi gave a moving last speech about how appreciative she was for having been able to pour love and blessings, just as Jacob blessed his children, into this fading community in

## BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Louis R. Coltman**

*by Barnet Coltman*

its last years and days.

But life, especially Jewish life, has a way of creating and focusing on cycles. Think of Ecclesiastes' "a time to be born, a time to die." Think of the round loaf of challah we say *HaMotzi* with on Rosh Hashanah. The roundness implies circularity, with no beginning and no end. Out of a consuming fire rises the phoenix.

Almost immediately after the rabbi's last sermon, a series of connections, coincidences and lucky breaks set a chain of events in motion that brought new meaning to the Iowa closure and new light to a small Jewish community in Paraguay, South America, where a newly formed congregation in a very small town, meeting in an old house, needed a Torah. Long story short, sunset in Iowa led to sunrise in Paraguay. The new congregation has a Torah now, donated and flown from Iowa to Paraguay, where the first Bat Mitzvah with their new Torah was celebrated in July. They also decided to re-name their congregation, taking the name of the Torah's Iowa donors. At

## Yahrzeit Plaque

**Leonard Weiser**  
Forever in our Hearts  
October 21, 2001

*Andy & Randi Grant*

this New Year, we honor the new Congregation B'nei Jacob in Paraguay and the generous Jewish people of Ottumwa, Iowa. May they all be inscribed for a good and rich life.

### Havdalah on Shabbat Shuvah

On Saturday evening, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we round our day, and Shabbat Shuvah, with a Havdalah service in one of KJCC's favorite settings – Linda Pollack's bayfront home. We'll watch for three medium stars from her rooftop and then prepare to sing, light our woven candle, drink wine and smell spices. There will be refreshments. Linda's house is in Pirates Cove (approx. MM 98.6, bayside) address 107 Long Ben Drive. RSVP to Linda at (305) 587-7429. We may be returning to the secular from Shabbat but we will still be going forward spiritually, to the last of the days of awe.

### Reverse Tashlich

Usually we throw bread bits and bagels into the ocean to give ourselves a clean slate for the New Year. We are vowing, praying, hoping to let those "bad behaviors" that don't reflect our best selves feed the seagulls and fish. This year we will be part of a

statewide (well, at least the Keys and Tampa-wide) project devised by member-friend Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and his Hil-lel students, the

Scubi Jews. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will take trash out of the water in our efforts for a fresh start on Tikkun HaYam (Repair of the Sea). See Rabbi Ed's article on page 48. And watch Beth's announcements for details of where and when.

### Sukkot Pot-Luck Open House

After a one-year hiatus due to Irma, we are grateful once again to be invited to the home of Mindy and Rabbi Richard Agler for a Sukkot Pot



## September Anniversaries

		Years
7th	Jay & Nancy Hershoff.....	19
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov.....	34
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith.....	40
27th	Gary & Lyn Sherman	
30th	Marsha & Tom Garrettson.....	28

Luck dinner and celebration, on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There will be *lulav* and *etrog* blessings, some olive eating in the sukkah, home-cooked food by our *mishpocha*, and Rabbi Agler will lead us in the sweetest, and shortest, of all services, Havdalah, as we say goodbye to Shabbat. Food contributions will be coordinated by Erica Lieberman-Garrett, by e-mail or phone: hippiejap@hotmail.com or (305) 393-1162.

### A Grand Addition to KJCC

Next time you enter the Margulies Family Sanctuary, take time to admire our latest resident, the beautiful six-foot Steinway Model A Grand

Piano now gracing the spot between the seats and the side storage closet, thanks to Beth Hayden. The piano had belonged to a dear friend and musical colleague of Beth's, Elinor Carlson, who had had it rebuilt in 1986 and cared for it lovingly. Knowing it was a treasure, Beth acquired it and had it shipped from Massachusetts to Tavernier, where it is now getting acclimated to its new home. (They're very sensitive to climate.) In another month or so it will be tuned and adjusted. And then the pleasure will be all ours.

*KJCC sends its deepest condolences*

**to Elaine Schulberg**

*and all sides of their extended family  
on the death of Alan Schulberg.*

## Leaf on the Tree of Life

Honoring  
Alan Schulberg  
July 5, 2018

From the Mahj Gals

### High Holiday Guests

We have long maintained, and always tried to prove, that KJCC is the most open and welcoming place we know. We work very hard to make sure every type, ilk, practitioner and theorist of Judaism has a home here. Our services are layered, and each leader is encouraged to paint with his or her own brush. (And either inside the lines or eclectically out, as they wish.)

We are equally welcoming to guests. Rabbi Agler has offered a mantra that we've adopted and strive to live: everyone who comes in peace is welcome here. That includes the searchers and the scholars and the challengers and the merely curious. And unlike many synagogues, we also make it a point to invite Jewish non-members to join us on High Holidays. There aren't any tickets. The idea is to be, always, the sanctuary and home and place of quiet acceptance we all found when we came, however we came. (We also have a very good track record of impressing the guests we welcome. Many of our members were once visitors.)

So if you know local Jews who aren't members, or peeps who will be coming into town during the holidays, invite them to join us. Just be sure to let us know whom to expect.

## Leaf on the Tree of Life

In honor of  
Sean Kaufman's 5th birthday

Richard, Barbara and Eve Knowles

## September Birthdays

1st.....	Mildred Finklestein
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Mindy Agler
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
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9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
13th.....	Andy Tobin
13th.....	Lisha Lane
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19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
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19th.....	Steven Schur
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25th.....	Marla Berenson
25th.....	Michel Bitton
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*September 14th* - Sisterhood

*September 21st* - Ken Atlas in honor of KJCC.

*September 28th* - Stuart & Geri Smith

in honor of Geri's parents' anniversary.

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

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of KJCC membership.

**Lee and Bob Schur**

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

For Pauline at 103  
Chazak, Chazak, V'Nitchazeik  
**From Arthur**  
New York City

## **Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC**

**BOOKPLATES** for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for information, or send your desired inscription to [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

**CEMETERY INFORMATION:** If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendal Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067.

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

**CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, for annual rates.

**DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will be featured prominently in our Membership Directory. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067, for annual rates.

**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.

**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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

**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 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 Chanah David, 305-774-6048.

**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, YAHR-ZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

*Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).*

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER SISTERHOOD  
invites you to our

## Erev Rosh Hashanah Potluck Dinner

On Sunday, September 9th, at 5:30 p.m., we  
will gather at the KJCC for a haimische  
chicken dinner, followed by  
7:30 p.m. Services.

Please rsvp by September 4th if you would like to attend and let us  
know what side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

Cost \$10



RSVP to Rita Conklin  
wesandrita@aol.com  
305-849-3374

Please send in your payment payable to  
KJCC Sisterhood  
PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL  
33070



## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



**I**t's hard to believe that Summer has passed, and we are already getting ready to enter into the New Year of 5779! A large turnout of Sisterhood members, 21 to be exact, enjoyed a relaxing "end-of-season" luncheon on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Bayside Grill in Key Largo. It was a beautiful early summer afternoon on Florida Bay as we celebrated the birthday of Donna Bolton while enjoying one another's company and a delicious lunch! Next, just three days later, though it wasn't a Sisterhood event, we had a fun-filled day of fishing onboard the Charter Boat "Sailors' Choice." There were ten enthusiastic anglers from the KJCC, and you could say that it was truly a day of "catching" rather than "fishing." The fish were biting just about every time a line was dropped into the water! The champion catchers were Jon and Terry Tainow's grandchildren! (See photos of the happy KJCC anglers in Photo Gallery.)

Our annual Fourth of July Shabbabague and the Celebration of Pauline's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday was an enormous success, and enjoyed by all who attended. Rumor has it that there may actually have been 103 people there to celebrate Pauline's birthday (and eat)!

The KJCC Sisterhood Book Club has met every month throughout the Summer. Attendees enjoyed one another's company and lunch at Marker 88 Restaurant while discussing the book of the month. The next book club meeting will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and the group will meet again at Marker 88. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. If you would like further information, contact Randi Grant at [rkgcpcpa@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkgcpcpa@bellsouth.net) or call her at 1-954-383-4320. As I'm writing this, we do not yet have a book title, so watch for it in Beth's Tuesday messages.

The August Sisterhood meeting was held on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. We had a full agenda. Much planning was done for the High Holidays, beginning with an Erev Rosh Hashanah Chicken

Dinner on the evening of Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. Please see the flyer for the dinner in this issue of Chai-Lights. Rita Conklin will be accepting reservations and coordinating the menu, with a deadline of Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Please give her a call to reserve your spot for this delicious *haimische* chicken dinner! Erev Rosh Hashanah services will begin at 7:30 p.m. following the dinner. On the next two days, Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Sisterhood will host a lovely oneg at the conclusion of Rosh Hashanah services each afternoon. Moving ahead one week, Sisterhood will provide a bountiful "Break-the-Fast" Dairy dinner at the conclusion of Yom Kippur services on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. This event is always a wonderful feast and well attended. If you would like to join us, please make your reservation before the deadline of September 14<sup>th</sup> by contacting Erica Lieberman-Garrett, e-mail [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) or call her at 305-393-1162. (See the poster on page 30 for more information) On Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, Sisterhood will sponsor an oneg in our Sukkah. We will perform the *mitzvot* of saying blessings, shaking *lulav* and eating refreshments. The final item on our full Sisterhood meeting agenda was the planning of the now-annual *Simchat Torah* Chocolate Extravaganza, scheduled for Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. A special service that evening will begin at 7:30, with the Chocolate Extravaganza to follow.

Sisterhood at the KJCC is a very active group, and we welcome all female members of the KJCC to join us at our monthly meetings! Please attend the next meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We hope to be participants later that day in a *Tikkun Olam* ocean clean-up project (See Article on "Reverse Tashlich," page 48.)

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year! ♦

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# 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

Coltman, Barney

### In Memory of

Louis R. Coltman

### General Fund

Tallent, Claire      Pauline Roller's 103rd birthday

### In Honor of

### Gold Leaf

Plutzer, Arthur      Pauline Roller's 103rd birthday  
Knowles, Richard/Barbara & Eve      Sean Kaufman's  
5th birthday

### In Honor of

### Library

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

### In Honor of

Pauline Roller's  
103rd birthday

### Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

### In Memory of

Alan Schulberg

### Oneg Sponsorship

Hayden, Beth  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara

### In Honor of

Kohengi's birthday  
their anniversary  
Sean's birthday  
their anniversary

### Yahrzeit

Avner, Gloria  
Avner, Gloria  
Boruszak, Joan  
Finkelstein, Richard  
Finkelstein, Richard  
Forst, Donna  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra  
Kaplan, Ronald & Debra  
Kaplan, Ronald & Debra  
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie  
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie  
Riley, Michelle  
Roy, Medina  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Taramona, Hermine  
Tobin, Andrew

### In Memory of

David Gitin  
Nettie Goodman  
Priscilla Leshin  
Ada Finkelstein  
Paul Finkelstein  
Erna Forst  
Len Roberts  
Les Reitman  
Catherine Kaplan  
Sidney Kaplan  
Burton Margolis  
Mollie Lawent  
Paula Travers  
Leon Kirschenbaum  
Manya Starr  
Olga Schuman  
Robert Robinson  
Leonard Tobin

### Yahrzeit Plaque

Grant, Andrew & Randi

### In Memory of

Leonard Weiser

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# Contributions to KJCC (cont.)

## Membership Renewal Contributions

### **Chai Lights Fund**

Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Margulies, Jeffrey & Cheryl

### **Chai Lights New Year's Greeting**

Agler, Rich & Mindy  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Boruszak, Joan  
Fishman, Eina  
Hayden, Elizabeth  
Kaplan, Sandy  
Margulies, Jeffrey & Cheryl  
Peckman, Joyce  
Rimm, Alfred & Sylvia  
Schur, Lee  
Shapiro, Libby  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Wohl, Joan

### **General Fund**

Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Bolton, William & Donna  
Boruszak, Joan  
Brush, James  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Fishman, Eina  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Horowitz, Beth  
Kaplan, Sandra  
Margulies, Jeffrey & Cheryl  
Pollack, Linda  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Shapiro, Libby  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Wohl, Joan

### **Holocaust Education Fund**

Goldfinger, David & Toby  
Tallent, Lillian

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

Schur, Lee

### **Library Fund**

Tallent, Lillian

### **Meditation Garden**

Agler, Rich & Mindy  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Horn, Susan  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

### **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Bolton, William & Donna  
Brush, James  
Coltman, Barney  
Margulies, Jeffrey & Cheryl  
Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Rose, Skip  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Temkin, Robert  
Wohl, Joan

### **Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund**

Agler, Rich & Mindy

### **Scholarship Fund**

Tallent, Claire  
Tallent, Lillian

### **Siddur Book Plate**

Haviv, Leo

### **Tikkun Olam Fund**

Agler, Rich & Mindy  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Rimm, Alfred & Sylvia  
Tallent, Lillian

# Contributions to KJCC (cont.)

## Membership Renewal Contributions

### **Yizkor Book 5779**

Agler, Rich & Mindy  
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark  
Berman, Sylvia  
Bofshever, Joel & Toby  
Boruszak, Joan  
Calev, Barbara  
Cline, Meredith  
Coltman, Barney  
Conklin, Wes & Rita  
Cooper, Alan  
Cooper, Claire  
David, Hanna  
Fishman, Eina  
Garrettson, Marsha  
Goldfinger, David & Toby  
Gordon, Susan  
Greenbaum, Marilyn  
Hartz, Steve & Jan  
Harvey, Mitch & Linda Perloff  
Hayden, Elizabeth  
Horn, Susan

### **Yizkor Book 5779**

Itkin, Art  
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra  
Kaplan, Ron & Deborah  
Kaplan, Sandra  
Krissel, Michael  
Margulies, Jeffrey & Cheryl  
Peckman, Joyce  
Pollack, Linda  
Riley, Michelle  
Rose, Skip  
Schur, Lee  
Shapiro, Libby  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Tallent, Lillian  
Temkin, Robert  
Willner, Sherrie  
Wohl, Joan  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

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

***Yahrzeit Plaques:*** KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

***Tree of Life Leaves:*** We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

***Garden Bricks:*** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.





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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### Five Jewish MLBers Homer on Same Day

June 8<sup>th</sup> was the most productive power day for Jewish batters in Major League Baseball history. Five members of the tribe combined for six home runs to help their respective teams to victory. Here's the scorecard:

Ryan Braun, "The Hebrew Hammer," and who played locally at the University of Miami, hit two home runs, driving in five runs to lead the Milwaukee Brewers to a 12-4 win over the Philadelphia Phillies – who have a Jewish manager in Gabe Kapler. Braun's first dinger was a three-run shot in the first inning. His second homer left Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park with an exit velocity of 112.9 miles per hour, according to the new high-tech analytics. It's the hardest ball Braun has hit since they started measuring these things in 2015.

Kevin Pillar, the Toronto Blue Jays outfielder known mostly for his highlight-reel defensive skills, hit his sixth homer of the year in a 5-1 win over the Baltimore Orioles. Danny Valencia, the third baseman for the Os that night, was the only Jewish position player *not* to hit one out that day.

Alex Bregman hit his eighth home run, a solo shot, in the Houston Astros' 7-3 win over the Texas Rangers. The Astros selected his younger brother A.J. in the recent MLB draft, so it's conceivable they could become the first set of Jewish brothers on the same team since Norm and Larry Sherry on the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1959 to 1962.

Ian Kinsler's seventh homer was good for two runs and gave the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim the cushion they needed in their 4-2 win over the Minnesota Twins. (On July 31<sup>st</sup>, trade deadline day, he was traded to the Boston Red Sox.)

Finally, Dodger Joc Pederson launched lucky No. 7 – his sixth in June – as the Dodgers beat the Atlanta Braves, 7-3. Pederson had gained some national distinction last fall when he set a new record for homers by a Jew in a

World Series, connecting three times against the Houston Astros. That surpassed Detroit Tigers Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg, who clubbed two in the 1934 Fall Classic against the St. Louis Cardinals.

All told, Braun, Pillar, Bregman, Kinsler and Pederson accounted for 29 percent of their teams' RBIs that day. (It was a Friday, by the way, meaning that most of the games were played after the onset of Shabbat.)

And then, in this year's All-Star game at Washington's Nationals Park, a record ten home runs were hit by both teams, easily breaking the previous record of six. But the shot that won the game, in the tenth inning, was hit for the American League by the Astros' Alex Bregman, playing in his first All-Star game. Bregman was then named the game's most valuable player, the first Jewish player to win the award since its institution in 1962.

To give this a little historical perspective...

On May 23, 2002, former All-Star Shawn Green of the Dodgers hit four home runs – along with a double and single – in a 16-3 win over the Milwaukee Brewers. Fewer than 20 batters in baseball history (including the likes of Lou Gehrig and Willie Mays) have hit four in one game. Green also set a single-game record that day with 19 total bases.

On Aug. 20, 1938, Morrie Arnovich and Phil Weintraub of the Phillies hit home runs in an 8-7 win over the New York Giants. Harry Danning, the Giants catcher, also hit one out. According to the Jewish Major Leaguers 2009 card set, this marked the only time that three Jewish players accomplished the feat in the same game. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 6-12-18)

### It's Official: The First Kosher Cheeseburger

The "Impossible Burger," a meatless patty that tastes like real beef, has been certified both kosher and *pareve* by the Orthodox Un-

ion, the largest certification agency in the United States. And since the burgers are made without animal products, they can be eaten at the same time as cheese without violating the laws of *kashrut*. “Impossible Burgers” are made from wheat protein, potato protein, coconut oil and water – no hormones, cholesterol, artificial flavors or antibiotics. According to Impossible Foods, the company that makes these burger substitutes, the key ingredient is a protein called heme, which gives the product their meaty taste and texture. Heme is found in almost everything we eat, but especially in animal tissues. Scientists at the company discovered that it is the abundance of heme in animal tissue that makes meat taste like meat. The company then genetically engineered and fermented yeast to produce soy leghemoglobin, a heme protein. But there’s still one lingering question that requires an answer: What blessing do you say over a kosher, plant-based cheeseburger? ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 5-22-18)

### **Ginsburg Wins Lifetime Achievement Award**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg received the inaugural Genesis Prize Foundation *Lifetime Achievement Award* held at the Rabin Center in Tel Aviv in early July. She earned the award for her “legendary advocacy on behalf of gender equality and the advancement of women.” Although there is no monetary payment for this award, the Genesis Foundation will commit some \$3 million in new investments in organizations working for women’s causes.

Ginsburg was selected for this inaugural award by the five previous Genesis Prize winners: former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; actor and activist Michael Douglas; violinist Itzhak Perlman; sculptor and activist for the rights of refugees Sir Anish Kapoor and actress, director and native-born Israeli Natalie Portman. (Portman refused to attend the ceremony – which was then canceled – because she disagrees with the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.)

“I am a judge, born, raised and proud of being a Jew,” Ginsburg said. “The demand for justice, for peace and for enlightenment runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jew-

ish tradition.” In 1971, Ginsburg co-founded the “Women’s Rights Project” of the American Civil Liberties Union. She was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Clinton in 1993. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 7-4-18)

### **They Tried, They Failed**

Cyber 2.0, an Israeli cyber security company, launched a unique competition in June: successfully hack into the company’s defense systems and win 100,000 shekels. (That amount of the Israeli currency is equal to about \$27,300.) The competition was open to hackers around the world. Hundreds participated, simultaneously launching more than one million attacks. Every one of them failed. To run the test, Cyber 2.0 opened up a computer network to simulate a commercial company whose only protection was their defense system. At the start of the competition, the hackers received a valid IP address within the network and included the administrator password of the computers. Cyber’s software and systems successfully blocked every one of the attacks – which included viruses, ransom attacks, trojan horses, information leakage and more. Hertzal Ozer, founder of Cyber 2.0, said that his company was the first to put its systems to such a test. And what makes the Cyber 2.0 system so much better? It operates on the basis of the mathematical principles of chaos. Other companies operate on biological models. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 6-6-18)

### **A Message From Above?**

A heavy stone recently fell out of the *kotel* (the Western Wall) in Jerusalem and came crashing down on the area set aside for egalitarian prayer. It fell just a few hours after hundreds of worshippers had been at the site to commemorate *Tisha B’Av*, the saddest day of the Jewish calendar that mourns the destruction of both Holy Temples along with other catastrophes in the history of the Jewish people. Daniella Goldberg, 79, was praying at the site when the stone fell (it fell about 23 feet), but was not injured. Israeli archaeologist Zachi Dvira says that the 2,000-year-old wall is badly in need of restoration and that the massive limestone blocks need to be reinforced. Some, however, saw theology and not erosion at work in the

near disaster. Dov Kalmanovich, deputy mayor of Jerusalem, blamed the activists who want men and women to be able to pray together at the Orthodox-controlled Wall. "The falling of one of the Western Wall stones, so close to *Tisha B'Av*, and exactly at the location of the controversial prayer area, should be a red light for us all," he said. "I suggest Reform leaders, Women of the Wall and the other quarrel-mongers examine themselves and not the Wall." Several religious news websites showed similar sentiments. The entire wall is now being inspected for other loose stones. The Israel Antiquities Authority, offering the scientific perspective, said the boulder may have been dislodged by erosion caused by vegetation or moisture. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 7-23-18)

### In Memoriam

- Claude Lanzmann, the French filmmaker whose 1985 documentary "*Shoah*" changed the world's perception and awareness of the Holocaust, died in early July. He was 92. The 9½-hour film bore witness to the Holocaust through interviews with Jewish victims, Nazi murderers and Polish bystanders. The son of French Jews from Eastern Europe, Lanzmann and his two younger siblings were once taught to hide from the Gestapo in a hole their father dug in the garden. He and his younger brother later fought in the resistance. After the war, he studied philosophy in Paris at the Sorbonne and then moved to Germany, where he taught literature and became a journalist. It took Lanzmann eleven years to make "*Shoah*," five of which he spent in the editing room. "When I broke down in tears," he said describing the editing process, "I knew the scene was good." Movie critic Roger Ebert wrote, "There is no proper response to this film. It is an enormous fact, a 550-minute howl of pain and anger in the face of genocide. It is one of the noblest films ever made...It is not a documentary, not journalism, not propaganda, not political. It is an act of witness." Lanzmann was not the first filmmaker to chronicle the Holocaust, but he realized that what was missing from other films was the focus on death itself rather than survival: "...death...from which no one had returned to report." Lanzmann searched obsessively for

witnesses, tracking down some of the former *sonderkommandos* (groups of Jewish prisoners who were forced, on threat of their own deaths, to dispose of those who died in the gas chambers). He especially wanted to interview former Nazis, yet in the beginning was unsuccessful in doing so after telling them who he was and what he was doing. So he began using a fake name, telling his Nazi subjects that he was an academic scholar conducting research, concealing his microphone and his video camera. Holocaust films of all genres changed after "*Shoah*" by focusing on survivor testimony, which at the time was unprecedented. In 2011, Lanzmann received the French *Legion of Honor*, his country's highest distinction of merit. In 2013, his documentary film "The Last of the Unjust" was released. It is based on interviews Lanzmann conducted in 1975 with Benjamin Murmelstein, the only surviving president of the Jewish Council in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), 7-5-18)

### Did You Know...

- For the first time ever, Mexico City – the largest city in North America – recently elected a Jewish woman as its mayor. Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, 55, is the granddaughter of Jewish immigrants from Lithuania and Bulgaria. She is a scientist, with doctorates in engineering and physics. Previously, she served as Mexico's secretary of the environment. Mexico City is home to some 50,000 Jews. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 7-2-18)
- Elisheva Baumel lives in *Givat Ze'ev*, a neighborhood in Jerusalem. She gave birth to her 10<sup>th</sup> child shortly after her son's wife Leah gave birth in the same ward at Hadassah *Har Hatzofim* hospital. Leah's new baby is Elisheva's first grandchild. (And, yes, that does make her son's child older than its aunt or uncle.) ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 7-13-18)
- The search-and-rescue teams who worked to save twelve boys and their coach trapped in a cave in Thailand in early July relied on advanced communications systems donated by Israeli company MaxTech Networks. The technology facilitates communication in areas without reception. Ordinarily, MaxTech Networks systems cost upwards of \$100,000. ([www.israelhayom.com](http://www.israelhayom.com), 7-3-18) ♦

# S'lichot

## Pizza, Popcorn, and Redemption

Before High Holidays comes Elul,  
a month of t'shuvah, returning, atonement, and asking for Divine mercy.

Some synagogues blow the shofar each day and read Psalm 27,  
asking God to "hear our voices and be gracious unto us."

S'lichot prayers for forgiveness on the Saturday before Rosh HaShanah  
are the culmination of Elul's spiritual self-examination.

**Saturday, September 1, 2018**

**6:00 p.m. S'lichot Service to be led by Beth Hayden**

**6:30 p.m. Pizza and Salad followed by a movie**



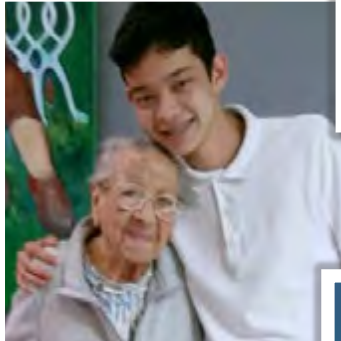
A Hologram for the King is a 2016 comedy-drama  
film starring Tom Hanks as a washed-up corporate  
salesman, who goes to Saudi Arabia to propose a  
business deal.

rsvp to Linda Pollack  
lindap4000@ymail.com  
(so we know how much pizza to get)

Sponsored evening - No charge

# Photo Gallery

All the photos on this page were taken at the May 25th oneg, sponsored by Medina Roy in honor of her mother Bianka's 103rd birthday. (She's actually two months older than Pauline.) As you can see, Harry Friedman (who didn't always seem so tall) was there, to receive his KJCC college scholarship. It was also a special treat to see Wolf and Nancy (b'rai parie hagofen), below right.



**These photos are from the June 1st oneg, co-sponsored by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Jane Friedman. (Make a note to make a note when Jane is sponsoring an oneg...the food is always fresh and wholesome and yummy.) Some quick math says that, at photo time, Pauline and Sean were a total of 106 years old. (Both have since had birthdays.)**

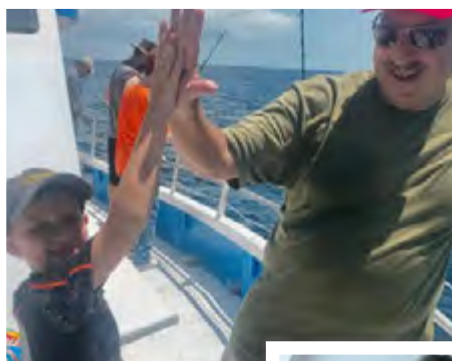


This page features photos from the annual end-of-season luncheon held by Sisterhood on June 3rd. This year's venue was the Bayside Grill. It was also a celebration of Donna Bolton's birthday. Gloria hand-drew the card (lower left) and Susan happily delivered the birthday cake. (Good thing the fire marshal wasn't there.) Note the queen-for-a-day tiara. At bottom, Terry Willner-Tainow's granddaughter helped blow out the candles.

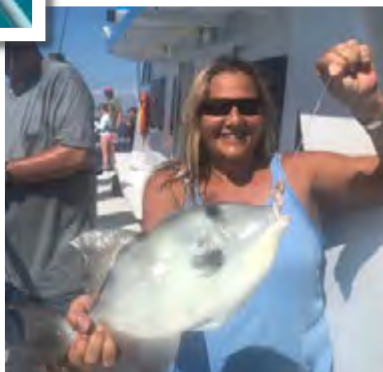




There's been lots of talk for a long time about a KJCC fishing outing, and, under the guidance of Mitch Harvey's Activities Committee, it finally happened on June 6th. Everyone, they report, caught something, though we all know what they say about fish stories...



...and more photos from the June 6th fishing trip. Those reading the online color version of this issue will be impressed at the creative angling of Jane Friedman, at right, who cleverly managed to catch a fish the same color as her tank top.





The top three photos were all taken at the oneg after the service on Friday, June 8th. As you can see by the photo of her happily cutting the cake, it was sponsored by Donna and Bill Bolton in honor of their birthdays.



The photo above was taken at the July 13th oneg, sponsored by Joyce Peckman in honor of her birthday.



The photo just above of the Blooms was taken on July 27th. Marc sponsored the oneg, celebrating his and daughters Rachael (the same day) and Molly's (three days later) birthdays. Maddie loved the triple celebration.

The two photos below right are from the August 3rd oneg, sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman in honor of Sean's fifth birthday. The cake's decoration was a Spider-man head; Sean figured out how to make the eyes light up.



One of the few place Jules and Nettie Seder had never been was to Ireland. So that's where they went this summer. Yes, that's a statue of Charlie Chaplin, who wasn't Irish. (It's a long story.) And, yes, that's a lamb that Nettie is holding...

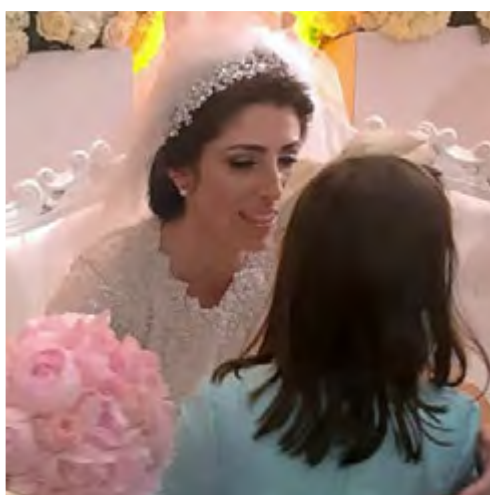


Harry Friedman wasn't the only KJCC alumnus to graduate High School this year. Noah Bitton is shown above at his Coral Shores ceremony and with his certificate.



Our garden has a new tree, sponsored by Joe and Kathy Shabathai in memory of Joe's dad Jacob, who lived in Switzerland and never visited KJCC, but is now forever one of us.

All these photos are from the June 12th wedding of the eldest daughter of Key West Chabad rabbi Yaakov Zucker, a friend and mentor to a number of KJCC members, who all attended the wedding. (Actually, it was through Rabbi Zucker that Mitch Harvey and Linda Perloff met, and he officiated at their wedding.) The groom was also from a rabbinic family.



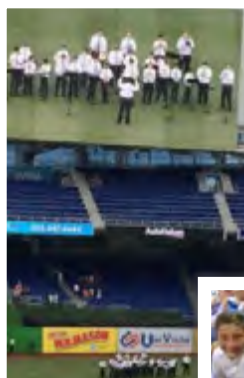


The extended Avner family met in Lincoln Park, Chicago this summer to do a run to raise medical care funds for one of the family's youngest, Charlie. Each is wearing sunglasses with Charlie's picture on the lenses. Below, brother Mark visited Gloria in Maine in July.



Joyce Peckman, below right, celebrating her July 9th birthday at the New Jersey home of son Keith and the twins.

Joyce is also pictured at bottom enjoying a summer Marlins game with other son Daniel and family. Grandson Yosef had performed the National Anthem along with the rest of his school band.



Susan Gordon, in Tennessee, holds newest grandson Hank in early August. Both he and Mom (and daughter) Rose Marie are doing fine.



## Sisterhood Book Club

Monday  
September 24, 2018  
Noon

**Marker 88**  
**88000 Overseas Highway**  
**Islamorada - Bayside MM 88**

**The Fortune Teller's Kiss**  
**by Brenda Serotte**



There was always the incantation: "Whoever wishes you harm, may harm come to them!" And just in case that didn't work, there were garlic and cloves to repel the Evil Eye—or, better yet, the dried foreskin from a baby boy's circumcision, ground to a fine powder. But whatever precautions Brenda Serotte was subjected to, they were not enough. Shortly before her eighth birthday, in the fall of 1954, she came down with polio—painfully singled out in a world already marked by differences. Her bout with the dreaded disease is at the heart of this poignant and heartbreakingly hilarious memoir of growing up a Sephardic Jew among Ashkenazi neighbors in the Bronx.

**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant**  
**rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**

# How I Spent My Summer Vacation



The two photos at top show Steve both before and after a performance with the Coronation Brass Band (from Wales) at the Europaisches Folklore Festival in Bitburg, Germany. At bottom, in a Vienna rathskeller listening to Thomas Gansch, renowned trumpet master and newly minted teacher, with whom Steve spent several weeks studying in Vienna at the beginning of his trip.



by Steve Smith

Last fall I received an e-mail inviting me to reunite with the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra and Vienna Jewish Choir to play in several concerts this summer in L'Viv, Ukraine at the combined "L'Viv KlezFest meets European Jewish Choir Festival." This set off a chain reaction of events that thus far has immersed Barbara and me in a very memorable summer vacation that will last nearly three months. Initially we left the Keys on May 25<sup>th</sup> and landed in Vienna, Austria. Prior to the June concerts in L'Viv, I rehearsed with the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra and started a series of trumpet lessons at Vienna's Jam Music Lab, a private music university, with Thomas Gansch. Mr. Gansch is widely considered one of the world's premier trumpet players and musicians. I had noticed online that he had just affiliated with the school and was taking demo tape applications from potential students. I

nervously sent in my demo, thinking that a surgeon who recently took up the trumpet again after forty years wouldn't have a chance.



But he accepted me! This series of weekly two-hour lessons lasted until mid July. This also opened the opportunity to see Mr. Gansch perform in three very different venues and styles, which reinforced to me that he is the best of the best.

Participating in the KlezFest from June 6-10 was very special to me. L'Viv

**In the photo at left, Steve as second trumpet with the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra during a series of concerts in L'viv, Ukraine. At right, Beis Aharon V'Yisrael, the one L'viv synagogue re-opened in Ukraine after the fall of the Soviet Union. The center photo is a memorial at Prague's Terezin Concentration Camp.**



was historically in the epicenter of the development of Klezmer Music. In addition, the International Festival of Jewish Music, aka "L'viv KlezFest," for ten years in a row has been contributing to the revival of Jewish culture (once vibrant and richly varied) in the area. It also has helped expand the development of L'viv, the Ukrainian Galician multicultural capital. This year's festival also celebrated the State of Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the All-Ukrainian Jewish Charitable Foundation.

L'viv, also known as Lemberg (German) or Lvov (Polish), depending on which country or empire was historically controlling the region prior to World War II, was established in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. Jewish merchants and traders have been living there from that time. In spite of many pogroms over many centuries, including the 20<sup>th</sup> century, L'viv had a Jewish population of 150,000 leading up to World War II. Only 2,500 Jews survived the war. At the end of 1945 around 250 Jews remained in the city. The remainder of the survivors immigrated to Israel or the United States. Under Soviet rule, Jews from around the Ukraine gravitated to L'viv. But the Soviets forced closure of the remaining synagogue, snuffing out any open semblance of Jewish life and culture.

At the end of the 1990s, when Ukraine became independent, Jews began to organize once again and reopened one synagogue, Beis Aharon V'Yisrael, which was Orthodox. During the war its building had been used as a horse stable, and after Ukraine fell under Soviet rule it was used as storage area up until Ukrainian independence. For the last 25 years the reestablished synagogue has been led by Rabbi Mordechai Shlomo Bald of Brooklyn, N.Y. Of interest, the night we attended Friday night services and dinner at the synagogue, Rabbi Bald announced that his wife had entered the hospital as an emergency and he asked us to pray for her. A few days later, when we met the Rabbi's daughter at one of our concerts, we found out that her mother was in fact back in Brooklyn; she had given birth, slightly prematurely, shortly after her Transatlantic flight arrived, though mother and their 16<sup>th</sup> child, a girl, were both doing well.

The Jakob Glanzer Shul, built in 1844, is also open in L'viv and serves as a Jewish cultural center.

It should be noted that there are currently about 3,000 Jews in the area of L'viv. Most of those came into the area from Russia and most do not actively practice the religion. But there's definitely a Jewish pulse.



The photos left and below show Steve in performance with the Coronation Brass Band in Bitburg, Germany, after returning from Ukraine. The plaque at right is in Segovia, Spain, once a thriving center of Sephardic culture and learning. As you can see, it announces the old Jewish Quarter, where many lived until the edict of expulsion in 1492.



After our return from L'Viv to Vienna, my lessons continued and travel opportunities opened up to see various areas of Austria, including Salzburg, Melk (on the Danube, site of a famous and massive Benedictine monastery, begun in the 11<sup>th</sup> century), and others. We also traveled to Italy, including Venice and Rome. In addition we went to Prague and visited the Terezin Camp (Theresienstadt), the ghetto/concentration camp, where most of the Jews from Czechoslovakia (including Susica, the original home of KJCC's Holocaust Torah) were sent before transfer to the death camps. Lastly we traveled to Germany, including Bitburg (first settled some 2,000 years ago), Munich, and the small Bavarian town of Erding. While traveling I sat in with a "Big Band" from outside of Vienna and played nine concerts. I also played cornet with the "Coronation Brass Band," a British brass band from Wales at the "Europaisches Folklore - Festival" in Bitburg, Germany from July 6-9.

In mid-July, when my lessons ended, Barbara and I headed for Spain and Portugal where

(as I write) we are finishing a two-week tour of this area. Every city on the tour has an "Old Jewish Quarter," aka "Barrio Judio," that has not had a single Jew living in them since the fifteenth century Spanish Inquisition. At that time Jews had three choices – convert to Christianity, leave Spain, or be killed. Today in Segovia, Spain, in the Jewish Quarter, one can see the old synagogue, which was converted to a convent and has remained that way for many centuries. There is also a restaurant called "La Juderia," which is an Indian/Pakistani tapas restaurant. Similar findings are seen in the Jewish Quarters of the other Iberian cities we have seen.

As I complete this summary of "How I Spent My Summer Vacation," we are heading to Valencia, Spain and then on to Barcelona. Following that we extend our vacation on a Mediterranean Cruise and land tour of Italy's legendary Tuscany region for two and a half weeks. Then, alas, back to the Keys to return to work on September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to pay for this incredible summer of memories! ♦



Keys Jewish Community Center  
Sisterhood

# Yom Kippur Break Fast

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

**Dairy Dinner  
after the Havdalah service  
at Yom Kippur's end**

**We welcome your home cooked dairy dish, prepared  
with love, to share with your KJCC Mishpacha**

**Please Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
hippiejap@hotmail.com  
(305) 393-1162**

**to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.**

**RSVP: by September 14th  
Sponsored by the KJCC Sisterhood  
No Charge - Donations welcome**

# *Shabbabaque 2018*

## *A Night of Celebration*



**M***any voices, hands and hearts made our Shabbabeque the seam-bursting success it was. The biggest kudos go to Donna Bolton, planner and organizer extraordinaire. Thanks go, too, to Marc Bloom and Jane Friedman, our shoppers, to the set-up teams, the grillers, folks from afar and all celebrants who came to honor Pauline Roller on her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday, plus all those who later packed the Margulies Sanctuary for services. Enjoy this small selection of tributes and reflections along with the photos.*





### Donna Bolton:

Our annual Shabbabaque was held on Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the KJCC. We gathered to celebrate Pauline Roller's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. There were 100 people and Luigi in attendance. It was so crowded that we had to set up two tables in the hallway.

Pauline had family come to visit for a week and attend the party. Sylvia Murphy, our county commissioner, other locals in the community, friends and staff from her assisted living home attended the party also.

Carla and her crew were in the kitchen making sure that it all ran smoothly. The only mishap was that the grill decided not to work. Steve Hartz and Bernie had to dash out to Ace Hardware in Tavernier to buy a new grill. So dinner got started late. It seemed like everyone was having a great time, so no one truly worried about the delay.

There was so much food that it took four tables for the side

dishes alone. Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and condiments went on the long counter. Dessert was on its own table. We had a wonderful birthday cake for Pauline.

Good food, good time and good company were had by all.

### Barbara Bernstein:

All my memories of Pauline are from KJCC activities, especially functions when a dinner was involved and Pauline's kugel was the coveted dish on the buffet! Pauline was always in the kitchen. The KJCC kitchen is her kitchen!

Chanukah was extra special with Pauline. For many years, when the KJCC children were younger, we would bring our menorahs and candles over to her house. The glow actually was a blaze of smiles *and* candles. Now my feeling is that we all want to protect Pauline and cherish her while we can! Just to sit next to her and hold her hand evokes one word for me ... love.





### Linda Pollack:

There is so much to say about Pauline. Let's not forget that she was our Woman of the Year at the 2010 Woman's Seder, the same year that she was made an official U.S. citizen, thanks to the friends who helped her get her Rumanian birth certificate. She loved to dance at every KJCC event and was good at it. Her face still lights up when she talks about dancing with her husband Al. Her face was well-lit from within on Shabbabeque night...from happiness, I think.

### Barbara Knowles:

I know this is strange but I was asked by Pauline's niece to take a picture of Pauline's bedazzled butt before they left. Pauline had quite a sense of humor about it. She looked so pretty and very happy in the photos that night.



### Steve Hartz:

After the gourmet barbeque dinner, services commenced with the enthusiastic singing of Psalm 126 and the recitation of *Birkat HaMazon*, the traditional grace after meals. In honor of Independence Day, congregants pledged allegiance to the flag. Then the service continued on its traditional course, save for the festive chanting of *Kaddish Shalem* in honor of Pauline's birthday using a 19<sup>th</sup> century Hassidic melody popularized by the famed early 20<sup>th</sup> century cantor Yossele Rosenblatt. I gave a brief *Dvar Torah* on Parasha Pinchas, drawing various parallels to the life of Pauline Roller and led the congregation in the chanting of that part of Psalm 92 known as *Tzadik Katamar*, emphasizing that even in old age the righteous retain their vigor, like date

palms and the cedars of Lebanon, planted in the house of the Lord and proclaiming that the Lord is just.



## Shabbabaque (cont.) ...

*Geri Smith (shown at immediate right) wrote and performed a special song for Pauline's special birthday...*

One hundred and three,  
How can that be?  
You look no more than 94...  
Get a look at our Pauline tonight.

Her speech is clear,  
Her vision's fair,  
But watch your words  
'cause she can hear.  
Get a look at our Pauline tonight.

She doesn't hide in a corner,  
With friends she likes to be.  
So on Friday nights  
she can be found  
At our beloved KJCC.

So give a cheer,  
Or two or three,  
'Cause our Pauline's 103.  
And we are blessed to share  
her joy tonight!



# Reflections on My Birthright Trip to Israel

by Molly Bloom

**“What are your expectations for your Birthright trip?” This was the first question I was asked in my interview for my recent trip to Israel, and I was stumped.**

I originally chose to go on the Birthright trip because it was something my mother had always wanted me to do. When my mother passed away, I knew that the trip was what

I needed to get back in touch with life again. I was always a little hesitant to travel by myself with a group of strangers. What I didn't know is that those strangers would become my *mishpocha* in just ten short days.

I could write a book about my trip, but instead I am going to share

a few of its impactful parts with you. My first day in Israel we visited the small town of Tzfat, widely known as one of the most spir-



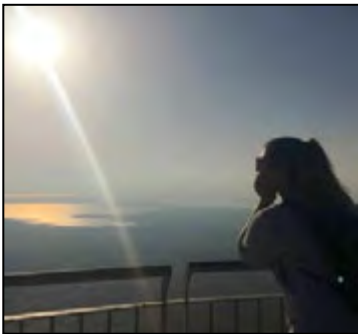
itual towns in the country. While in Tzfat we met a kind man named Abraham, who invited us into his art gallery to tell his story of how he became a permanent resident and eventually raised a beautiful family there. Abraham's art is tied to the Kabbalah, and each one of his pieces has spiritual reasoning behind it. Hearing Abraham talk about what the town of Tzfat has done for him, his family, and many others moved me to tears. For the first time in many years I felt a spir-



**Abraham and his Kabbalah-inspired artwork at his gallery in Tzfat, where Isaac Luria introduced Kabbalah study in the 16th century.**

itual presence around me. That's when I knew that Israel was not just a trip to honor my mom, but was actually a spiritual journey for me.

The next few days we traveled all over Israel, visited the Gaza border, hiked Mt. Masada at sunrise, swam (more like floated) in the Dead Sea, visited Yad Vashem, slept in a tent in the Negev Desert, spent Shabbat in



Jerusalem, visited the Western Wall, and so much more. Had it not been for our amazing tour guide Elchi, I do not think this trip would have changed me the way it

did. The night we spent in the Negev Desert, Elchi had us take 15 minutes to ourselves to meditate. I used this time to think about responding to a letter my mother wrote to me before she died. Thinking about what I wanted to say back was the most powerful 15 minutes of my life. I took the letter that I wrote and a few days later inserted it in the Western Wall for my mom. At that very moment, I knew that this trip changed my life forever.

Most of the experiences from my trip became extremely personal for me. I hope to continue to follow my spiritual faith as well as keep in touch with my inner self as I go back to my everyday life. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to travel in Israel with 44 amazing people. Every single person I have encountered has made an everlasting impact on my life, and it is safe to say that I left a piece of my heart in Israel. ♦



**At left, sunrise at Masada and thinking about her mom. At top, atop Ein Avdat in the Negev, the climb to which included ladders and her first-ever panic attack. Center, floating in the Dead Sea. At bottom, on a graffiti tour of Tel Aviv.**

# Keeping (Our Holocaust Torah) Kosher

## *An Incredible, Serendipitous Day Witnessing the Holy, Ancient Jewish Art of Scribing*



by Gloria Avner

When a *sofer* (the Hebrew word for scribe) touches a *Torah*, whether to scrape off crumbling letters and repair them or to pen wholly new ones, it is an extended moment of intimacy. Laymen who handle Torahs are cautioned to wear gloves, to protect the Torah from even freshly scrubbed hands. Sofers want to have every sense fully alert because to them a Torah is a spiritual and living thing. So when they go to work there are no plastic or rubber gloves between artist's hands and parchment.

When Rabbi Menachem Bialo, master scribe and grandson-in-law of Sofer-on-Site founder Rabbi Gedaliah Druin, spread his tools carefully on one of the white tables in our school-room early in June, it was hard to avoid mental comparisons to an operating room. The patient, our Holocaust Torah – originally from the community of Susice, a small village then in southwestern Bohemia and now in today's Czech Republic, on permanent loan to us from

London's Westminster Synagogue, where it had first been restored along with hundreds of others, after World War II had made all of them desecrated and despised orphans – lay exposed, its full 80-foot length totally unrolled in careful, ribbon-like looping layers over a 24 ft. length of tables, awaiting expert inspection.

Had the work we had commissioned Sofer-On-Site to do two and a half years ago, and celebrated with a major fund-raising event, held up well enough to maintain its kosher status? What kind of repairs might be needed, and could they be done at KJCC instead of having to go back to the lab-like conditions at the scribal mother ship?

About to embark on step two in a Torah Maintenance Program (you may have helped with step one, unrolling the Torah to air it out as we'd been instructed to do by the *soferim*), those were the questions in our heads before Rabbi Bialo arrived. Three of us there (along with Gene Silverman) had taken our Torah to



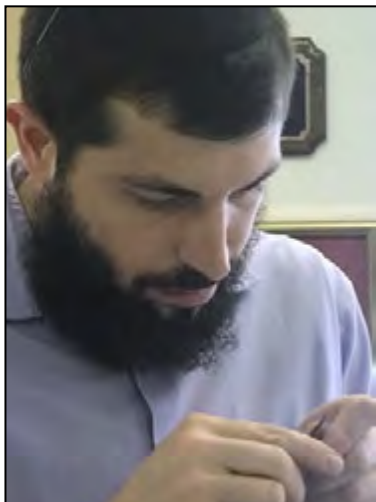
Miami for the initial exam three years ago – Bernie Ginsberg, Sam Vinicur, and myself. Beth Hayden, Rabbi Agler, and Joyce Peckman joined us to welcome Rabbi Bialo to KJCC and observe the process by which we would learn the answers. I thought this would be a two- to three-hour exercise. I was wrong. And we learned so very much more than the answers to our original questions.

First our *sofer* asked for hot water, intensely hot. The turkey feather whose quill he would be cutting and shaping with an *exacto* knife (probably the only tool not exactly identical to those used by scribes writing and repairing Torahs for millennia) needed to be just the right degree of softness for the precise line work and proper ink flow that would be asked of it. (Bernie's great-grandfather had been a *sofer* and had explained to him how the ink was made, with the smoke from a candle, lampblack, and residue scraped from the glass holder.) Then there was warm-up practice, making horizontal and vertical strokes on a small scrap of parchment. Now came the real work, the inspection, column-by-column, line by line, word by word, looking at all the repaired letters, sometimes as many as 400 per column, to see how they were holding up and

whether they needed fixing. (For those, like us, who had only a wild guess as to the total volume of letters in a Torah, it's well over 300,000.)

Sometimes the need for a repair was obvious. There was one *Shin* that was completely missing its middle vertical (making it look sort of like the U in the University of Miami logo). That vertical had to be added. The Torah's very first letter, the big *Bet* in *B'reishit*, had an extra mark at its base that needed to be erased. In one place, what should have been a *gimmel* looked like a *nun*; if uncorrected the verse's meaning, not to mention the Torah's sacred message, would be completely changed. (Just think of the letters on a *dreidel*; in the game we play, the difference between *nun* and *gimmel* is the difference between winning nothing and gaining everything.) There was lettering, scraping (very careful scraping, since too much degrades the surface of the parchment) and erasing to be done. Eighty running feet of cowhide parchment and hundreds of thousands of letters needed close inspection.

All through the Torah we've noticed spots and larger areas that are mildly discolored. We'd been told that these are usually either



**At left, Rabbi Menachem Bialo sharpens his turkey quill (the exact same way it's been done for thousands of years, only now with an exacto knife) in preparation for inking. The photo above right will surprise no one who sees Bernie regularly at KJCC. At any moment something will stimulate a memory or pose a question and he'll sit with a book to study. It was a treat and a privilege just to listen to Rabbis Bialo and Agler talk casually about the Torah.**



variations in the animal skin or telltale signs of aging. But Rabbi Bialo told us that the discolorations are often a result of careless or shoddy work by inexperienced or disinterested sofers, who try to speed up the process of cleaning by using solvents. He clearly did not approve of those using solvents. So what's the correct way to clean the parchment? Sometimes they can use a type of gum eraser, which is time-consuming. More difficult areas must be scraped, but that requires extreme care and is more than four times as time-consuming. And then there is the tension of not knowing whether ink will "fuzz" if the scraping has gone down too deeply.

As we watched Rabbi Bialo work (a process that might sound dull but wasn't at all), we occasionally asked questions. He was patient and always eager to teach. What, one of us asked, was the significance of the letter crowns that appeared throughout the Torah?

We expected an answer deep in metaphysics, but he said that, in truth, no one knows. We asked whether there was a special demand for

left-handed *soferim*. He laughed and said it was a distinct advantage being left-handed, since that way you were never dragging your hand over letters you'd just written. We talked about special sections of the Torah, where text is put into particular designs, such as for Miriam's Song of the Sea. We talked about the positioning of the two end posts, and different ways that are used to assure that when the Torahs are closed they can still stand up straight in the Ark.

Rabbi Bialo is an artist as well as a scribe, one of the fewer than 200 in the whole world who have mastered the 36 different styles of calligraphy that allow him to perfectly match

the lettering on any Torah. He worked steadily at KJCC for seven hours, from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., answering our questions and focusing on the work he loves almost as much as his family. He says that the first few years after initial repair are the most important in maintaining a Torah's "*kashrut*," or kosher, status, since that is when you can see how well the letters are holding up and catch anything that might have been missed.

Rabbi Bialo encouraged us to put a fan in our safe and to air out our Holocaust Torah regularly. We will take his suggestions and are grateful that, should we contract for the next two years of inspection, he promises to be the *sofer* who will come and make the repairs. If you missed the opportunity to see and learn

from this experience, you may well want to come when we do this again next year. All are welcome. It is a fascinating, educational, and moving experience.

Soon, sitting in services for High Holy Days, we will be reading from *B'reishit* in our Holocaust Torah. As we prepare to correct bad behaviors in 5779, working to become our better selves over the period from the month of Elul through the Ten Days of Awe, I can't help thinking we have the potential to be scribes of our own character – inspecting, erasing, clarifying, reconstructing both our attitudes and behaviors. May the Holy One take note of our efforts and inscribe us all in the Book of Life, for a good and sweet year.

*L'Shanah tovah u'metukah.* ♦

## The Making of a Sofer: *From Doodling to a Labor of Love*

*by Rabbi Menachem Bialo*

It was about 18 years ago that I was in school and drawing on a piece of paper – just doodling during class and drawing the Hebrew letters. I'm a bit of an artist and I draw lots of things, but what I was drawing then were these letters. A friend of mine saw them and asked me "are you a *sofer*? Those are beautiful letters." I said no, I'm not a scribe, but how cool would that be. So my friend says, "hey, I have a friend who lives near me, in my neighborhood, someone who is a *sofer*. Maybe he would teach you if you ask him. Do you want to meet him?" So I say sure, and a few weeks later, on a Friday, I go with him. I visit this man's house. His name was Moshe Druin. I was introduced and I said I would like to learn to be a *sofer*, a scribe, and what would I have to do to become one? So he gave me some books. I would have to learn 5,000 laws. He gave me a feather, a piece of parchment, and some ink; he showed me how to practice and what I would have to do. So during the school year I practiced in my free time and when it came to the summer, instead of going to camp, I learned how to become a *sofer* and the following seven years I did that every summer. Eventually, I got my master scribe *smicha* certificate to become a *sofer*. And that's what I've been doing ever since. (I also married Rabbi Druin's oldest daughter, so we're now all family.)

One of the reasons I love what I do is I don't have to go to work. That's always a plus. Being a *sofer* is a passion of mine. It's always great to be the one responsible for taking care of God's holiest treasure, which would be the Torah. The Torah belongs to the Jewish people and I love connecting to people and showing them the connection we have to the Torah, and ultimately, to God. The Torah is the blueprint for our lives and, if we follow it, we'll live a fruitful life. It's a joy for me to visit Jewish communities around the world and teach the wonders of Torah.

# 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 5779.

Shana Tovah To our KJCC family <i>Mindy &amp; Rich Agler</i>	Missing you, My KJCC family. Wishing you a year of joy and good health. Love, <i>Gloria Avner</i>	<i>Toby &amp; Joel Bofshever</i> wish our family at the KJCC a Happy New Year.
To my KJCC family, may you go forward with health & peace. <i>Joan Boruszak</i>	Shana Tovah. <i>Dr. Eina Fishman</i> and Family.	Shanah Tovah M'tukah Umvurechet. <i>Beth Hayden</i>
L'Shana Tovah. Best wishes for a happy, healthy 5779. <i>Sandy Kaplan</i>	Wishing our friends a happy and healthy New Year. <i>Jeff &amp; Cheryl Margulies</i>	Wishing you a year of joy, health and friendship. <i>Joyce Peckman</i>
A happy, healthy year to our friends and family. <i>The Rimms</i>	To my dear friends, missing you. Happy, healthy 5779. <i>Lee Schur</i>	To my dear KJCC friends, A happy and healthy 5779. <i>Libby Shapiro</i>
<i>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Bob Sherman</i> wish all our friends a happy & healthy New Year.	To our KJCC family from <i>Geri and Stuart Smith</i> – Happy New Year.	Shanah Tovah To my dear friends at the KJCC. <i>Joan Wohl</i>

# 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  
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# Birthright Journey Underwater

## Helping Connect Jewish Youth to Israel and Tikkun HaYam

by Shayna Cohen  
Scubi Jew Program Coordinator

**To go on Israel Underwater Birthright is to constantly be so full of life that you physically cannot keep it inside yourself.**

Excitement will bubble out of you (no, it isn't just exhaled air) as you sink into the crystal waters of Eilat, on the Gulf of Aqaba at Israel's southern tip.

Sweat will pool on your forehead as you explore the mountainous desert ruins of Masada. Drool might roll down your chin as you sleep with your head against the bus window. Tears may seep from your eyes as you gaze upon a tombstone of a



soldier your age, and pride will radiate from every limb as you learn a little bit more of what it truly means to be Jewish. I like to think of these physical acts as a representation of giving part of yourself to Israel, or signs of losing a previous version of yourself in the Holy Land. Without a doubt, Israel will give back on this ten-day adventure, but it's an unfair exchange, as you are given so much more.

I thought, as a participant in this once-in-a-lifetime trip in the summer of 2017, that perhaps my experience was unique, that it was probably my longing to feel connected to a place and a people, derived from constantly being uprooted and moving as a child, that caused me to have such a life-altering experience. But as a staff member in the summer of 2018, it was evident to me

that my transformation was just one of many. I could see my participants shifting in front of my very eyes, becoming stronger, more confident, happier, and connected to the world around them in ways that were not possible for them before. ◇



**In the photo above, Shayna with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal (center) and their Israeli guide. Below, all who went on the Underwater Birthright trip.**

# KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5779 (2018)

*Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin*

## **Saturday, September 1st**

Pizza/Movies/S'lichot service 6:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, September 9th**

Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner – RSVP required 5:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh HaShanah service 7:30 p.m.

## **Monday, September 10th**

Rosh HaShanah, Day 1.

Shacharit (morning service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after shofar sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf service 12:15 -- 1:30 p.m.

Oneg 1:30 p.m.

Taschlich at Ocean Pointe (bring bread) 4:00 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 11th**

Rosh HaShanah, Day 2

Shacharit (morning service) 9:30 a.m.

Break after shofar sounding 12:00 noon

Musaf service 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Oneg 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, September 14th**

Erev Shabbat service and oneg 7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, September 15th**

Shabbat Tshuvah

(led by Beth Hayden) 10:00 a.m.

Followed by Kiddush 12:00 noon

Havdalah service  
at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

## **Tuesday, September 18th**

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre service 7:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, September 19th**

Yom Kippur morning service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor (memorial service) 11:30 a.m.

Children's service 11:30 a.m.

Break after morning service 12:15 p.m.

Musaf 12:30 p.m.

*Afternoon activity times are approximate:*

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler 2:30 p.m.

Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler 4:00 p.m.

Neillah (Story of Jonah)  
and Maariv service 5:45 p.m.

Havdalah 7:15 p.m.

Break-the-Fast 7:30 p.m.

## **Sunday, September 23rd**

Sukkah decoration at KJCC 10:00 a.m.

## **Friday, September 28th**

(start of Sukkot: evening of September 23rd-30th)

Family Sukkot service (oneg in Sukkah)  
7:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, September 29th**

Sukkot potluck at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's  
7:00 p.m.

## **Monday, October 1st**

Yizkor service and Simchat Torah celebration  
7:30 p.m.

# High Holidays 5779



## *From the Rabbi's Study Keys Jewish Community Center High Holydays 2018-5779*

Here they come again, the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe, the High Holydays, the days that mark the most powerful season of the Jewish year. They give us our collective opportunity to focus on eternal matters: life and death, love and loss, meaning and existence. Were that not enough, they are also the time to contemplate our personal purpose and place in the grand drama that is Creation. It is hard to imagine a series of days with greater potential for spiritual impact.

My teacher, Rabbi Dr. Lawrence Hoffman, offers that "religion is the attempt to speak in a register that does justice to the human condition." That is no small task and we know that religion has both met and failed to meet that standard over the course of history. Still, our never-ending focus on what matters most manages to sustain us. Even when we hit false notes, we continue to pursue the deepest and truest in human life.

Dr. Hoffman also notes that "it is the human condition to be in search of a core identity." There is certainly sufficient wisdom in Judaism for such a search. But how do we distill and digest it? How do we make

the Jewish conversation more compelling? How can we get more of us to take an active part in it? And can those of us who are already committed to this conversation find a way to elevate it in the year ahead?

Merely contemplating these questions is Awe-some enough. Attempting to answer them is even more so. It requires that special Jewish combination of thoughtfulness-prayer, learning and energy. We will endeavor to bring all of these to life as we enter 5779.

Mindy joins me in wishing a year of fulfillment, blessing and health to all the members of our KJCC family. *L'shana tovah!*

—Rabbi Richard Agler, DD



*All line drawings courtesy of Gloria Avner.*

# A Careful Look at High Holiday Amidah Prayers

## *The Middle Section is the Key to the Message*

by Cantor Michael Dzubin

**T**he *Amidah*, the central prayer of any synagogue service, always begins and ends with the same paragraphs – *Avot* (ancestors/patriarchs), *G'vurah* (might), and *K'dushah* (holiness) in the beginning, then *Avodah* (service, asking God to accept our prayers), *Hoda-ah* (gratitude, thanking God for our lives and the miracles He bestows on us), and *Shalom* (peace, for the community at large, and peace, goodness, blessing and compassion on every individual) at its end.

The middle section, however, the most important part of the prayer, changes to suit the occasion. On weekdays, the middle section of the *Amidah* consists of 13 blessings that are individual and communal requests to God. Originally consisting of only 12 petitions, the total number of blessings recited was 18; hence, an early and casual nickname for the *Amidah* was the *Shemonah Esrei*, or the Eighteen. However, in rabbinic times another blessing was added, resulting in a total of 19, yet the original name of the *Shemonah Esrei* was retained. (Popular acceptance is a powerful and often irrevocable thing.)

Of these 13 requests recited during the weekday *Amidah*, the first five are essentially personal, or individual requests to God to improve the situation of each person. Despite the individual nature of these re-



quests, the language of each prayer is in the plural, emphasizing the communal nature of even singular Jewish identity. The eight blessings that follow are focused more explicitly on the communal and national needs of the Jewish people as a whole.

On *Shabbat* and holidays, instead of requests that might distract us by reminding us of our physical and national wants and needs, the rabbis established the middle section as an opportunity to celebrate the special holiness of the Sabbath day and/or the festival. Despite the absence of explicit requests, the holiday prayers of the *Amidah* do in fact ask that God enable us to enjoy and celebrate the holiday with gladness of heart; they conclude with a blessing thanking God for sanctifying the people of Israel and the holiday.

In the case of the *Rosh HaShanah Musaf Amidah*, there are three blessings in this middle section: *Malkhuyot*, which address the sovereignty of God; *Zikhronot*, which presents God as the one who remembers past deeds, while we ask Him to remember the merits of our ancestors; and *Shofarot*, in which we stand in nervous anticipation of the future.

The blowing of the *Shofar*, as we all know (right?), has always been the main ritual performed on *Rosh Hashanah* and the only one specifically mandated by the *Torah* for this day. We have all heard that the purpose of blowing the *Shofar* is to create a spiritual "wake-up call" of sorts, to remind us of our impending judgment, our lives (spiritually, if not literally) hanging in the balance. It is interesting to learn, however, that there are many Biblical and Rabbinic



sources teaching that the sound of the *Shofar* was also meant to comfort and reassure the people of Israel. During the Second Temple period, the sounding of the *Shofar* was introduced by a series of biblical verses that conveyed the purpose and intent of the act. (Most Judeans were not then literate, so hearing a reminder was the only means of reinforcement.)

While the *Mishnah* (compiled around 200 CE) does not describe a fixed list of verses to be recited, it does specify that at least ten verses in each category (Kingship, Remembrance, and *Shofar*) be recited, that they begin with verses from *Torah*, conclude with a prophetic verse, and that any verses read on this day contain the proper theme and be positive in nature. Even after the *Malkhuyot*, *Zikhronot*, and *Shofarot* sections were incorporated into the *Amidah*, it remained the prerogative of the individual to choose the verses to be recited. Eventually, specific verses were chosen and became a fixed part of the service. These blessings represent the basic themes of the day. They were, at one time, part of the morning service and were only later transferred to *Musaf* (only to be moved back again to the *Shacharit Amidah* by the Reform Movement, which does not follow the practice of having an additional *Amidah*). The inclusion of

these sets of ten verses each results in an increase in the number of blessings in the *Musaf Amidah* to nine. The particular choice of verses draws on all parts of the Bible – *Torah* (law or teaching), *N'vi-im* (prophets), and *K'tuvim* (writings) – and specifically includes passages that are drawn from the particular *Torah* and *Haftarah* (prophetic) readings for the holiday, and from the Psalms.

Why these three themes of kingship, remembrance, and *Shofar*? In the case of *Zikhronot* and *Shofarot*, the origin may be traced to two biblical verses, "...a sacred occasion commemorated [*Zikhron*] with loud blasts [*Teruah*]" (Leviticus 23:23) and "You shall observe it as a day when the horn is sounded [*Teruah*]" (Numbers 29:1). The third theme, Kingship, is not explicitly mentioned in connection with the first of *Tishrei*. Rabbinic interpretations, however, have seen it in various verses. "And on your joyous occasions, your fixed festivals and new moon days, you shall sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your sacrifices of well-being. They shall be a reminder of you before the Lord your God: I the Lord am your God" (Numbers 10:10).

According to Rabbi Nathan, "you shall sound the trumpets" refers to the *Shofar*, "they shall be a reminder of you" refers to Remembrance, and "I the Lord am your God" refers to Kingship. Hence the three components.

The meaning of "Remembrance" in the verse "a sacred occasion commemorated with loud blasts" (Leviticus 23:23) is not entirely clear. The biblical scholar Baruch Levine suggests that it literally means "commemoration by blasting the *Shofar*.... The horn was blasted to announce the forthcoming pilgrimage festival." Leon J. Liebreich argues that "the first day of the seventh month is a day of arousal of God's mindfulness by means of the sounding of the ram's horn." M. M. Kalisch, on the other hand, states that "the loud notes...were meant to rouse God's mercy in [the people's] favor, Who would remember His people and grant them His blessing and protec-

tion in the coming year.”

The notion of Remembrance is also connected with war in the biblical text, “You shall sound short blasts on the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the Lord your God and be delivered from your enemies” (Numbers 10:9). God’s “remembrance” here indicates that God will not abandon His people, but will help them. The text continues, “And on your joyous occasions, your fixed festivals and new moon days, you shall sound the trumpets... they shall be a reminder of you before your God” (Numbers 10: 10). The juxtaposition of these two verses suggests that Israel evokes God’s remembrance to achieve success and to remind God to fulfill His promises to them.

Whatever “remembrance” may have meant in the original biblical context, the Sages interpreted it, along with “Kingship” and “*Shofar*,” in their own way:

First proclaim Him “King” over you, then ask mercy from Him so that you will be remembered by Him. How? By the *Shofar* of freedom. “*Shofar*” always indicates freedom, as it is said, “And on that day, a great ram’s horn shall be sounded; and the strayed who are in the land of Assyria and the expelled who are in the land of Egypt shall come and worship the Lord on the holy mount, in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 27:13).

The order of the three themes, and the relationship between them, are therefore explained as follows: We accept God as our Ruler, we ask to be “Remembered” by God (that is, we ask that God fulfill His promises and help us), and we declare our desire for Redemption – for individual and national freedom – symbolized by the sounding of the *Shofar*.


If we view *Rosh Hashanah* as the first day of a court case (since the rabbis teach us that God is reviewing our deeds, and determining our fates), then we likewise would see *Yom Kippur* as the day on which the verdict is handed down. The tension mounts as we near the Day of Judgment, and this can be seen in the liturgy as well. We begin the High Holidays with trepidation, contri-

tion and awe as we enter the courtroom for our trial, and we end with the acceptance of our verdict, and the knowledge that *Adonai* is our God: Powerful, All-knowing, and (hopefully) comforted and reassured that He is Understanding and Forgiving as well.

—*L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu!* (May you all be inscribed for a Good Year!) ♦

## *Reverse Tashlich* *A Community-wide* *Program Sponsored by* *Tikkun HaYam and* *Scubi Jew and Created by* *our own Rabbi Ed*

***This year KJCC will observe a different kind of Tashlich in addition to our usual throwing pieces of bread (representing our "sins") into the ocean. Instead, we will be taking refuse out of the ocean and helping make it the cleaner, Godly place it is supposed to be. Rabbi Ed's intention was originally to have it be a community event for the Tampa area. We've been asked to join. It will now be a statewide event on September 16th. Watch Beth's announcements for details of where we will be.***

 n the first day of Rosh Hashanah, following the afternoon prayer, we go to a lake, river or sea (preferably a body of water that has fish),

and recite the *Tashlich* prayers. In doing so we symbolically cast our sins into the water and leave our old shortcomings behind us, thus starting the New Year with a clean slate.

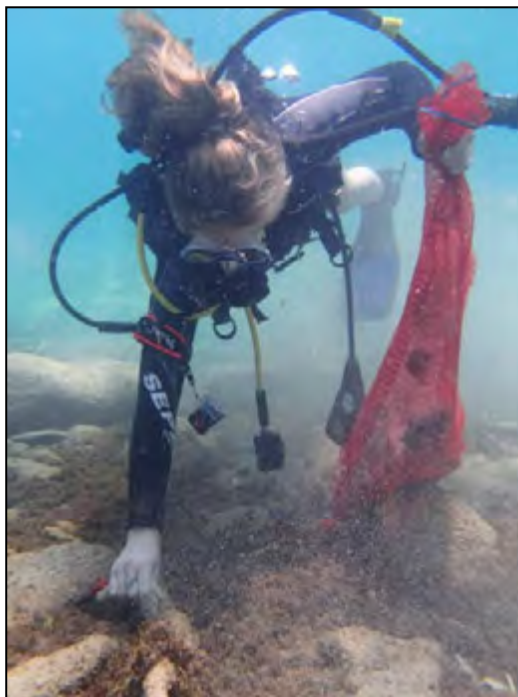
Tikkun HaYam would like to invite you and your congregation to take part in an exciting Tashlich program that will bring together the Jewish Community in a show of unity and service. While Jewish environmental organizations speak of their efforts in terms of Tikkun Olam, we at Scubi Jew focus solely on the marine environment, and speak of what we like to call Tikkun HaYam – Repair the Seas. In Psalm 95:5, it says: אשר לוי הים “The Sea is God’s.” As such, our students feel they cannot sit back and watch as God’s oceans and seas are violated through pollution, overfishing and wanton negligence. The mission of Tikkun HaYam is to raise awareness in the Jewish Community about our obligation as Jews to preserve and protect God’s Sea and all of its creatures.

**While it is customary on Rosh HaShanah to go to a body of water and symbolically cleanse ourselves by casting our sins into the water, Scubi Jew members felt it would be a meaningful experience to reverse the process of Tashlich and remove our sins from the water.**

So, in 2016 they performed a “Reverse Tashlich” and organized a cleanup project of the waterfront on the Eckerd College Campus. Over the course of two hours, the students removed almost 100 pounds of trash from the mangroves, beach and water around the campus.

It is the desire of our students to take this program to the entire Jewish Community in Florida, and organize a community-wide “Reverse Tashlich.” It is our hope to engage Jewish communities, in the project to heighten awareness of the plight of the

**Members of the Eckerd College Environmental Diving Club (Scubi Jew) were among 30 students to take a summer trip to Israel and dive to clean up the Mediterranean near the ancient port of Caesarea.**



marine environment, create a sense of unity across all divides in the Jewish Community, and promote a large scale, collective service project on behalf of the Jewish Community.

Reverse Tashlich is scheduled for Sunday, September 16th. All of us at Tikkun HaYam and the Suncoast Hillels are excited about the possibility this program holds for the Jewish Community and for all of Tampa Bay.

בתודה ושלום,,

*Rabbi Ed Rosenthal  
Executive Director  
Hillels of the Florida Suncoast*

# Sukkot

## Success, Joy, and Fragility

by Gloria Avner

Sometimes *Sukkot* seems to come too soon. We are wrung out with *Yamim Nora'im*, the final days of prayer, atonement and fasting, ripe with good intentions, and then, just five days after *Yom Kippur*, we are told to get out of our comfort zone: it is time to celebrate again, but in the most humble of ways.

Remember, in our earliest days, Sukkot was known as THE holiday, not just the most joyous but also the most important. The hard work of crop-rearing had literally just paid off.

The harvest was in and for seven days (in Israel) or eight days (outside Israel). The festival of *Sukkot* celebrated success, the time of year when Jews experienced the most abundance and were at their wealthiest – time to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and share the wealth. (As Bernie has pointed out, the Hebrew word for festivals/holidays, *regalim*,

is derived from the word for “feet,” since it was by foot that most Israelites made their way to Jerusalem for the three mandated festivals.) What better way to gain perspective, not get puffed up, and remember our desert-dwelling roots, than to share our produce

with G-d and neighbors while living directly on the earth in a humble hut where the sky shows through chinks in the *schach* (Rabbi Agler’s favorite word), a slatted and impermanent roof made of palm fronds. We not only accept our fragility and dependence on nature. We revel in it. The roof that does not separate us from sky lets in not only light and weather but also divine presence, *Shechina*. (I am reminded of Leonard Cohen lyrics, cited by Rabbi Agler during one Yom Kippur talk: “There is a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.”)

Guests, historical and spiritual as well as friends and neighbors, are invited to eat with us in our rickety but beautifully decorated temporary dwelling places. The historical guests, called by the Aramaic word, *Ushpizim*, are our forefathers, the souls of the seven great leaders of Israel – Abra-

ham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and King David. The *Zohar* says they deliberately leave *Gan* (the garden of) *Eden* to partake in the divine light of the earthly Sukkot. Let’s imagine them sharing wisdom with us as we sit together. All of us need to be reminded in



the midst of our over-busy, technologically oriented lives that we are not only connected to nature, her whims and her bounty, but we are also responsible for her continuity of care. As one of our favorite prayers in our *siddur* says, should this earth be destroyed, there is no one to come after us to repair it.

Here in our temporary KJCC “booth” or *sukkah*, we engage all our senses, making the space visually beautiful by decorating colorfully with our children. (Thank you again, Alan and Candy, for the living memorial you created in honor and memory of your parents in our living KJCC Meditation Garden.) The aroma and sight of the *etrog* intensifies our prayers as we bless the “four species” (*lulav* or date palm, *etrog* or citron, willow and myrtle), shake the *lulav* (all the species held together as one) in all sacred directions, listening to its *shh shh shhh*, the symbolic sound of gentle rain we will be praying for once *Sukkot* is over. (Our service leaders will remind us during *Amidah*, in which, between *Shemini Atzeret* and *Pesach*, a seasonal prayer for rain is added.) And we will taste, eating the fruits as we bless them.

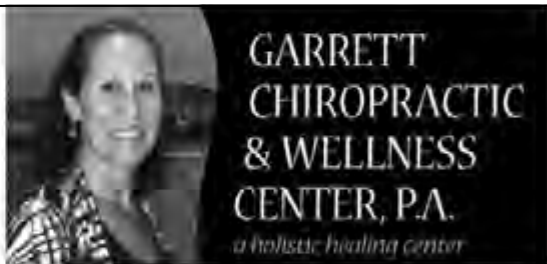
Whether one’s *Sukkah* blows over, as the Aglers’ did during that heavy storm surge a couple of years ago, or remains steadfast throughout *Chag Simchateinu* (holiday of our great joyousness), doesn’t matter. The holiday is literally “all good,” full to the brim with lessons and *mitzvot*. Let’s eat our olives, blessing and remembering the produce of the ancient land we are intimately connected to even if we’ve never set foot upon it. Join us in our KJCC *Sukkah* on Friday night, September 28<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate after Erev Shabbat services. Then join Rabbi and Mindy Agler at their home and *sukkah* for a *Sukkot* celebration, potluck dinner and *Havdalah* service the next evening, on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Happy times for our *mishpocha* continue unabated two days later when we unroll our Torah and begin the ceremonial cycle all over again.

And for those who sometimes question whether the rabbis understood the lives of all Jews or were merely concerned with concept and principle, consider this: If it starts to rain while you’re sitting in your *Sukkah* and your cereal gets soggy, *halacha* (Jewish law) says go indoors. G-d wants us to enjoy. ♦

### **According to Rabbi Shraga Simmons, the Kabbalists say that the four species of the Lulav represent four different types of Jews:**

- 1) The *Eetrog* has a good taste and a good fragrance. It represents a person with both wisdom (Torah learning) and good deeds.
- 2) The *Hadas* (myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is inedible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks wisdom.
- 3) The *Lulav* (date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with wisdom, but without good deeds.
- 4) The *Aravah* (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person with neither good deeds nor Torah learning.

Rabbi Simmons also adds a corollary: “there may be people we don’t like, but we still have to deal with. We cannot simply say that certain people are not part of our world, or that they do not belong to us. On the contrary, humanity is one indivisible unit. This recognition is basic to happiness because when we realize that we are all interconnected, we can be more patient and tolerant of others.”



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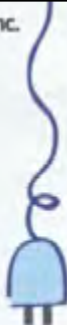
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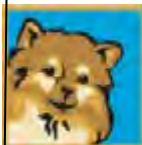


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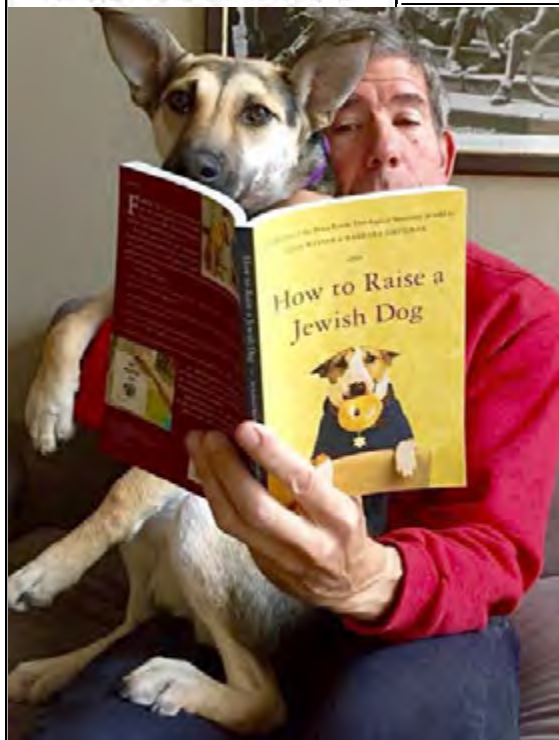
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# Chai~Lights



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**October/November 2018      22 Tishrei — 22 Kislev 5779**

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**Photo Gallery - page 22**

**Gloria on the Meaning of Gratitude - page 39**

**Rabbi Agler Speaks on Jewish Values - page 45**

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# November 2018 23 Cheshvan - 22 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct. 21	22	23	24 Full Moon	25 Challah Making 5	26 Shabbat Dinner Beth Hayden <i>Jeff Schocket</i>	27
Oct. 28	29 Book Club	30	31 Boo	1	2 Barney Coltman  <i>Johanna Willner</i>	3
4 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. Daylight sav- ings ends	5	6	7	8	9 Rosh Chodesh Kislev  Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner <i>Dotty &amp; Larry Wolfe</i>	10
11 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Veterans Day	12	13	14 Sunset Cruise 4:00	15	16  Joyce Peckman  <i>Linda Kaplan</i>	17 Rabbi Agler Torah Learning 10 a.m.
18	19	20	21	22  T'giving	23 Full moon  <i>Gloria Avner</i>	24
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30 p.m.</div>						
25	26 Book Club noon	27	28	29	30 Steve Hartz <i>Cheryl &amp; Jeff Margulies</i>	

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**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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## President's Message Beth Hayden



**A**s we move forward to welcome a New Year, let us begin by recognizing and thanking Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin for wonderful High Holyday services. As always, Rabbi Agler challenged us to review and assess the values and attributes we hold dear.

Last year at *Kol Nidrei* services, we installed the plaque outside the Sanctuary renaming it as the Stanley and Jenny Margulies Family Sanctuary. This year, we dedicated the plaque inside the Sanctuary as the final step in a long process. The Keys Jewish Community Center occupies a unique niche in the Keys and in its responsibility to Jewish values, education and culture. We are the only synagogue between Homestead and Key West. Without us, there would be no discernible Jewish presence within the 130-mile archipelago of the Florida Keys until one reaches Key West. There would be no synagogue, no Jewish services, no Jewish movies, no Jewish art events and no Jewish educational series; there would be nothing, nothing at all Jewish.

But we are here and we recognize the unique responsibility that rests upon this small but vital congregation. We are small, but we are strong. We were founded by individuals who met in each other's homes and who put

up their own personal funds to buy land and establish a Jewish presence here. Everything you see in our beautiful Sanctuary was donated or funded by Jews who believed in maintaining a Jewish presence here, in this spot, in the Keys.

The KJCC is part and parcel of the diversity and entirety of the Florida Keys experience with a most singular and very Jewish signature. Every member is precious to us – no Jew is ever turned away; ours is an inclusive, not exclusive, philosophy, and that is part of the reason we are here. We welcome, we befriend and we assist. So, too, Stan and Jenny Margulies have recognized the unique niche the KJCC occupies and the vital role we play in preserving a Jewish presence in our beautiful Florida Keys. Their generosity assures a long and healthy future for this small but crucial Jewish outpost. We are grateful for their recognition and support – they have gifted us here today and those who will come after us.

I wish a healthy and happy 5779 for all of us and extend thanks to Stan and Jenny who have been so generous to our Jewish community. May we all be sealed with a *Chatimah Tovah* in this New Year.

*B'shalom, Beth*

# Nosh

## News About Chai-Lights

Did you miss us in early October?

The good news is that Chai-Lights still exists. It's in your hands. This KJCC magazine has been produced largely by the efforts of three people; one of them resigned in September. One of them didn't want to train a new person to take over that position, and the third person became overwhelmed and depressed. Closing shop was one option. However, because the two who remain, and those who regularly participate by writing columns, contributing articles and securing ads, feel that Chai-Lights is still an important tool for KJCC, the glue, the vehicle, the town crier that keeps our *mishpocha* in close contact even when physically distant, we are working to stay alive and try out some new possibilities, including a new schedule, a new printer and a new designer. Schedule: we will now publish six issues a year instead of ten. This is the October-November issue. Feel free to send feedback, suggestions, articles, and photos to [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com). We will send information about our newbies in the December-January issue.

## Chanukah Oh Chanukah

Come light Your Menorah. Yes, we're going to have a party, and a dinner too, with lots of latkes, and all the trimmings. Afterwards we will have our Erev Shabbat service, led by Medina Roy. Make sure to bring a family or personal menorah, more correctly called a *Chanukiah*, for the always heartwarming candlelighting ceremony. Since we will be celebrating on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the sixth night of Chanukah (and Skip Rose's birthday), the social hall will be beautiful when the lights are turned off, seven candles lit and we sing our blessings. Check out the poster on page 6 and remember to RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett: [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) or (305)393-1162. We thank Linda Pollack for once again sponsoring this traditional evening, both dinner and oneg, which means no charge to members.

## Shabbat Learning With Rabbi Agler

A new season of Shabbat morning services begins on October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have been to these remarkable Torah learning sessions, you will be happy to hear they are starting again. Our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler, has committed to three more dates of sharing with us, including November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't been to one of his services, mark these dates on your calendar and come to KJCC promptly at 10:00 a.m. for engaging insight and discussion, a warm, informal atmosphere, and, yes, Kiddush-style refreshments after the service.

## Oneg Sponsorships for October & November 2018

- Oct. 5th — Mitch Harvey, in honor of his birthday.
- Oct. 12th — Nancy Kluger, for all those we remember so well.
- Oct. 19th — Toby & David Goldfinger, in honor of their anniversary.
- Oct. 26th — Jeff Schocket, honoring Patty's *yahrzeit*.
- Nov. 2nd — Johanna Willner, in support of Sisterhood.
- Nov. 9th — Dorothy & Larry Wolfe, in honor of Larry's birthday.
- Nov. 16th — Linda Kaplan, in honor of her 70th birthday.
- Nov. 23rd — Gloria Avner, in honor of her birthday.
- Nov. 30th — Cheryl & Jeff Margulies
- Dec. 7th — Linda Pollack, in honor of Skip's birthday.

## Musical Outing Back to the 60s

The Activities Committee, led by Mitch Harvey and assisted by Susan Gordon, has come up with some creative plans for getting off the rock and having fun. For example, a concert at the Homestead Seminole Theater on Thursday evening, November 1<sup>st</sup>, with a folk-singing group called

“The Band from Honalee.” Yes, their music is inspired by the classics of Peter, Paul, and Mary’s era. Get your tickets now and call Susan Gordon, (305)766-3585, to arrange carpools. (For details, check the poster on page 40).

**October Birthdays**

2nd.....	Michael Gilson
3rd.....	Natalie Dorf
4rd.....	Michael Kanarek
4th.....	Michael Krissel
5th.....	Mathew Tainow
5th.....	Joseph Sachs
6th.....	Joel Bernard
6th.....	Mitch Harvey
7th.....	Jordan Feig
11th.....	Olivia Landes
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Richard Kaufman
14th.....	Paul Friedman
14th.....	Samantha Sherman
15th.....	Marcia Kreitman
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
15th.....	Michael Tallent
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
17th.....	Jay Hershoff
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
18th.....	Payton Borisoff
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
20th.....	Sydney! Faye-Davis
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Daniel Tainow
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
25th.....	Landon Strasser

**Leaf on the Tree of Life**

**Ivy W. Blumenfeld**  
**8/31/1929 - 1/2/2017**

Loving wife, mother, grandmother.  
She will be missed.

**Sunset Cruise: Evening in Paradise**

We will have the whole boat to ourselves, the same one as last year, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, for \$40 per person. Reserve with Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585 (details on poster, page 42). We may bring food and adult beverages but no glass containers. There were a lot of happy people on that sunset cruise last year.

**Speakers, Musicians, and Movies, Oh My!**

We have a lot to look forward to in the next several months. Among the coming attractions will be an entire season of intriguing, intelligent movies, a concert by a musician friend of Dave Feder’s, well-known speakers, a dinner with rabbi’s, and a possible continuation of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal’s Kabbalah teachings. Beth Hayden is also preparing piano pieces; a few months from now, her performance will mark the official debut of her new/old Steinway Model A Grand Piano, now in residence in our KJCC sanctuary. Stay tuned. (Yes, pun intended.)

**November Anniversaries**

	<b>Years</b>
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie.....25
14th	Donald & Nancy Zinner.....31
23rd	Marcia Kreitman & John Hawver.....4
<b>26th</b>	<b>Roger &amp; Danna Levy.....51</b>
27th	Rob & Joni Sages Dandrea.....15
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies.....
28th	Joseph & Leslie Reamer.....25
29th	Louis & Linda Ulman.....37

**Sisterhood Book Club**

There are two Book Club posters in this issue, telling you about the book (and discussions) for both October and November. Please see page 8 for October, and page 24 for November. Contact Randi Grant for more info, 954-383-4320 or rkgcpc at bellsouth.net.

## October Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....24
<b>15th</b>	<b>David &amp; Toby Goldfinger.....59</b>
16th	Jerry & Barbara Herson.....19
22nd	Scott & Mary Anne Pearl.....30
22nd	Steve & Luzviminda Levine.....6
28th	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....17
<b>31st</b>	<b>Harvey &amp; Judith Klein.....64</b>

## November Birthdays

2nd.....	Brian Boruszak
2nd.....	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd.....	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd.....	Matt Temkin
3rd.....	Katherine Shabathai
4th.....	Herbert Grossman
4th.....	Zoey Barrett
7th.....	Michele Lindenbaum
8th.....	Nico Wilbur
11th.....	Cathy Dutton
13th.....	Marilyn Greenbaum
14th.....	Larry Wolfe
14th.....	Rae Wruble
16th.....	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
25th.....	Nancy L. Cohn
26th.....	John Douglas Greenbaum
28th.....	Nicole Hudson
29th.....	Benjamin Rakov

## Meditation Garden Double Brick

In loving memory of  
Dorothy Horn, 1932—2017.  
KJCC founder, a true woman of valor.  
She loved us deeply. Forever missed and  
Loved by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking.

## A Veteran's Day Note from Stuart Sax

Every veteran has stories. Some are about the front lines and some about the infrequent times off. Some about active duty and some about life after service.

I have many memories since serving fifty years ago. But the moment that has meant the most to me happened a few years ago while re-visiting Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas. I wanted to get a few souvenirs at the PX, one item being a Vietnam Veteran cap.

Upon checking out I learned that my day pass was not valid and that the PX was for active duty personnel only. I started to leave when a young soldier in line offered to help by adding my items using his I.D. I reached into my wallet to settle up with cash and he replied, "No, Sir, it's on me." I offered again but he insisted and added: "Thank you for your service in Vietnam."

When I returned to the car, I shared the story with Lauren and literally cried to know that another soldier cared. To this day, I will go out of my way to shake the hand of a veteran or any active duty personnel and thank them for their sacrifices. I even do the same for our first responders and I urge anyone reading this story to do the same.

— Stuart Sax, KJCC  
Past-President

## BOOK PLATE

In memory of  
Evelyn Coltman

*By Barnet Coltman*

## Meditation Garden Brick

*Sponsored by Susan Gordon*

Welcome to the World

Hank Ryan Casey

August 8, 2018

Grandma loves you.

## Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will be featured prominently in our Membership Directory. Call Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067, for annual rates.

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.

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](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).

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 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 Chanah David, 305-774-6048.

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, YAHR-ZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

*Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).*

*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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*

# KJCC Chanukah

5779

## Sisterhood Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday  
December 7, 2018  
6:00 PM

Dairy Dinner

Services at 7:30 pm

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

**Bring Your Own Menorah to Light!**

Sponsored Dinner

No charge for Members

\$18 for Non-Members

Donations Always Welcome



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## Sisterhood Susan Gordon



September and October are the busiest months in the Jewish year, loaded with holidays, one following right after the last! All of the festivities accompanying each holiday require planning, organization, and work on the part of a dedicated, energetic team of women for whom I am ever grateful, the “movers and shakers of the KJCC Sisterhood!” For such a small congregation, we are truly blessed to possess such a strong, devoted group of women with a “can do” attitude; they are always willing and eager to take on every new challenge, to insure that the KJCC membership will enjoy and get the most out of our social gatherings, which always involve LOTS of delicious food!

Our first festive dinner of the New Year, 5779, was held on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, a traditional Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner serving over 60 guests, beginning with delicious homemade chicken soup with matzoh balls, thanks to Barbara and Richard Knowles. The buffet was loaded with an assortment of both chicken and fish entrees and a wide variety of homemade vegetable side dishes, all prepared with love and donated by our Sisterhood “movers and shakers.” The traditional Rosh Hashanah desserts: Honey Cake, Mondel Bread, Rugelach, Babka, Black and White Cookies, and apples dipped in honey, were enjoyed by all! After this two-hour feast, Erev Rosh Hashanah services began.

Sisterhood provided two lovely luncheons on the next two days, following *Musaf* services. Then we could rest for a week, until the dinner everyone eagerly anticipated: The Yom Kippur Break-The-Fast! It was, once again, a bountiful feast. The dinner was appreciated and well attended by 70 hungry congregants following a full day of prayer, discussion and fasting!

A group of us decorated the Sukkah on the morning of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first day of autumn as well as Erev Sukkot. After hanging the same old fruit in the Sukkah for over 20

years, I felt that it was time for a “fruit upgrade” and purchased four dozen brand new, assorted and colorful “realistic” fruit! We enjoyed celebrating the Sukkot Kiddush in our beautifully decorated Sukkah following Shabbat services on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Jane Friedman’s donation of a super bright lantern, we were able to see what we were doing out under the stars that night. On the following evening, Rabbi Rich and Mindy Agler opened their home and Sukkah for a Sukkot celebration, Havdalah service, and potluck Sisterhood dinner. Their home is the perfect spot to enjoy watching a Florida Keys sunset!

We gathered once again at the KJCC on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, for *Simchat Torah*, *She-mini Atzeret*, and *Yizkor*/Memorial Service. Sisterhood provided the “KJCC *Simchat Torah* Annual Chocolate Extravaganza!” A big thank-you to Barbara and Richard Knowles for donating the chocolate fountain. Once we figured out how to get the fountain flowing properly, everyone enjoyed dipping a variety of fruits, cakes, cookies, pretzels, and giant marshmallows into the scrumptious dark chocolate!

Our most recent Sisterhood meeting was held on the morning of Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We were busy planning two “Worldwide Shabbos Project” events for the month of October: a Challah Making “hands on” workshop on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, followed the next evening by a *fleishadich* (meat) Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 p.m., prior to Shabbat services.

Chanukah arrives early this year! On Friday evening, December 7<sup>th</sup>, KJCC Sisterhood is planning our annual “Latke Dinner & Chanukah Celebration.” It will be the 6<sup>th</sup> night of the Festival of Light. Please bring your *Chanukkia* for the community lighting. See flyer on the facing page for details. These are busy days and fun times for KJCC Sisterhood! Hope to see you at our upcoming meetings on November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. ♦



## Sisterhood Book Club

Monday  
October 29, 2018 Noon

**Marker 88**  
**88000 Overseas Highway**  
**Islamorada - Bayside MM 88**

**The Fortune Teller's Kiss**  
**by Brenda Serotte**



There was always the incantation: "Whoever wishes you harm, may harm come to them!" And just in case that didn't work, there were garlic and cloves to repel the Evil Eye—or, better yet, the dried foreskin from a baby boy's circumcision, ground to a fine powder. But whatever precautions Brenda Serotte was subjected to, they were not enough. Shortly before her eighth birthday, in the fall of 1954, she came down with polio—painfully singled out in a world already marked by differences. Her bout with the dreaded disease is at the heart of this poignant and heartbreakingly hilarious memoir of growing up a Sephardic Jew among Ashkenazi neighbors in the Bronx.

**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant**  
**rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**





*In Memoriam October 2018*

In Memory Of

## Samuel Tallent

By Lillian Tallent

In Memory Of

**Herbert S. Weihl**

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihi

In Memory Of

## Esther Gold Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner

In Memory Of

## Katy Kram

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memory Of

## Perren Gerber

By Gloria Avner

In Memory Of

## Audrey Bloom

By Marc Bloom



**GIFT SUGGESTIONS!**

**TALLITOT, JEWELRY, KIDDUSH CUPS,  
YARMULKES  
CANDLES, MORE!!!**

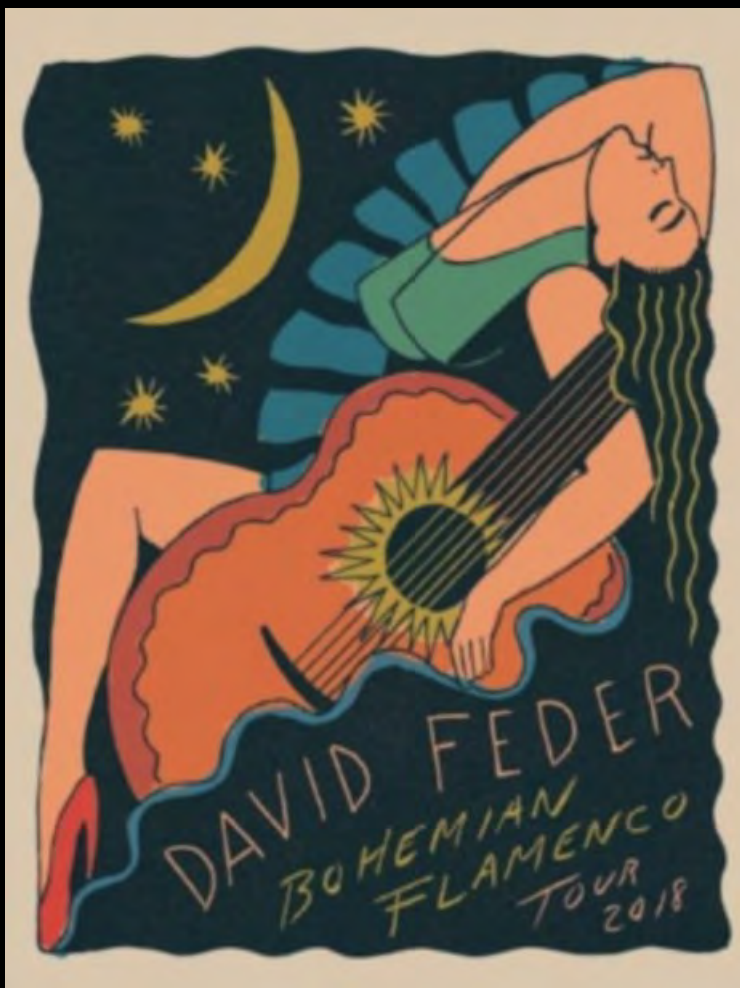


***GIFTS***

**Sydney! Faye-Davis** (305) 613-3010  
**Susan Gordon** (305) 766-3585







**David Feder**  
**Bohemian Flamenco Show**  
**November 10, 2018 • 8:30 p.m.**

**South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center**  
**Tickets Available at [www.smdcac.org](http://www.smdcac.org)**

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# Contributions to KJCC

## Through September 2018

*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.*

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

Blumenfeld, Marvin

### **Meditation Garden**

Agler, Rich & Mindy  
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Horn, Susan  
Roy, Medina  
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

### **Scholarship Fund**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Kaminstein, Beth  
Pincus, Linda  
Roy, Medina  
Miller, Steven & Sledd, Tonia  
Starr, Adam & Judy

### **Seat Back Plate**

Marvin Blumenfeld

### **Yahrzeit Plaque**

Schulberg, Elaine  
Grant, Andrew & Randi

### **Holocaust Education**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Pincus, Linda  
Roy, Medina  
Starr, Adam & Judy

### **Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund**

Pincus, Linda  
Roy, Medina

### **In Memory of**

Ivy Blumenfeld

### **In Memory of**

Alan Schulberg

### **Rabbi & Cantor Fund**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Blumenfeld, Marvin  
Gross, David & Patti  
Hawver, John & Kreitman, Marcia  
Herson, Jerry & Barbara  
Kaminstein, Beth  
Kluger, Nancy  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara  
Roy, Medina  
Sachs, Joe & Susan

### **Chai-Lights Support**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Pincus, Linda  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Willner, Arthur & Johanna

### **Library**

Roy, Medina  
Starr, Adam & Judy

### **Tikkun Olam**

Linda Pincus

### **Yizkor Book**

Benowitz, Jerry & Roos-Mary  
Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Brodie, Thomas & Renee  
Chasteen, Dale  
Chester, Nelson & Bobbie  
Emkey, Frank & Gerri  
Gilson, Michael & Suzanne  
Goodman, Jamie & Laura

# Contributions to KJCC

## Through September 2018 (cont.)

### **Yizkor Book (cont):**

Hawver, John & Kreitman, Marcia  
Herson, Jerry & Barbara  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Kaminstein, Beth  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie  
Miller, Jeff & Lisa  
Pincus, Linda  
Rakov, Neal & Cathy  
Roy, Medina  
Sachs, Joe & Susan  
Schulberg, Elaine  
Sheinker, Miltra  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

### **Unrestricted**

Bernstein, Paul & Barbara  
Blumenfeld, Marvin  
Boruszak, Joan  
Brush, James  
Chester, Nelson & Bobbie  
Cohn, Nancy  
Gilson, Michael & Suzanne  
Hawver, John & Kreitman, Marcia  
Horowitz, Beth  
Ichel, David & Jan  
Miller, Steven & Sledd, Tonia  
Quesada, Orlando  
Schulberg, Elaine  
Shapiro, Libby  
Starr, Adam & Judy  
Wohl, Joan  
Yeager, Jodi

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

**Yahrzeit Plaques:** KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

**Tree of Life Leaves:** We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

**Garden Bricks:** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### To Save the Lives of Children

According to statistics from *Kidsand-Cars.org*, every nine days a child in the United States dies of heat stroke as a result of being left in an automobile. Adam Tannenbaum – born in America, now living in Ashdod, Israel, for the past 30 years – is a father of eight and hoping to change all that. A technology strategist, Tannenbaum is the co-founder of *Eve*, a technology company that created *Athena*, a multi-sensor safety monitor with do-it-yourself installation into any type of vehicle. It automatically sends an alert to designated contacts either by phone, text or e-mail if a child (or pet) is left in a car. The product is scheduled to be released next summer at an estimated cost of \$150 - \$199. There are other safety detection monitors about to debut, but *Athena* has important features the others lack. *Athena* doesn't require a charged cell phone, a smartphone or endless series of beeps that may go ignored. After the device contacts the designated party, *Athena* will move on and alert other designated individuals until someone is reached.

Tannenbaum is currently working on a higher-priced device through which *Athena* will offer other life-saving options, like turning on air-conditioning or heat, playing recorded messages to attract attention of passersby and tying in to Google maps to clearly and quickly specify the location of the vehicle. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 8-13-18)

### "I'm Doing This for You"

Academy Award Winner Ben Kingsley (in the 1982 film "Gandhi"), who starred in the recently released film "Operation Finale," spoke about why he was eager to portray the infamous Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. Kingsley was in grammar school and at home alone when he turned on the telly and saw a documentary about the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. "I remember my heart stopped beating for a while," said

Kingsley, who is not Jewish but believes he may have Jewish relatives on his mother's side. "I nearly passed out. And I have been indelibly connected to the Holocaust ever since." The 74-year-old British actor has had roles in many Holocaust-themed films. He portrayed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal in the HBO film "Murderers Among Us," Jewish accountant Itzhak Stern in Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," and Anne Frank's father Otto in a 2001 ABC miniseries. While doing research for these films, he developed a close friendship with Holocaust survivor, activist, author and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. Shortly before Wiesel's death in 2016, Kingsley promised him that "the next time I walk onto a film set that is appropriate to your story, I will dedicate my performance to you." So when Kingsley was offered the chance to portray Eichmann, he eagerly accepted and carried a picture of Wiesel during the filming. "Every day, as promised, I looked at a picture of Elie that I carried in my pocket and said 'I'm doing this for you.'" ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 8-19-18)

### World Jewish Population

According to figures published on the eve of *Rosh HaShanah 5779* by the Jewish Agency, the world Jewish population totals some 14.7 million. That figure is hardly a change from last year – an increase of just 0.01 percent. Of the total, 6.6 million Jews (45 percent) live in Israel and among the 8.1 million Jews who live outside Israel, 5.7 million (70 percent) live in the United States. The figures were calculated by Professor Sergio Della Pergola, Israel's leading expert on Jewish demography. These figures refer to what has been defined as the "core Jewish population" of the world: all individuals who, in surveys, identify as Jewish and do not have another religion. It also includes people with a Jewish parent who claim no religious or ethnic identity. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 9-9-18)

## A “Total and Deliberate Exclusion”

*Kol Berama*, an Israeli *hareidi* (ultra-Orthodox) radio station, was recently fined one million shekels – about \$280,000 – for keeping women’s voices off the air. The Jerusalem District Court ordered that the money be held in a class action fund to be used for programs that empower religious women. The class action lawsuit was filed against the radio station some six years ago by the Israel Religious Action Center of the Reform Movement and by *Kolech*, the Religious Women’s Forum. The lawsuit was filed because no women’s voices had appeared on the radio station for two years. It is the first class action lawsuit on civil rights and gender segregation in Israel. The lawsuit states that the radio station’s “total and deliberate exclusion damages dignity and self-worth, deepens perceptions of female inferiority and prevents the influence of women in public discourse.” ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 9-20-18)

## A “Nose Contact Lens” for Weight Loss?

*NozNoz*, a revolutionary drug-free, soft silicone nasal insert, is said to help curb appetite and change metabolism. Some time ago, Adva Beck bit into a peach, her favorite fruit. She quickly discarded it because a stuffy nose actually altered its taste. Beck had no background in science, but she was intrigued by the experience and began searching scientific literature about how smell affects appetite and weight. Her research led her to invent and patent *NozNoz*. “*NozNoz* is like a contact lens for the nose,” said Beck, CEO of Beck Medical, located in *Givat Ada* outside of Tel Aviv. “You put it in your nose in the morning and take it out at night.” Beck says that studies have shown that “overweight and obese people paradoxically have less smelling capacity in general but higher sensitivity to food smells. This sensitivity stimulates, or overstimulates, their appetite when exposed to food aromas.”

A pilot trial of her device was led by Dr. Dror Dicker, head of the Obesity Clinic at Hasharon Hospital-Rabin Medical Center in *Petach Tikvah* and president of the Israeli Association for the Study of Obesity. Dr. Dick-

er’s groundbreaking study was the first to deliberately reduce smelling capacity in humans; it showed that diminished smell changes appetite and food preferences. It also activates an internal mechanism that burns fat (not muscle) and reduces weight, even when there is no change in eating habits. In the study, *NozNoz* users under the age of 50 got better results. (At 50, the sense of smell starts to decline naturally.) Weight loss in the younger participants almost doubled. Other possible uses for the product – like smoking cessation, diabetes and nose-to-brain drug delivery are in the process of being studied. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 9-27-18)

## Jewish Night at the Emmys

The 70<sup>th</sup> *Primetime Emmy Awards* ceremony honoring the best in U.S. prime time television programming was held in mid-September. “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” the Amazon show about a Jewish housewife turned stand-up comedian, won eight awards, nearly every award for which it was nominated.

Other Jewish highlights of the evening included:

- Jewish actor Henry Winkler, famous for playing “The Fonz” in the popular 1970s and 80s sitcom “Happy Days,” won his first Emmy (for Best Supporting Actor) for his work in the HBO show “Barry.” (Winkler’s German-Jewish parents immigrated to the U.S. in 1939 and helped found *Congregation Habonim*, a Conservative German Synagogue in Manhattan.)
- Joe Weisberg, a former CIA officer, won for his writing for the FX drama “The Americans.”
- D.B. Weiss and David Benioff, the creators of “Game of Thrones,” won for best drama series.
- Glenn Weiss, director of the *Academy Awards* show, won for Best Directing for a Variety Special. (Weiss also turned his acceptance speech into a wedding proposal to his girlfriend, who was sitting in the audience. She said yes.) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 9-18-18)

## In Memoriam

- Princeton Lyman, Jewish-American diplomat who played a crucial role in organizing *Operation Moses*, the 1984 airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, died recently at age 82. He was also instrumental in the transformation in South Af-

rica from apartheid to democracy in the early 1990s when he was the U.S. Ambassador to that country. Lyman's behind-the-scenes role in *Operation Moses* came when he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa. He organized the airlift from Sudan to Israel of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who had fled their country only to face indifference and starvation in Sudan. Lyman helped coordinate logistics between Israel and Sudan, which at the time did not have diplomatic relations. He worked tirelessly to keep the media quiet, begging them to sit on the story. "I told them that if the operation were to go public, the Ethiopians would be in serious danger. I must say that every one of the media outlets suppressed the information they had..." Lyman later said that the Israeli media was not as disciplined. Once word got out, Arab countries pressured Sudan to suspend the operation. At that point, some 9,000 Jews had arrived in Israel, which left 500 stranded and in grave danger. After a secret letter from all 100 U.S. Senators urged President Reagan to get involved, Vice-President George H.W. Bush flew to Khartoum, met with Sudanese president Nimeiri and told him he wanted the last few hundred Ethiopians released. Nimeiri agreed and in a secret operation, later named *Operation Joshua*, American C-130s flew them up through the Red Sea – avoiding Egyptian radar – and delivered them to Israel.

Lyman was born to immigrant Jewish parents from Lithuania. When he was asked to explain his unusual first name, he mentioned that he had three brothers. Their names were Yale, Harvard and Stanford. (Ironically, all attended the University of California.) A fourth brother, Elliot, did not go to college. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 8-27-18)

- Herman Shine, believed to be one of the last survivors to have escaped from Auschwitz, has died. He was 95. (Fewer than 200 prisoners escaped from Auschwitz.) Born Mendel Scheingesicht, he was deported with 1,700 other Polish Jews to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In order to survive, he claimed he was a roofer and actually did learn how to build roofs while there. He was transferred to Auschwitz and there, his good

friend Drimmer approached him with an escape plan. With the help of a Polish partisan, they successfully broke out of Auschwitz and hid for three months. Shine and Drimmer and their wives immigrated to the United States and settled in San Francisco, where Shine founded the Standard Roofing Company in 1956. (Take a moment to just drink in the triumphant irony.) Shine and his wife devoted their time to Holocaust education, speaking to groups throughout the Bay area. (Drimmer died in 2012.) ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 7-30-18)

### Did You Know...

- *Fctry*, a Brooklyn-based product design company, is selling an action figure of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. For twenty dollars, you can own the miniature version of the Jewish jurist, complete with her signature jabot (collar), wire-rimmed glasses and hardwood gavel. (Ginsburg – the only Justice with a celebrated nickname, Notorious RBG – recently celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the court, after appointment in 1993 by Bill Clinton.) ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 8-14-18)

- Israeli rhythmic gymnast Linoy Ashram, who won 24 medals across all competitions this past year, recently became the first Israeli to take home a silver medal in the Hoop discipline in the *World Championships* that were held in Sofia, Bulgaria. She also became the first Israeli to win gold in the all-around in the World Cup Series this past May at the 2018 Guadalajara World Cup. To see her exquisite hoop performance, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRleuGcnFhg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRleuGcnFhg).

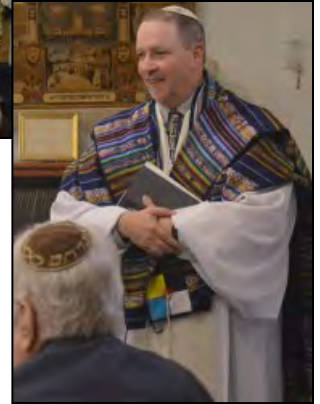
([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 9-13-18)

- According to a report released by *Forbes Magazine* in August, Scarlett Johansson – whose mother is Jewish – was the highest paid actress in the year June 2017 to June 2018, earning a reported \$40.5 million before taxes. The *Forbes* list includes off-screen earnings such as advertising. Mila Kunis, also Jewish, placed sixth on the list and Gal Gadot, the Israeli actress whose starring role in the re-make of "Wonder Woman" catapulted her to worldwide fame, made her first appearance on the list, coming in at number ten. ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com), 8-16) ♦

# Photo Gallery

At top, Oceana and Jonah Gross in full Coral Shores Band garb. At right is Maddie Bloom, proudly proclaiming that that day was her first at school. It is truly hard to believe that she's five already. The photo just below right is a little hard to make out, but it's a pomegranate plant at KJCC. Didn't know we were growing pomegranates, did you? The photo at bottom shows Maddie again, this time with Aunt Molly on the sanctuary steps just before High Holidays.





**All the photos on this page were taken either just prior to, during, and in the case of the photo at top, immediately after KJCC's Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner on September 9th. On the bema, of course, in High Holiday robes, are Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin, the latter joining us for his third consecutive year.**





**All the photos on this page, with the exception of the one at bottom, are also from the Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner on September 9th. The photo below with Susan and Erica in triumph was taken just before the post-service Kiddush the next day after Rosh Hashanah Day One.**





**Saturday,  
September**

**15th saw KJCC gather at Linda Pollack's lovely bayside home for Havdalah. Bernie and Beth led the service. The food, of course, was provided by members via Sisterhood. We all saw a lot of each other during a very busy and event-filled holiday period.**



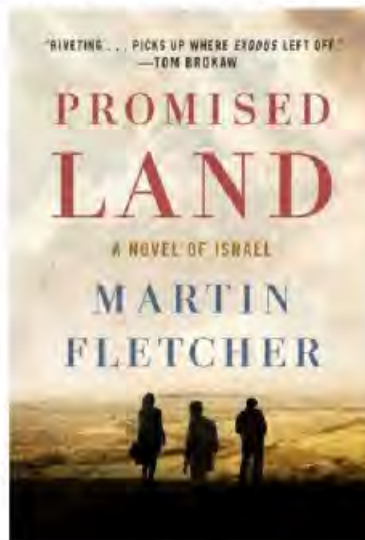


## Sisterhood Book Club

Monday  
November 26,, 2018  
Noon

**Marker 88**  
**88000 Overseas Highway**  
**Islamorada - Bayside MM 88**

**The Promised Land**  
**by Martin Fletcher**



Martin Fletcher, who headed up NBC TV's Tel Aviv News Bureau, knows his territory and it shows on every page. Promised Land is a great sweeping epic, reminiscent of Leon Uris' Exodus; a moving story of triumph and tragedy, new love and historic hate, expertly told by a cast of unforgettable characters.

This is the sweeping saga of two brothers and the woman they love, a devastating love triangle set against the tumultuous founding of Israel.

**RSVP and more information - Randi Grant**  
**rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320**



**The photos on this page were all taken at the very end of Yom Kippur. (You'll notice that Rabbi Agler is smiling.) Jonah, Rachael and Maddie (yes, Maddie) all blew the shofar. It was time to break the fast.**





The last act in the sanctuary, as the sun was hurling itself behind the horizon, was to perform Havdalah, top left. After that it was an energized beeline to our Cathy Kaplan Social Hall for the annual feast provided by Sisterhood.



The last page of images from this year's break-the-fast after Yom Kippur. Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin have put away their robes. And, yes, that's Sylvie and Mikhaela below, here from Montreal for Noah's graduation and a summer of Keys life.



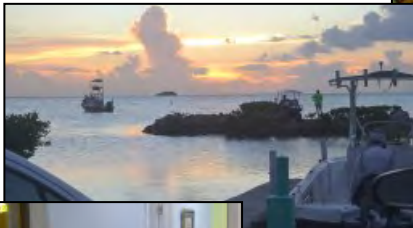


**Sukkot, of course, always follows Yom Kippur by exactly five days. As we always do, especially since Alan and Candy**

**built us our beautiful garden gazebo, we celebrated Friday's Shabbat Kiddush in our outdoor sukkah.**



Interrupted last year by a violent lady named Irma, KJCC again gathered this year at the bayside home and sukkah of Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler for the Havdalah that occurs during Sukkot. In the photo bottom left, Rabbi Agler, an avid sky watcher, peers through his telescope to find and show us the rings of Saturn.

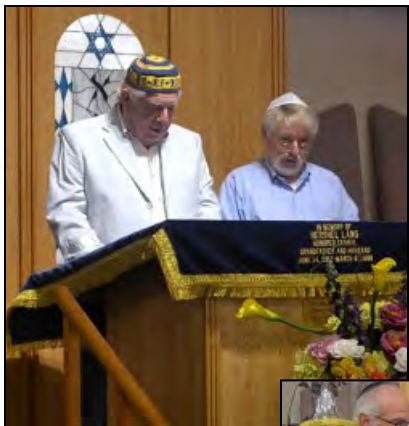


# Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive

**Let's show our appreciation  
for our bounty by sharing on  
this happy occasion.**



**Please bring your non-perishable food items to the KJCC. Final collection day will be Sunday, November 11, 2018, (Board Meeting), after which distribution will be made to the Burton Memorial Church Food Bank.**



The end of Sukkot brings Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. On October 1st (the actual day), led by Bernie, after he and Jeff had led the second mandated Yizkor of the new year, we sang the songs and paraded our Torahs around the sanctuary the prescribed seven times.





Some additional photos taken during our Simchat Torah celebration. Everyone who can is encouraged to carry a Torah. Sean Kaufman is only five, but he had a child's Torah firmly in hand as he marched around.





**Rabbi Agler is good friends with the pastor of the Spirit and Truth Church in Tavernier, so he's often invited to come speak about Jewish holidays and practices. These photos were taken on September 30th and the subject was Sukkot.**

**Just below is the Steinway Model A Grand Piano recently purchased by Beth Hayden that now lends its regal presence to the KJCC sanctuary.**

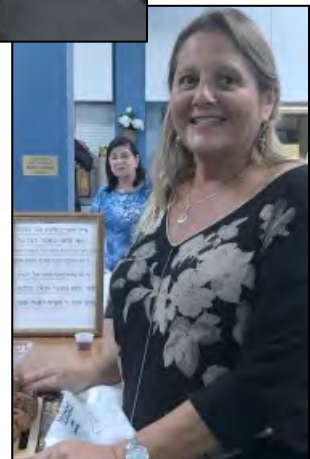


**Just below is the Steinway Model A Grand Piano recently purchased by Beth Hayden that now lends its regal presence to the KJCC sanctuary.**



**The stained-glass Chai above was recently donated to KJCC by our matriarch and an original founder, Pauline Roller.**

**Joyce is shown here after leading services on Sept. 5th. At far right, Susan prepares to cut the hamotzi after leading the kiddush that same evening.**





**In the photo at top, Yardena visits with Marc Bloom at his new temporary home at the Plantation Key Rehab facility. The photo immediate right was taken at Joyce's house during Shabbat dinner. Top right shows Yardena with Dave and Georgia visiting Pauline. Art lives at Plantation Key, too.**



**Gerry Emkey is shown with her full team, far left, and with a few chosen friends to show off**



**their third-place finish recently in Orlando at the International Dragon Boat Races. Gerri's team is made up solely of breast cancer survivors.**

# Chanukah

## *The Other Winter Holiday*

by Joyce Peckman

One of my early memories is of a fireplace with red-and-white felt stockings hanging from the tinsel-decorated mantel, a tiny tree, and a little table with a plate of cookies set out for Santa. I vaguely remember the excitement of sneaking down the stairs early in the morning and seeing beautifully wrapped presents piled in front of the hearth. On the dining room table sat a curved brass Chanukah menorah. For eight nights my sister and I took turns inserting the colored candles into the menorah, which we helped our mother light. At least one dinner that week included homemade *latkes* with applesauce or sour cream. (No, this is not some gauzy ecumenical fantasy. It was my childhood home.)

At the age of six, I began Sunday School at the nearby Jewish Community Center. That winter I came home to announce, "We are Jewish. Christmas is not our holiday! There is no Santa Claus! At least Judah Maccabee was real. We should give our gifts on Chanukah." I must have been pretty firm about it, because I remember some in the household being fairly unhappy with me, but they complied, and there were no more stockings hung. (Did I mention that, at the time, I was six?) Instead, for eight nights, we gathered around the menorah to sing, get chocolate coins and exchange small gifts. (We needed a lot more of them, so they couldn't be expensive.) The holiday was clearly not as beautiful or exciting, but it was our heritage, not some else's.

When I had children, December always

included a visit to the home of our Italian friends, to enjoy a delightful dinner and help them decorate their tree. The menorah lighting and gift-giving continued. During every Christmas vacation, we took our motor home to the Keys. When the calendar placed Chanukah in late December, the menorah came along. We added an electric one, which we displayed in the front window at the campground. It couldn't compete with some of the elaborate light

displays our neighboring campers set up, but we were gratified when a few people came over to say that it was good to know there were fellow Jews camping there.

All of my grandchildren have their own "*chanukiah*," know more Chanukah songs than I do and usually include dancing as part of the celebration. They don't seem to miss celebrating Christmas, because they have their own happy holidays all year round.

Chanukah should have special meaning, not because it falls near the winter

solstice, but because it celebrates our ability to keep our identity despite the pressure to assimilate into the surrounding culture. (And not just any culture, but that of the reigning great power of the world and a culture so powerful and appealing that it ended up affecting Jews and Judaism perhaps more than any other. Plus at the time little Judea was already in turmoil from internal forces.) Perhaps we were lucky that the battles fought 2200 years ago were a victory against *forced* assimilation. Even the Torah calls us a stiff-necked people. The Syrian tyrant



**Joyce's oldest son Daniel lights the candles and says the prayers with daughters Eliana and Michal.**

Antiochus Epiphanes – a descendant of one of Alexander the Great's conquering Greek generals – outlawed public observance of Judaism, declaring Shabbat, festivals and even circumcision to be capital crimes. In the month of Kislev in 168 BCE, the conquerors renamed the Holy Temple, and altars were set up there for forced sacrifices to the Greek gods. A resistance movement developed, led by an old priest named Mattathias. His son Judah Maccabee became leader and military strategist. Although vastly outnumbered, the volunteer army was able, miraculously, to win two major battles and force the Syrians out. They returned to the desecrated Temple, cleansed and purified it, and gave us the holiday of Chanukah.

(Ed. Note: There are lots of mysteries and stumblers in Jewish history. Plus ironies. And strangenesses. (Yes, more than one strangeness.) Among them is the fact that there are two books of Maccabee. Most Biblical scholars believe that both were written by the victori-



**Joyce's youngest son Keith lights the channukiah with daughter Libby, just before the twins were born.**

ous Hasmoneans (the actual name of the ruling family that started with Simon Maccabee, the only brother to survive the wars) – one to tell the story of their ascendance and the other to glorify it, and, by extension, them. But neither Book of Maccabee was included in the finalized Hebrew Scriptures. Some believe that's because the two-hundred-year reign of the Hasmoneans, after their victory and the establishment of Chanukah, was neither stable nor healing nor remotely peaceful. The Rabbis never explained, so we can only speculate. But both Books of Maccabee are included in the Christian Bible.)

As a coda, those interested in the full story of the Hasmonean period, its contributions to the upcoming revolutions in Jewish thought and the emergence of sects, plus the upheavals that led to the emergence of Christianity, are referred to the book "The Jews in the Time of Jesus," by Rabbi Stephen Weylen. Copies are available in the KJCC library. ♦

## Blessings over Candles:

Light the shammas candle first; then recite the blessings while holding the candle.

Do not light the other candles until the blessings are done!

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam*

Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

אשר קדשנו במצוותיו וצונו

*asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu*

Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us

להדליק נר של חנוכה: (אמן)

*l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein)*

to light the lights of Chanukah. (Amen)

# The People of Gratitude

(Before Pilgrims and  
“Indians,” There Were Jews)

by Gloria Avner

Soon, most of us will be sitting around a table laden to bursting (us and the table) with traditional foods. We will be enjoying the company of family and friends while we eat, drink, and catch up on each other's lives. Of course Thanksgiving is a national event, and is not limited to Jews. Every race, religion, color, sexual preference and belief system will be represented at these tables on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gratitude will be the theme. And though most will associate the holiday solely with turkeys, Pilgrims (the ultimate outsiders, who identified strongly with Biblical Jews) and Native Americans – after all, most of us grew up in elementary schools drawing Pilgrim hats, using our outspread fingers as a template for turkey drawing, and parading in paper homemade feather headdresses – we know that the Jews did it first. Even before we were “People of the Book,” millennia ago, we were officially the “thanks-giving” people.

In the Torah's Five Books of Moses (or *Chumash*), God designates three pilgrimage holidays on which we are (or were then) to travel to Jerusalem with first fruits and unblemished livestock of offer for sacrifice. All sacrifices were about giving thanks, but one of these three was designated as the first Thanksgiving, not a holiday for one day only, but for eight. Sukkot, which we just celebrated, both at KJCC in the Beth/Stanlake gazebo/*sukkah* and at Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler's home *sukkah*, is the model for Thanksgiving; we eat fruit and bless the trees

and produce that animate and nourish our lives. When we shake the *lulav* and *etrog* in all sacred directions, the four cardinals plus above, below, and within, we are acknowledging, and integrating with *kavanah* (intention), our dependence on and gratitude for all that grows to sustain us.

There is another story that explains and defines us as the Gratitude People which comes even earlier, in the times of our last patriarch. We find it in Genesis 30:31-35. It is

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---

about how poor Leah, Jacob's unloved wife, has child after child, thinking and praying with each new birth that now, her husband Jacob will be happy with her and love her for the sons she bears. She yearns for him to love her as much as he loves her younger sister and his first choice, Rachel. It does not happen. She gives each of her first three sons a name that reflects hope, bitterness and disappointment. The first son she names *Reuven* – Reuben.

Rabbi Shai Held, a modern Torah commentator referred to by Rabbi Agler, translates her explanation of the name as, “God has seen my suffering and *now* my husband will love me.” Literally, it comes from the root forms of “see” and “son.” I would translate it in the imperative and can imagine her saying to her husband: “Look! Here is a son I have borne for you. Love me!” I can imagine both her hope and her pain, both of which must lead to disappointment.

She names the second son *Shimon*, or Simon, from the root of the Hebrew word for

hear or listen, as in “the Lord heard I was unloved.” Now there is self-pity as well as pain. The third son, Levi, from the root meaning “attached,” heralds her wish that “this time my husband will become attached to me.” What a plight, to share a house with a younger sister who has everything she craves, to bear children who will be loved while she must go without.

If you were in shul on the second day of *Rosh HaShanah*, listening to Rabbi Agler’s talk on holding on to our values, you would have heard him tell that story of Leah according to Rabbi Held, and how something changes in her when the fourth son is born. This time she says, “I will praise the Lord.” And she named him *Yehudah* – Judah, a name derived from the Hebrew word for praise, or thanks (*yadah*). There is no regret, self-pity, or craving in her words.

Here is an excerpt from Rabbi Agler’s fascinating talk that day about how everything changed with the birth and subsequent naming of Leah’s fourth son:

*“Rabbi Held points out that Leah came to realize that she cannot value herself only in relation to circumstances over which she has no control -- in this case, the lack of attention and display of love from her husband. But over her own spiritual wellbeing, she has great control-- for example, here, when she chooses to embrace gratitude.”*

*“From Judah we get that other name for our people, the one that is not Yisrael – Israel, but the one that is Yehudim in Hebrew, and in English, the Jews. Literally, etymologically, and, we pray, spiritually, we are the people who are grateful.”*

*“We are the people, who, like our name-sake, and despite all of life’s difficulties, find a way to give thanks. Come what may, we Yehudim – we Jews – look to fill our spirits, our souls, with gratitude. That’s quite a value to hold onto.”*

*“Here are just a few of our sacred values: sacrifice, treating outsiders as we would wish to be treated, recognizing enemies when they are real, grappling with life’s meaning, and being grateful through it all. When we hold onto these sacred values, we have the best chance of becoming the people we have been commanded to become: the people of gentleness, justice, righteousness, and peace.”*

May we all be grateful for the values we’ve been taught and for all the blessings that are ours, not least of which is an inclusive *shul*, the Keys Jewish Community Center, a place for Jewish worship where there had never been one before, until 37 years ago – a center that we come to for spiritual refreshment, social activities, learning opportunities, and irreplaceable friendships. Enjoy your Thanksgiving to the fullest, dear friends. Then take a nap, my fellow Yehudim. *Chag Sameach!* ◇

## Writers and Thinkers Opine on Gratitude...

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” — **Marcel Proust**

“Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.” — **Epicurus**

“Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.” — **A. A. Milne**

“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.” — **Khalil Gibran**

“Got no checkbooks, got no banks. Still I’d like to express my thanks— I’ve got the sun in the mornin’ and the moon at night.” — **Irving Berlin**

“Take full account of what Excellencies you possess, and in gratitude remember how you would hanker after them, if you had them not.” — **Marcus Aurelius**

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” — **Cicero**

## —This Month In Jewish History —

### October/November

331 B.C.E. — Alexander the Great defeats Darius III and the Persian army at Gaugamela (near Mosul in modern-day Iraq). This victory, and the death of Darius, mark the end of the Persian Empire and complete Alexander's conquest of the Middle East. Thus begins the profound Hellenizing influence on the Jewish people, their thinking and their culture.

1187 — Sultan Saladin captures Jerusalem from the Christian Crusaders. The Europeans had barred Jews from living in the city; Saladin allows them to return. Of Kurdish descent, Saladin is a great patron of the arts and learning. His personal physician is a renowned Sephardic Jew, born in Toledo, Spain, who even today is perhaps the most famous of all students and philosophers of Jewish law and ethics: Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon, or Maimonides.

1207 — Henry III of England is born. The son of King John (of Magna Carta fame) and grandson of Henry II, he will rule from 1216 until his death in 1272. Like his father, he uses royal power to confiscate Jewish wealth through burdensome levies and taxes. He forces the Jews to pay for the restoration of Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London. Henry also ends the construction of any new synagogues, a gesture to please the Church, whose support he needs.

1576 — The Ottoman Sultan orders one thousand wealthy Jews to move from Tzfat in the Galilee to the island of Cyprus. The Jews are asked to take with them their possessions and riches. Local Turks are warned of severe punishment for accepting bribes to have certain Jewish names removed from the list. A year later another five hundred Jewish families are also forced to move from Tzfat to Cyprus. Population movements like this are fairly common in the Ottoman Empire, an absolute monarch's way of encourag-

ing economic development throughout the empire.

1666 — In Hamburg, Germany, on Yom Kippur, blessings are offered in honor of Shabbatai Zvi, one of the more colorful pretenders in Jewish history. Hamburg Jews are apparently unaware that the self-proclaimed Messiah had converted to Islam the month before.

1811 — The first steamboat to sail the Mississippi River arrives in New Orleans. Copper for the boilers in that steamboat is said to have been supplied by Henry Hendricks, a prominent New York Sephardic Jew who also supplied the copper for all of Robert Fulton's steamboats.

1814 — The Congress of Vienna opens, after the final defeat of Napoleon. Its intent is to undo the effects of the French Revolution and return Europe to the days of the *Ancien Régime*. One of its key measures is to roll back the concept that all citizens are equal before the law, a devastating setback for Jews. Napoleon had torn down ghetto walls, introduced Jews to modern Europe, and offered full citizenship.

1870 — Italy's *Risorgimento* (or re-birth), the name given to the unification of Italy, sees the Italian government annex Rome and the Papal States. Rome is made Italy's new capital. Many Jews join in the fight to create the modern Italy. Mazzini, Garibaldi and Cavour, the leaders of the movement, believe in liberty for all Italians, including Jews.

1917 — British intelligence learns of a meeting in Berlin where Germans and Turks plan to offer the Jews of Europe a German-sponsored Jewish National Home in Palestine. This stimulates the British to finalize and issue what becomes known to history as the Balfour Declaration. ◇

## **KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER NIGHT AT THE SEMINOLE THEATER**



A BAND CALLED HONALEE is a modern-day folk trio inspired by the music and legacy of Peter, Paul and Mary.

🎵 Date: Thursday, November 1st - 8 pm. Tickets are \$25-\$40.

Place: Seminole Theater, 18 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL

🎵 Tickets and information are available by visiting the box office, open Tues-Sat, 12 noon - 6 pm, or call 1-786-650-2073.

🎵 Website - <http://seminoletheatre.org/a-band-called-honalee>

Use code KEYSJCC for 10% off your tickets!

Enjoy a night at the theater with your KJCC friends. Contact Susan Gordon, [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com), 305-766-3585, for further information. Car pools available to Homestead theater.



At right, Randy Klein-Gross and son Jonah helped rid the seas of Lionfish on Tashlich. Above, U of M students joined in to the statewide effort. At bottom, Rabbi Ed's group from Tampa that was the beginning of the Reverse Tashlich program, and from which, in no small part because of Rabbi Ed's passion, the program has mushroomed.



## High Holiday Tikkun HaYam: Reverse Tashlich Success

*When we first read about and published Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's plans for the Tampa Area Reverse Tashlich, it felt as if someone had turned on a light in a dark room – a perfect exercise of metaphor in action, removing trash rather than tossing sins in the form of bread bits into our waters.*

*Next year, KJCC will be a presence and help make Reverse Tashlich Day a statewide event, anchoring Florida's Southernmost corner, wishing the sea and all within it a happy, healthy year.*

### From Tikkun HaYam Founder and KJCC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal:

The Saying is: "As goes the Ocean, so goes the Planet."

The Reality is: The Ocean is dying!

I say this, not as an environmentalist (although I am one). I

say this not as a marine scientist (although I wish I was one).

I say this as a Jew.

The Fact is: When Jews get involved in an issue, substantive change takes place.

*Tikkun HaYam* was created to raise awareness in the Jewish Community to the myriad threats facing the marine environment, and to the innumerable wonders of the Sea.

What needs to happen now is for Jews to get involved.

With an environmentalist's approach to *Tikkun Olam*, I understand that we are partners with God in repairing the world, but if we don't work NOW to Repair the Sea, the rest of the world doesn't stand a chance. ♦



# Keys Jewish Community Center

## Let's Go Boating!

### SUNSET CRUISE

Enjoy an evening in Paradise

**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

**Key Largo Marriott Bayside Beach Resort**

**103800 Overseas Highway - Key Largo**

**Meet at the Marriott Dock at 4:00 p.m.**

**2 hour cruise 4:30 - 6:30**

**\$40 - pay at the dock**

**byob/snacks (no glass containers)**

**Reserve with Susan Gordon**

**305-766-3585, [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com)**



# Our Values: Clarifying Them

## *Rabbi Richard Agler's Address to KJCC on Rosh Hashanah Day One*

*If you're wise enough to be a regular at KJCC's once-a-month in-season Saturday services, or come to at least some of our High Holiday services, there's a particular moment in each service when you know something truly special is about to happen. The prayers have paused, the singing temporarily silent. Rabbi Agler ambles over to the wheeled podium we keep against the sanctuary wall just for him, gathers it in both hands, and steers it into the center aisle about even with or just before the first row of seats. (He's very organized.) He'll usually flip his meandering tallit back over his shoulder. Open his iPad. And then begin to talk. On a Saturday service his words will be about that week's Torah portion, usually in a way no one has thought to consider before. On High Holidays they will be part of a painstakingly crafted series discussing, dissecting, revealing and illuminating one of the ideas embodied by the Jewish Days of Awe. These are big ideas, the ones at the fundamental core of our faith, the faith that introduced monotheistic humanism to a flagrantly Darwinian world. And then had that world sit up and listen. Yes, the ideas are familiar and are derivative of those carved into tablets. Still, they're such big ideas that they sometimes get fuzzy and lose their ability to guide or inspire, especially in the hands of uninspired teachers. But from Rabbi Agler those ideas always seem fresh, and clear, as if he'd plucked them directly from our own secret hopes and dreams about how we'd like the world and each other to be. With his permission, here's the address he gave on the morning of Rosh Hashanah Day One, year 5779.*

**Values.** It's what our faith – and really, every faith – is ultimately about. Values are going to be a theme for us during these Holydays. We're making this emphasis because values are core, for individuals and for society. There has yet to be a system – capitalist, communist, socialist, fascist, democratic, republican, Zionist, nationalist, monarchist, you-name-it – that has managed to achieve the goal of “liberty and justice for all.” Most of the time, it is

“liberty and justice for some,” and a good deal less, for others.

This is why spiritual-religious values in general, and Jewish values in particular, are essential. They guide us when national efforts and partisan slogans fall short. Values are why Juda-

ism, and the other great faiths, are still around after thousands of years. They have outlasted every political ideology that has ever been tried — or, I daresay, ever will be. No matter what the system, no matter who is in power, there will always be a greater need for *tikkun olam* — for repairing the world — than those in power will be able to effect.

Let's begin with one value we can see, one that is literally looking us in the face. The



twentieth-century Jewish philosopher Emanuel Levinas suggested that the face of the other is as the face of God; that every face we see is, potentially, a portal to godliness. Look around and see faces. Look around and see God.

That may sound radical but it really isn't. Every faith teaches that the human form is holy, and where is it better to see that than in our faces? The question then becomes, how are we going to treat that face? This question, and value, unites the entire human family. It is a starting point as well as a destination.

We seem to have wandered off course. In the Americas, in Europe, in Africa, in the Middle East, in the Far East, you name the place and we will find people, both in power and out, who are willfully blind to the divinity of at least some of their fellow human beings. They disregard that value, and sometimes even mock it, in the name of nationalism, racism, fundamentalism, or some other -ism. It is a great sin. But pointing it out can raise tensions.

Dennis Prager is a Brooklyn-born teacher of Judaism who has been a conservative talk show radio host in Los Angeles for many years. Some time ago he was a visiting scholar at our congregation and told a story about defending Israel at an interfaith event. At one point a questioner arose, and with some hostility asked, "Mr. Prager, are you a Jew first or an American first?"

In familiar Jewish fashion, Dennis responded with another question: "Tell me, sir. Are you a Christian first or an American first?" The gentleman was taken aback, but eventually answered, "Why, I'm an American first." At which point Dennis said, "Then, permit me to say that you are a very bad Christian." And, he claims, the Christian clergy



onstage, and in the audience, agreed completely.

They did, because they understood that the purpose of religion, whether it is Judaism, Christianity, Islam, or any other, is to cultivate the deepest, noblest, and truest of human values. It is to connect us to one another while

connecting us to the Highest. And this universal sensibility is meant to guide us in the public realm.

There is supporting evidence in no less than the U.S. Constitution. According to the preamble, "We the People . . . in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain

and establish...etc."

In other words, this is a legal document, one that establishes the civic institutions necessary for the republic to function, e.g., a Congress, an Executive, Courts, etc. But beyond that of a well-run democratic government, there are no values there. Which is as it should be. We are grateful to the Founders for understanding that if we are going to achieve our

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teaches that the  
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civic goals, faith needs to be free to teach values to the people, who will, ideally and in turn, participate in the democracy by working to create the best possible society.

This is why we can be Jews first, Christians first, Muslims first, Hindus first – whatever our faith may be – first. Because if we are nationalists first, of whatever nation, or partisans first, of whatever party, we’ve missed the essence of citizenship, and the point of faith.

Let’s clarify a bit further. When the Torah says, “Justice, justice, shall you pursue,” (Deuteronomy 16:20) the Rabbis ask, naturally enough, “Why is the word ‘justice’ repeated?” They answer that the goal of justice must be achieved through the value of justice; that just means must be used to reach just ends. You have to admit, that’s pretty good for the seventh century BCE.

I can think of more than a few judicial systems around the world that fall short of this standard. But our faith insists upon it. And so should we as citizens. We’ll come back to this point shortly.

The Torah also teaches that we should not judge a poor person favorably because we feel sorry for him; nor should we favor a wealthy person because we respect his power. Each is to be judged according to their merit, or lack thereof. (Lev. 19:15) This is our value. Again, if only the courts reflected it.

I remember reading, as a kid, in a distinguished publication (okay, it was *Mad* magazine), that whoever said money can’t buy happiness never sat in a courtroom. I’ve yet to hear a legal professional disagree. Courts and judicial systems often fall short of the Torah’s value to treat everyone equally, regardless of financial or social status. But it remains our value. And we fight for it whenever we can.

Jewish tradition values care for the planet. According to the *Midrash*, if we destroy it, God is not going to make us another one. That was written at least 1,500 years before the first Earth Day. Again, governments, to be charitable, have a mixed record on this. Can you say Red Tide? Big Sugar? Disease on the reefs? Salinity in the Bay? There may be legitimate debate as to what are the best ways to protect the planet. But that it needs protecting is not a question.

Jews have also taught the world not to oppress the

stranger, the newcomer, the outsider, the refugee. Why? According to the Torah, “...you know the heart of the stranger, having been strangers yourselves in the land of Egypt.” “You shall love him as yourself.” (Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:34) We know that governments have a mixed



record here, too. But we enshrine this value at the heart of every Passover Seder.

We are taught not to “stand idly by while your neighbor’s blood is shed.” (Lev. 19: 16) Yet we know that when innocent lives are being lost or otherwise put in jeopardy, governments are not always there to protect them. People with values are.

According to the Prophet Ezekiel, we are to “share our bounty with the needy, clothe the naked, deal truthfully.” (Ezekiel 18:7, 9) People who are committed to these values often employ them with more success, and with more caring, than any number of official institutions.

Political systems, governments, and politicians come and go, succeed and fail, but values abide. They may not always be easy to implement. But a living faith binds us to them.

I want to go back to reaching just ends through just means. Full disclosure, I majored in political science in college and have spent entirely too much time listening to politicians, of all different parties, and from many different countries, in the years since. One of the things I've learned is that most of them can paint a decent enough picture of their goals. Pretty much everyone has a vision, at least to their own way of thinking, of a just end. What distinguishes them is the means by which they intend to get there. Some politicians, we can usually tell, are looking to reach just ends through just means. Others, not so much. And with some, it's hard to say.

But the question for those who aspire to lead us, and for us, too, is not, "Do you believe in just ends?" Pretty much everyone can talk that talk. The key question is, "Can you get us there by just means?" If the means are not just, it is highly unlikely that the ends will be.

We can take the former Soviet Union as an illustration. Its goal was to create a socialist workers' paradise. For the sake of discussion only, let's call that a just end. But it was a calamitous failure, because essentially right from the beginning, their leaders tried to reach it through horrific means. Secret police, the gulag, murders by the millions, purges; even if the economic and political systems worked, which they didn't, those means would have destroyed whatever chance they had to reach a just end. USSR, RIP. We pray for the souls who



were slaughtered in your name.

On Rosh Hashanah, that same key question is being asked of us. What unjust means might we be employing, or supporting, in pursuit of what we say are just ends?

We can use our values to clarify. Are we working with honesty, decency, and caring, for those whom we have at our advantage, and on behalf of those who cannot care for themselves, as Ezekiel said? Are we promoting the virtues of hard work, fairness, equality of opportunity, and equality before the law, as the Torah commands? Or are we okay with letting the most powerful call the shots and the devil take the hindmost? If we are counting on unjust means to lead us to just ends, we should understand

that countless empires, and countless individuals, have crashed on that rock. It is, at best, a fool's errand.

There is a famous poem by the twentieth-century German Lutheran pastor, Rev. Martin Niemöller. It is engraved in permanent display at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. You may have heard it.

*"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."*

Rev. Niemöller was, originally, a Nazi supporter. He turned a blind eye to the party's unjust means because he believed they would somehow lead to a just end. By the time he, and everyone else, realized how wrong

---

***What unjust  
means might  
we be  
employing, or  
supporting, in  
pursuit of what  
we say  
are just ends?***

---

they were, it was too late. Niemoller was imprisoned but survived the war. When it was over, he wrote, "... whenever I chance to meet a Jew known to me from before; as a Christian, I cannot but tell him: 'Dear Friend, I stand in front of you, but we can not get together, for there is guilt between us. I have sinned, and my people has sinned, against your people and against you.' " (Niemoller, *Of Guilt and Hope*, 1946)

Niemoller became aware, not only of his own guilt, but what happens when even the best-intentioned people pursue what they think will be just ends through unjust means. He learned, that not only do the ends not justify the means, but that the means are what matter most — by far.

We human beings are flawed, limited, and possessed of an enormous capacity for self-deception. We are not prophets. We cannot see the future. We never know, with any long-term project, how the ends will turn out. But we can always see the means — often right in front of our faces. And in the faces of the other. Which, once again, are as the face of God.

It is far too easy to adapt Niemoller's poem to our world today. I'm going to do it anyway. Think ends and means as you listen:

*First they came for the people with no health insurance, and I did not speak out — Because I had a job with benefits, or Medicare.*

*Then they came for the women who said #MeToo, and I did not speak out — Because, you know, "he said, she said."*

*Then they came and shot up the schools, and the offices, and the concerts, and I did not speak out — Because I was a responsible gun owner.*

*Then they came for the free press, and I did not speak out — Because everyone knows how annoying they can be.*

*Then they came for the loyal opposition, and I did not speak out — Because how can*

*you be loyal if you're a member of the opposition?*

*Then they came for the brown-skinned children, and to separate them from their mothers without a fuss, they told them they were taking them to get a bath. And I did not speak out — Because... is there anything I can possibly say here?*

One may agree or disagree with some of those intended ends. But none of those means is remotely justifiable. In fairness, achieving just ends through unjust means is not always impossible. There are exceptions, particularly in wartime. But even there, the record is mixed. At any rate, most of our issues today are not matters of war. They are matters of conscience. They are matters of decency. They are matters of being our brother's keeper. They are matters of seeing God in the face of the other. They are matters of values.

When the dust finally settles, and the day of reckoning arrives — and in our tradition today is *Yom Ha-Din*, our day of judgment — what will we say to those for whom we did not speak up? And what will we say to God, to whom, on this day, we are supposed to be giving an account of ourselves?

Will they be words like Niemoller's, correct and sincere, but far too little and much too late?

Or might we have something better to offer, if not today, then when we are standing here again next year? Perhaps something from our tradition, something like, "I tried to live by the words of the *Mishnah*, where we are taught that, "It is not for you to complete the work, but neither are you free to abstain from it." (Avot 2: 21) Or, more simply, "I may have failed, but I was not passive. I did not enable. I was not silent."

Such words, and such values, have been given to us that we might live by them. I pray that this is clear. ◇

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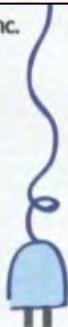


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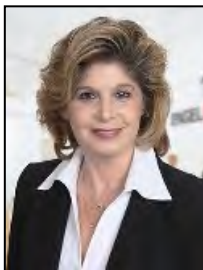
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