

January 1 - February 28, 2025 | 1 Tevet 5785-30 Shevat 5786

World Jewish Report — Pages 11-13

Chanukah oh Chanukah — Pages 22-27

Annual Meeting, Elections, and Lovely Lox Luncheon — Page 28 $\,$



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 JAN	2	3	4
Services are	every Friday at	7:30pm				
Names de	enote service lea	aders	New Year's Day		Steve Jacobs	
Italicized na	ames are Oneg s	ponsors	,			
	Ι.			_		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 10 a.m.					Joe Shabathai Jeff & Cheryl	
Hebrew Studies					Margulies	
12 p.m.					Jan Price	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Board Meeting on		1				
Zoom 10 a.m.					Judy Starr & Gloria Avner	
Hebrew Studies					Barney Coltman	
12 p.m.						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Hebrew Studies						Saturday Night
12 p.m. Sunday Funday					Randy Klein-Gross	at the Movies
Game Day 1 p.m.						7 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 FEB
20	27	20	29	30	31	I I I L D
				Sisterhood Book Club	Rivka Rizzo-Trent	
				12:30 p.m.	Roy & Mary Pollack	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sisterhood Meeting						
at KJCC 10 a.m.					Ken Atlas & Art Itkin	
Hebrew Studies 12 p.m.					Ken Atlas	
9	10	11	12	13	14 Medina Roy &	15
Board Meeting at KJCC 9 a.m.				Tu B'Shevat	Gloria Avner	
Membership Meeting				Seder	Jeff & Cheryl	
& Luncheon 11 a.m.				5 p.m.	Margulies Roosmary Benowitz	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Hebrew Studies		1			New Member &	
12 p.m.					Advertisers Dinner 6 p.m	Saturday night at the movies
Sunday Funday Game Day 1 p.m.					Michael Kaufman	7 p.m.
Same Day 1 p.m.					& Joyce Peckman	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
		Rosh Chodesh			Jane Friedman	
		Women's Circle			& Donna Bolton	
		3 p.m			Jane Friedman	

2024 - 2025 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the bimonthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



s we approach Chanukah, I can't help but marvel at how quickly the secular year has ended.

This part of the year seems filled with both religious and non-religious holidays. As Jews, we are always ready for the next holiday. I'll start my thoughts on Chanukah by providing a list of songs. First we have, Modern Classics.

All the hits from the diaspora:

- I Have A Little Dreidel Samuel S. Grossman & Samuel E. Goldfarb
- <u>I Am A Latke</u> Debbie Friedman
- <u>Pass the Candle</u> Michelle Citrin
- Hanukkah In Santa MonicaTom Lehrer

• Judah Maccabee – Safam It will be fun to listen to these, mostly for the first time.

As a kid, it was *Maoz Tzur* that always got my attention, as it meant gifts were coming. Now, it's more about lighting the menorah, gelt, latkes, and remembering the miracle of keeping the candles lit so long. Although not our most important holiday, it's definitely still fun, and meaningful. I hope it will be a great time for us as a congregation, and our families as well.

Happy Chanukah. \diamond

Shabbat Service Leaders -

January 3Steve Ja	cobs
January 10 Joe Shab	athai
January 17Judy Starr & Gloria A	Avner
January 24 Randy Klein-G	ross
January 31 Rivka Rizzo-	Trent
February 7Ken Atlas & Art	Itkin
February 14 Medina Roy & Gloria A	Avner
February 21 Michael Kaufman & Joyce Peck	cman .
February 28 Jane Friedman & Donna B	olton

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

Friday, Jan. 3	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Steve Jacobs
Sunday, Jan. 5	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Jan. 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday, January 12	10 a.m. Board Meeting on Zoom 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Jan. 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Judy Starr & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Jan. 19	12 p.m. Hebrew Studies 1 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day
Friday, Jan. 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross
Saturday, Jan. 25	7 p.m. Saturday Night at the Movies
Thursday, Jan. 30	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, Jan. 31	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Sunday, Feb. 2	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Feb. 7	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Sunday, Feb. 9	9 a.m. Board Meeting at KJCC 11 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting, Installation & Luncheon
Thursday, Feb. 13	5 p.m. Tu B'Shevat Seder
Friday, Feb. 14	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Feb. 16	12 p.m. Hebrew Studies 1 p.m Sunday Funday Game Day
Friday, Feb. 21	6 p.m New Member & Advertisers Dinner 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Michael Kaufman & Joyce Peckman
Saturday, Feb. 22	7 p.m.Saturday night at the movies
Tuesday, Feb. 25	3 p.m Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle
Friday, Feb. 28	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Jane Friedman & Donna Bolton

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Tu B'Shevat Seder

The Fifteenth day of Shevat falls out on Thursday February 13th. We will celebrate the New Year of the Trees with a special seder, blessing the fruits of Israel as we mark the season when Israel's fruit trees begin to blossom, a time of new beginnings. We will drink four cups of wine, tell and hear stories and share music and poetry. Lucinda and Oren will lead this lovely ceremony, beginning at 5 p.m. We will provide fruit as well as other light refreshments.

Sisterhood Book Club

We meet to discuss a new book on the last Thursday of each month, sometimes at someone's home, often just on Zoom. Last month Shirley Stein gave a masterful (and mouth-watering) summary of "Pastrami on Rye." We did record that one - contact Joyce at 732-447-5225 if you want the link. The book for January will be "The Last Rose of Shanghai" by Weina Dai Randel. It is a love story of a young couple from two very different cultures, set at the time when Shanghai was a place of refuge for Jews fleeing the holocaust. Contact Linda Pollack at Lindap4000@vmail.com for more information and to be added to the email list.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle

Lucinda Kurtz will lead the us in meaningful and mystical ritual, invoking our matriarchs and mother nature, as we meet on sacred soil behind Congregation Ohr HaYam. Join us welcoming the month of Adar on Tuesday, February 25th at 3 p.m., and the month of Nissan on Tuesday, April 1st at 3 p.m.

Havdalah in Key Colony Beach - March 1 We are looking forward to Havdalah and conversation on Saturday. March 1st.at the home of Oran Hesterman and Lucinda Kurtz, who will again be hosting Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg, There will be a potluck dinner. Watch the weekly emails for more details.

Hebrew Class

We continue to meet at noon on most Sundays to review our letters, learn to read prayers and understand key Hebrew words. Contact Joyce Peckman at joycepeckman@gmail.com or 732-447-5225 for more information.

Looking Ahead: Four-session workshop in March: "Death as Homecoming: Life is the Answer"

This thought provoking series is complementary to the wonderful classes many of us attended last year, run by Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman. In this class, through sharing personal stories, discussion, meditation, lecture and spirit buddy byads, we will explore:

The denial of death, The meaning and value of death, Preparing for the end of life, Preparing for a good death, Dying and the Afterlife

Lucinda and Oran are certified Sage-ing Mentors and are trained to help explore these intimate and challenging issues. Those of us who bravely signed up last year are eagerly looking forward to continuing the journey; but there is no need to have taken the previous series. The cost is \$36 for the series. Dates to be decided later. Contact Lucinda Kurtz at Lucindakurtz@ comcast.net. >

Memorial Bench at KJCC

Our Beloved Sheila Roslyn Cohen Steinberg A Legacy Of Faith Family Love

Dr. Lei Lane • Robin Forman Jessica Kalagher • Beth Ann Williams Lorri Smith • Jacky Silvers

ONGOING PROJECTS AND MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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 Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

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 Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, or email *lindap4000@ymail.com* for rates.

GIFT SHOP: We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Contact Shari Carlquist, 305-962-0000 or *shari@directflowers.biz* to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Loni Padden, 305-772-2584 or email <u>dr.padden@yahoo.com</u>.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Loni Padden, 305-772-2584, or email *dr.padden@yahoo.com*.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 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 Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

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 bimah each yahrzeit and are published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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 grand-children: 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 will plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024

	INOVE/MBER & D	ACCEMIDEN 2024
Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of	Meditation Garden
Lillian Goldstein	Joan Boruszak	Mindy & Rich AglerSue Steinberg
Marilyn Rapp	Russ Rolnick	Stuart & Lauren Sax Jeffrey Schocket
Michael Krissel	Joseph Krissel	Linda Perloff Erica Lieberman Garrett
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	Morris Feinberg	
Patricia Isenberg	Fannie Philllips	—SISTERHOOD DONATIONS—
Medina Roy	Bianka Kirschenbaum	ONEG Sponsorships
Fred Goldfaden	Rosalyn Kofler	Joyce Peckman Celebrating the birthday
Nadine Thompson	Herbert Frankel	of her grandchildren
& Miriam Frankel		Celebrating her birthday
David & Pamela Marmar		Jan Price Celebrating her birthday
Patricia Isenberg		Roosmary Benowitz In memory of Jerry Benowitz
Linda Pollack		Celebrating her birthday
Adam & Judy Starr		Gloria Avner Celebrating her birthday
	McKenzie Henry-Starr	Richard & Mimi BentolilaCelebrating Richard's
Robert Temkin		birthday
Michael & Lorena Kaufman	Jack Kaufman	Mark Avner Celebrating Gloria's birthday
Other		Barnet ColtmanIn memory of his son Robert
KJCC Sisterhood	Yearly Donation	Celebrating 6th anniversary
Stuart & Lauren Sax	•	of Coltman-Flahorty
	osenberg & Esty Lipsky	Rivka Rizzo TrentIn honor of son Ramon Rizzo
Joyce Peckman	Marika Evans	Shari Carlquist Honoring her mother Gloria
Susan Friedman		Dinner Sponsorships
	Sheila Steinberg	Joyce PeckmanShabbos Project Dinner
Alice Roth		
Hermine Taramona		General Donations
Nancy Cohn		Michael and Lorena Kaufman
Mark Grobman		Susan and Paul Roberts

C C	<u></u>		
January	Happy Anniversary	Years	
4th	Ronald and Rochelle Hollander	55	

Mark Grobman Donna Forst

Marshall and Myra Kaplan

Happy Birthday!

January	
1st	Justin Wade Gilson
1st	Laura Goodman
2nd	Sherrie Willner
3rd	Lucinda Kurtz
4th	Howard Gilson
6th	Stanley Margulies
8th	Jan Price (Karen) Shiloh
8th	Matthew Barrett
9th	Cathy Rakov
15th	Charlie Horowitz
15th	Heather Gilson
15th	Jamie Goodman
16th	Brieze Levy
17th	Andrea Kluger
17th	Neal Rakov
17th	Suzi-Sarot Feder

19th Benjamin Friedman

19th Mark Kanarek

27th	Pat VanArtsdalen
27th	Ronald Hollander
28th	Arthur Itkin
28th	Yardena Kamely
29th	Beth Kaminstein

February

23rd Sienna Rose Lebofsky

24thMuriel Swartz

25thM'Liss Regent-Cunha

25thRita Conklin

19thSandy Seder
24thBev Strumor-Blitzer
24thRandy Klein-Gross
26thMarshall Kaplan

ONEG SPONSORS

Jan. 10	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies - Celebrating Sam's 16th Birthday
	Jan Price - Celebrating Her Birthday
Jan. 17	Barney Coltman - Celebrating the 6th Anniversary of Coltman-Flaherty
Jan. 31	Roy & Mary Pollack - Celebrating Roy's birthday
Feb. 7	Ken Atlas - Because He Can
Feb. 14	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies - Celebrating Rachel & Max 13th birthday
	Roos-Mary Benowitz - In Memory of Jerry Benowitz

Jane Friedman - Celebrating Harry's birthday

Feb. 28

When those of us who knew Sheila Steinberg think of her, feelings of gratitude immediately fill us. We remember, with great love and respect, her father and mother, Joel and Sarah Cohen, founders of our synagogue, without whom our tight-knit community would not exist.



Sheila Rosalyn Steinberg May 11, 1941 — December 4, 2024

Boynton Beach, Florida - Sheila Rosalyn Steinberg (Shayna Ruchal z"l), beloved daughter, wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2024, in Boynton Beach, Florida, at the age of 83. Born on May 11, 1941, to Sara Wainer Cohen and Joel Simon Cohen, she lived a full and meaningful life. Sheila was the devoted wife of Richard Steinberg and the loving mother of Robin Forman, Pamela Friedman, and Lei Lane. She was also a cherished sister to Samuel Cohen, Jacky Silvers, Lynn Nobil, and Beth Williams. Sheila was blessed with six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Sheila dedicated her life to nursing, earning both an Associate's and Bachelor's degree in the field. Her career began as a neonatal nurse, and she later founded Birth Photos, capturing precious birth moments for new parents. Post-retirement, she continued to care for her loved ones and pets, drawing on her nursing skills. Sheila's legacy is one of kindness and generosity, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her life was a testament to the power of love, the importance of caring for others, and tikkun olam (repairing the world). As we remember Sheila, we celebrate a life well-lived, filled with

> love, laughter, and an unwavering dedication to those she held dear. Her memory will forever be cherished by her family and friends, who will continue to honor her legacy by embodying the compassion and selflessness she exemplified throughout her life.

> > May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.

Donations may be made to the Keys Jewish Community Center. keysjewishcenter.com



In Memoriam – January 2025

Ellen Prager

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Martin Segal

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Bernice Bernstein

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Rose Segal

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Laurie Beth

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

David Pearlman

by William & Donna Bolton

Eva Levine

by Barnet O. Coltman

Yetta Hitzig

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Lola Rosenberg

by Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

Jimmy Gottesman

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Harry Friedman

by Jane Friedman

Ernest Isenberg

by Patricia Isenberg

Jerry Levy

by Yardena Kamely

David M. Kaplan

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Goldie Schweitzer

by Richard & Barbara Knowles

Walter Hankin

by Richard & Barbara Knowles

John Evans

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Daniel Harvey

by Linda Perloff

Clayton Allan Rakov

by Neal & Cathy Rakov

Ruth Greenwald

by Paul & Susan Roberts

Mr. Samuel Roth

by Joel & Mary Roth

Joan Kaminsky

by Elaine Schulberg

Nat Gulkis

by Elaine Schulberg

Paul Kaminsky

by Elaine Schulberg

Jerry Lundy

by Elaine Schulberg

Bea Gulkis

by Elaine Schulberg

Joseph Cohen

by Jules & Nettie Seder

Jacob Menahem Shabathai

by Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Steven Garfinkel

by Betty Small

Peter F. Steinberg

by Richard Steinberg

Karen Hayhurst

by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

Arthur Lee Willner

by Johanna Willner

Adele Siegel Bayer

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe





In Memoriam – February 2025

Talia Agler

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Sue Steinberg

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Beatrice Avner

by Gloria Avner

Lou Roazen

by Sylvia Berman

Sunnie Bernstein

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Kitty Nyman

by Alan L. Beth &

Candace J. Stanlake Ted Nyman

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Annette Bitton

by Michel Bitton

Judy Strumer Hartman

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Joshua Daniel Blitzer

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Muriel Blitzer

by Murray Blitzer & Bey Strumor-Blitzer

Irving J. Kulick

by Thomas & Renée Brodie

Nathan Weisberg

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Lester Singer

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Sheldon Paul Frankel

by Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Rose Gilson

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Charles Gilson

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Nella Gross

by Randy Klein Gross

Louis Hartz

by Steven & Jan Hartz

Shirley Oppenheimer

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

Ida Ratchik

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Fannie Phillips

by Patricia Isenberg

Bernard Kaminstein

by Beth Kaminstein

Belle Plutzer by Arthur Plutzer

Malka Frank by Linda Pollack

William Pollack

by Linda Pollack

Maria Quesada

by Orlando Quesada

Alvina Shutan

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

Janet Garfinkel

by Betty Small

Miriam Blinder

by Steven & Barbara Smith

Hedy Kopecky

by Adam & Judy Starr

Mr. Harry Miller

by Shirley Stein

Sally Sussman

by Richard Steinberg

Morris I. Estrin

by Lillian Tallent

Samuel Wolfe

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Morris Feinberg

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



KJCC

ADVERTISERS &

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

Friday, February 21, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Once again, we are inviting our Chai-Lights

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.

~~DAIRY~~

Services to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Medina at 305-394-1702 or hiitsmedee@gmail.com to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please reserve by February 15th.

WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



Outrage at Berkeley

Students at UC Berkeley were infuriated upon hearing the announcement of a new class scheduled to begin in the Spring term of 2025. The class, "English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature," included the following class description:

"With the US-backed and funded genocide being carried out against indigenous Palestinians by the Israeli Occupying Force, many have found it difficult to envision a reality beyond the one we are living today. At the same time, we have also seen a rise in global socialist (and in particular Leninist) movements that are actively combating this destructive imperial agenda. From the Hamas revolutionary resistance forces combating settler-colonialism to a continuous anti-imperialistic politic..."

When a post about the class began to circulate on social media, it generated an immediate backlash causing the university to remove the description. The names of the instructors were replaced with the word "staff."

This incident is not the first time UC Berkelev has been accused of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel rhetoric. Tensions have escalated since Hamas's barbaric attack on Israel on October 7th. Jewish students have been physically attacked and intimidated by pro-Palestinian protesters on campus. In addition, reports have been made of some professors participating in pro-Palestinian rallies and calling for a boycott of Israel. Abby, a Jewish student who asked to withhold her last name, said, "The fact that the number one public university in America can get away with publishing - no matter how briefly - a class description which declares Hamas as a resistance group fighting settler colonialism is astounding...When Hamas is given the pithy title of 'freedom fighters' to little public outcry, it's a small wonder that lewish students are souring against Berkeley's administration." She added, "It really drives home the

notion that anti-Semitism is an acceptable evil... Students have been taught all forms of resistance are equal, even when those forms of resistance include wholesale butchery of civilians. It's acceptable not in spite of those civilians' Judaism, but precisely because of it."

In a statement, UC Berkeley said, "...The course description was published without adequate review and has been removed from campus webpages pending rigorous academic review. The department will review its processes for publishing course descriptions as a result of this incident." (www.jewishjournal.com, 11-18-24)

A New Home...at the Smithsonian?

In mid-December, President Biden signed into law a bill that could bring Philadelphia's Jewish History Museum under the Smithsonian umbrella. This law may help ensure the survival of America's premier Jewish history museum, which just a few years ago faced bankruptcy. Biden announced the enactment of the "Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weizman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act." The act establishes a body that will examine whether the museum, known as the Weizman (not to be confused with the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rechovot, Israel), can become part of the Smithsonian Institution.

The bill was written by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schulz (D-FL). The votes in both the House of Representatives and the Senate were unanimous and the bill had the support of 36 Jewish groups.

Four years ago, the museum was on the brink of closure. And COVID shutdowns didn't help. The museum filed for bankruptcy protection but was saved by a donation from footwear entrepreneur Stuart Weizman and was in good financial health when the bill was first proposed earlier this year.

Pending approval, joining the Smithsonian could come within the next two years. (<u>www.jpost.com</u>, 12-12-24)

King David Comes to NYC

An ancient artifact, dating to the 9th century BCE, is on view at New York City's Jewish Museum. The Tel Dan Stele, a 12x13-inch stone fragment, is the oldest archaeological evidence of the existence of King David. (It's on loan from Jerusalem's Israel Museum). Inscriptions on the stone acknowledge the military victories of a person whom scholars believe to be King Hazael of Aram (an area now in Syria which includes Damascus). One of those victories was over a descendant of David, King of ancient Israel, When the fragment was discovered in northern Israel in 1993, it became the earliest evidence (outside of the Hebrew Bible) that King David was a real figure. (There is a replica of the fragment on display at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.)

"There is no archeological evidence surviving from the First Temple," said James Snyder, director of the Jewish Museum. "There is from the Second Temple (laid waste by the Romans in 70 CE after the third Jewish rebellion against their rule...ed.), and that's at the Israel Museum. From the First Temple, what therefore becomes important are these references to this archeological evidence of the time of the First Temple, and of evidence that reinforces biblical history." The First Temple is believed to have been built by King Solomon – David's son – in the 10th century BCE. It was destroyed during the Babylonian siege of lerusalem in 586 BCE.

"What makes the *Tel Dan* Stele so important is that it is the oldest archaeological evidence of the existence of the House of David, which is the sort of touchstone or fountainhead for the unfolding thereafter of Judaism, Christianity and then Islam," Snyder added. The Aramaic used in the stele was written in the Phoenician alphabet – a language that predates Aramaic. The ancient inscription says "[I killed Jeho]ram son of [Ahab] King of Israel, and [I] killed [Ahaz]iahu son of [Jehoram kin]g of the House of David."

"The House of David has equal importance to the three monotheistic faiths that percolated in the region over 1,500 years," Snyder said. "So it's from Judaism to Christianity to Islam. So the House of David is really the monarchy that envisioned and enabled the unfolding of those monotheistic traditions, and they happened in se-

quence." He added, "This archeological fragment is a perfect example of the intersection of where archeology and biblical history meet." (<u>www.jta.org</u>, 12-13-24)

Choosing Your Own Birthday?

Researchers at Israel's Hebrew University believe they have discovered that fish embryos are able to decide when they would like to be born. The team found that fish embryos "choose" the optimal birthday, and then initiate hatching through a signal from their brain." The findings show the long-sought neuronal mechanism which controls hatching in fish. The neurohormone Thyrotropin-Releasing Hormone (TRH) travels through the bloodstream to a specialized gland. This then triggers the release of enzymes that dissolve the egg wall, allowing the embryo to break free. The scientists said that without TRH, embryos are not able to release the enzymes, resulting in their death inside the egg. Hatching is a critical moment for any egg-laying species. If an embryo hatches too soon, it might not be ready for life outside the egg. If it waits too long, it could miss its chance to survive. Since fish are the largest group of living vertebrates, the researchers said the findings could offer new insights into neurobiology, survival strategies and environmental adaptation in vertebrates. The researchers plan to explore how TRH and other neuroendocrine factors influence hatching in other species. (www.timesofisrael.com, 12-15-24)

In Memoriam

Bernie Marcus, billionaire who co-founded Home Depot, died in November at the age of 95. Marcus was a major donor to the revitalization of downtown Atlanta and a huge supporter of civic and political causes in both the United States and Israel. He became a Republican megadonor and poured millions of dollars to all three of Donald Trump's presidential campaigns and Republicans across the country. Over the course of his life, Marcus donated more than \$2 billion to various causes.

Born to Russian Jewish immigrants, Marcus was born just months before the start of the Great Depression. The family lived in a tenement in Newark, NJ. As a teenager, he joined his family on trips to the Catskills, where he performed magic and hypnotism. He was hoping to become a psychiatrist, but Marcus's parents couldn't afford to send him to medical school. So he became a

pharmacist instead. He didn't care for the technical side of the field but he took a liking to sales and that led him to become a retail manager. This eventually brought him to a chain of hardware stores in Los Angeles. Later, Marcus joined Arthur Blank and they founded a new home improvement retailer with a vision that would soon transform the industry. The men chose Atlanta as a starting point, found investors and quickly opened several stores under the Home Depot banner. This tapped into a huge unmet demand among Americans to fix up their own homes. Home Depot had an enormous warehouse space that stocked not only tools but paint and lumber which had typically required a visit to separate retailers.

Marcus served as Home Depot's CEO for nineteen years and in 2002 he left to focus on giving away his wealth. In 2010, he joined the "Giving Pledge," the initiative by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett to encourage the very wealthy to give away a majority of their money to charity. In 2020, he joined the "Jewish future Pledge," a promise by its signers to allocate most of their wealth to Jewish or Israel-related causes. Marcus took great pride in instilling the value of charity to his employees.

Among his legacies are the transformation of downtown Atlanta with the establishment of the Georgia Aquarium (with a \$250 million donation); major advances in autism awareness and research thanks to the Marcus Autism Center, also in Atlanta, which spearheaded Autism Speaks, a research and advocacy group; Atlanta's Shepherd Center for spinal and brain injury rehabilitation; a neuroscience institute at the Boca Raton Regional hospital and the founding of the nonpartisan Israel Democracy Institute in Jerusalem, an important think tank focused on governance.

Marcus donated money to Israel, making sure to avoid taking sides in the country's fractured parliamentary politics. His philanthropy in Israel was rooted in his sense of identity. "I'm proud of the fact that I'm Jewish and what happened with the Holocaust is not going to happen again if I can do anything about it."

Marcus was concerned that Israel's government structures were undermining its viability. "Until Israel has a constitution and the Bill of Rights, the rule of law is murky. And I'm a great believer in the rule of law," he said. (Israel does not have a constitution.)

"Marcus never lost sight of his humble roots, using his success not for fame or fortune but to generously help others," the company said.

(www.npr.org, 11-6-24)

Did You Know...

-Adam Schiff, the freshman Democratic senator from California, was sworn into office on a 1490 edition of Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah*, one of the most sacred and preeminent codes of Jewish law. Schiff said the volume, published in the Duchy of Milan (now in northern Italy), was a "monumental legal code and one of the most organized, comprehensive, and influential works of Jewish law." It was published by Gershom ben Moshe ish Sontsino, a descendant of a pioneering Jewish printing family known as Soncino. (This publishing house in the family's name is still active.) The volume is held by the Library of Congress.

Maimonides – also known as Rambam (an acronym for Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon) – is considered one of the most renowned Jewish scholars. He wrote the *Mishneh Torah* in the 12th century CE. (He was also, after emigrating from Spain to Palestine, personal physician to Saladin, the great Muslim leader who wrested the Holy Land from the Christian Crusaders.) It is an all-inclusive guide to Jewish law written in Hebrew and divided into fourteen volumes.

Schiff is not the only Jewish elected official to be sworn in to office in recent years using religious texts. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro chose a stack of three Hebrew Bibles, including the one that was on the *bimah* when a gunman killed eleven Jewish worshipers in the Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018. Georgia senator Jon Ossoff was sworn in on a book of Hebrew scripture once owned by an Atlanta rabbi whose synagogue was bombed by white supremacists in 1958. (www.forward.com, 12–9–24)

-Jewish pitcher Max Fried has reportedly signed an eight-year, \$218 million contract with the New York Yankees, the largest contract ever for a Jewish player as well as for a left-handed pitcher. (His boyhood hero, of course, was the original superstar lewish southpaw, Sandy Koufax.) He entered the Major League Baseball off-season as one of the most desired free agents on the market after a stunning eight-year run with the Atlanta Braves that included one World Series title. Now he's joining the Yankees, who come off not only a World Series defeat but also after the bitter loss of superstar outfielder Juan Soto, who as this offseason's prime free agent recently signed a \$765 million megadeal with the cross-town New York Mets. (www.timesofisrael.com, 12-11-24) ♦



From the Committee for Israel

Secure Community Network – Basic Information About an Important Organization

by Judy Starr

id you know that for the past 20 years there has been an organization dedicated to protecting the security of buildings in which Jews gather? Whether for worship, education, whether for a senior center or senior housing, a college or university organization, or a summer camp for Jewish children, the resources of the Secure Community Network (SCN) are available to us. This provides a large measure of reassurance to Jews wherever we gather in these troubled times.

As we can see from recent events, the fate of Jews in this country is not something we can separate from events regarding Israel. So much discussion of anti-Semitism vs. anti-Zionism results in the two being, in practice, entwined. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports that while 2% of the population is lewish, 60% of religious hate crimes have been against Jews. This is a jarring statistic, necessitating a keen awareness of our surroundings. We see how events in Israel over the past year and some months has correlated with the rise in anti-Semitism over the same time, the cobra of the ancient hatred has once again raised its venomous head. So, it is in our interest to protect ourselves from any untoward activities, a sensible principle in all time, an

essential one now.

The Secure Community Network was formed in 2004 in response to the second intifada in Israel, and in the ever-lingering shadow of the 1994 bombing of the Jewish Center in Buenos Aires. The lewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American organizations together formed this organization, which serves all Jewish institutions in the United States and Canada that wish to receive its services. SCN assesses, on-site, potential security weak points; it monitors and reports threats to the local police (with which it works together), and coordinates its services on a regional basis and through its headquarters in Chicago.

The SCN aims to replace fear with empowerment through proactive security measures. It seeks to provide a shield for every site in which members of the Jewish community gather. Formally stated, its mission is: "To ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the Jewish Community in North America."

According to its website, approximately 45 federations, 50 partner organizations and 300 communities rely on this Network for help provide physical safety to all within the walls or on the grounds of every Jewish organization. Starting from the basics, they provide a list of low-cost security measures

that include: keep shrubbery low; prevent access to upper floors or roof from nearby, have limited entry points, keep exits clear, monitor visitors, provide nighttime lighting, and establish outside assembly areas in case of emergency.

Among the SCN's services and activities, it receives and shares alerts and warnings from the Department of Homeland Security and Office of Counter-Terrorism, follows up on tips of suspicious activity, provides tips on travel safety, offers active shooter training, and has provided High Holidays safety training to congregations across North America. All this and much other information on their scope of services is available on its website.

The SCN also helps Jewish organizations to obtain security grants from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (which is under DHS). These grants are made available through the states. As an fyi, the total available each year has been approximately \$275 million. It was through the SCN and Federation that (through an arduous application process) we obtained our gate and new doors.

About three months ago, the SCN joined the Analytic Exchange Program (AEP) whose

members exchange "best practices" for implementing security. The AEP operates under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Its membership consists of government agencies such as the FBI, the National Security Administration, and 64 business including Amazon, Meta, Citibank, Disney - and only one other non-profit organization in addition to the SCN.

The KJCC/Congregation Ohr HaYam has been in contact with the SCN for seven years ago now. They helped us assess the security of our grounds and building, and, as mentioned, helped us to obtain the DHS/FEMA security grant which enabled us to build our fence and gate as well as a new, updated security system. In addition, we are on their mailing list for workshops, such as the recent ones to help keep our facility secure during the High Holidays.

Last but not least: It is noteworthy that many of the SCN staff, such as the central director and regional directors, have experience in law enforcement, including service on police forces or in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Their expertise is invaluable in making the mission of the SCN a reality over the past twenty years. A valuable and, unfortunately ever timely organization, whose need these days is all too real.





KJCC Sisterhood BOOK CLUB

Thursday, January 30, 2025 Live at 12:15 Zoom at 12:30

The Last Rose of Shanghai is a love story between two people from different cultures, Ernest Reismann, a nineteen-year-old penniless Jewish refugee who has come to Shanghai with his young sister, and Alyi, a beautiful, aristocratic Chinese club owner who is also nineteen.

An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to the meeting.

Questions/Input: Contact Linda @ 305-587-7429 lindap4000@ymail.com

Last Thursday of Each Month

SISTERHOOD REPORT



o say that this Jewish year, 5784 has been challenging for our people is an understatement. As we move into 2025, I have hope for our collective journey ahead. We will see each other, smile, embrace and wish that this year will be a better one. At the KJCC, we just wrapped up joyfully celebrating our miraculous resilience as a Jewish people for Channukah, we filled our shul with song, prayer and the energetic power of our Keys community. This is the first year of our 8-foot menorah being displayed alongside the Christmas tree at the Murray Nelson Government Center in Key Largo. A big thank you to all our members who worked tirelessly to get this momentous menorah out and recognized in our community. It just screams "we are here, and we are proud!" Am Yisrael Chai!

Our annual Challah Bake in November was well attended this year. Led by Super Jane Friedman, we made our dough, braided and baked deliciously beautiful challahs that we shared at the Shabbat Project Dinner sponsored by Linda Pollock the next night. Founded in South Africa in 2013 by Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, the Shabbat Project is now a global movement to unite lews of all backgrounds to keep one full Shabbat together. The congregation at the KJCC wholeheartedly took part in honoring the gift of Shabbat with our lovingly made challahs and a dairy spread that seems to grow every year. If you were not in attendance, we encourage you look out for next years Shabbat Project Dinner as this is an annual worldwide event the Sisterhood loves to celebrate!

We parted with the Christmas day Chinese food tradition this year and had an open house spa party instead! Erica Lieberman Garrett was gracious enough to invite the whole KJCC (very brave of her!) to her new home for potluck goodness and a dip in the spa. We exchanged gifts, celebrating the Festival of Lights with laughter, candles, food, family and friends. As ever, her hostess skills go unmatched, and everyone left full with a gift, yet feeling lighter after the yoga on the dock!

The Sisterhood hosted our annual Chanukah Shabbat Dinner on the second night sponsored this year by Linda Pollock. Lots of latkes & sufganiyots fried in oil! We brought our old and new menorahs to light up in our celebration of hope, resilience and the miracles sparked by small but courageous acts! Thanks to Rabbi Yisroel Shur and his lovely wife Leah from the Key Largo Chabad for generously hosting a Martini & Menorah party where some of the ladies of the KJCC got inspired with menorah making. All our menorah creations were on full display during our dinner spreading the message of light & love.

The Sisterhood Book Club led by Linda Pollack will meet later in January to nosh & discuss "The Last Rose of Shanghai" by Weina Dai Randel. The book is free on kindle if you have amazon prime! A Shanghai heiress and a Jewish refugee find love and redemption amidst war in this sweeping historical novel. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at *Lindap4000@ymail.com*.

The Sisterhood is looking forward to future activities...stay tuned for information on the Sisterhood-led Shabbat service and our advertiser/new member dinner in February.

We all know this but...the word oneg in Hebrew means delight or pleasure. The Talmud promises lavish spiritual rewards to those who make Shabbat an oneg, a delight. You can sponsor a Shabbat oneg in honor of a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit or just because you're feeling delightful on a Friday night! At the KJCC, we strive to make your Shabbat a meaningful experience for you and your loved ones. If you would like to have an oneg date to commemorate something special in your life or a loved one, please call or email Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 dr.padden@vahoo.com.

Ladies...new members and old...The sisterhood needs your support, friendship and love. We want to welcome all current members and new incoming women for our next meeting at the KJCC on January 5th at 10am. We meet in person with noshes and on zoom to plan our next happenings. \$

Jerusalem Diary by Joyce Peckman

Day 1

We arrive in Israel at 11:45 a.m. after a long flight with very little sleep. It is great to travel with a 21-year-old. Eliana helps with the suitcases that are made heavier with items we are bringing for her 19-year-old brother, Yosef, who is studying in Yeshiva Torah v'Avoda. She competently uses the phone app Moovit to get us from the airport to the train to Jerusalem, and then the light rail to Yaffo Central and then the three block walk over cobblestones to our sixth floor apartment, tucked between a Pizza Hut and "Just Meat" hamburger joint right off Ben Yehudah Street. And then we learn that the elevator is out of order. I am given charge of the carryon, while with minimal huffing and puffing and a little help from a young man going as far as the third floor, Eliana gets both large pieces of luggage up the narrow marble staircase to the door.

We collapse for an hour, then unpack. Yosef arrives at about 6 pm and shows us how to work the strange little washing machine and two burner stovetop. (We don't plan on using the oven.)

Then we head out to Mahaneh Yehuda. The famous market area is only a ten minute walk and is a good place to have a schwarma dinner. I tell Eliana I will wake her at 9 am.

Day 2 Eliana wakes me up at 12:15. We head for the Old City and the Western Wall. It is a half hour



walk, past shops, low apartment buildings, and



through the Mamilla Mall. Entering the Old City again, with its narrow cobblestone alleys lined with small shops, the twists, turns and stone steps...reaches something deep within, tied to the deepest part of me, tied to when I first came here in 1967 as a young volunteer. Gone are the piled high fruits and vegetables, replaced by shawls, dresses, T-shirts, hats, hamsahs and colorful souvenirs of all kinds. We find our way to a place where two streets funnel into a security entrance to the Wall Plaza. We pause to let a group of about 30 young female soldiers enter ahead of us. They are newly graduated from a training program in computers and technology. There are several groups of soldiers milling around the area of the Wall. Every basic training program ends with a visit to The Western Wall.

You can't describe the wall, only experience it. As we enter the women's side, we pass bookcases full of many varieties of prayer books. I find an English/Hebrew ArtScroll one. We walk past old ladies sitting in scattered plastic chairs, past soldiers, half a dozen women in track suits, mothers, grandmothers, and young girls in long dark skirts. I see a small Hebrew prayer card on a chair and pick it up. I read the Hebrew words: "Ruler of the universe, I thank you for everything in the world., I thank you that I am standing here, I thank you for my health, for the good as well as the difficult things in my life." As I read on, I wonder what made me notice and pick up this random piece of paper that so perfectly expresses the feelings in my heart. Nearby, someone is sobbing uncontrollably. I make my way through the mass of women to the Wall, touch it and

whisper some personal prayers for myself and others, then back slowly away to the Plaza.

At the Plaza, we meet up with a friend of Eliana's, who has recently married and moved to spend a year in Jerusalem with her husband. They live nearby in tiny efficiency apartment hidden in the labyrinth of the Old City. We

spend a few minutes in



their home. then walk back. back through the modern upscale mall. where, yes, we went shopping. Yosef joined us for a take-out dinner of delicious chicken winas from Golden Burger.

Day 3

We walked 1.2 miles- which is longer than it seems because most of it is uphill- to the museum of Israel. Along the way we passed a lovely park with a piano just sitting there, being played by some school boys on lunch break. Public pianos are common here. There is one near our apartment. Lesson of the day: Don't rely on tour books- go to the website. Due to the war, the Museum is closed on Wednesday and Sunday. So we took the bus home. Picture any regular city bus, then add more traffic and sharp curves on bumpy roads. It didn't save much time over walking, but we got to sit. Lunch was a freshly made fruit smoothie from one of the many small booths filled with fruit. Then we explored the shops on Ben Yehudah. Dinner was at Hummus Ben Sira, which had good shakshuka and excellent felafel.

Day 4

Eliana woke up with a migraine, so we put our planned trip to Tel Aviv on hold. Instead Yosef and I took the number 7 bus to the Museum of Israel, where we arrived just in time to join four others and an American docent for a walk to the model of Old Ierusalem in the time of Herod.

She spent 40 fascinating minutes explaining the layout of the city and Temple Mount, the history of the model, how it was taken apart like legos and reassembled here. It is the same ratio as lego to reality: a lego man would fit perfectly on the steps leading to the sanctuary. As Yosef said, The Beis Hamigdash (temple) was astounding. It was on the eastern end of the city, facing the rising sun with the valley at its back and the city of Jerusalem fanned out westward to three sides of it. From there we walked to the Shrine of the Book, housing the Dead Sea Scrolls, Again, the guide gave us a fascinating and comprehensive history. We saw photos of the Beduin shepherds who discovered the scrolls in the caves of Kumran, and the history of how they were sold, transported and restored. We saw the urns in which some were found, and replicas of some of the actual scrolls. We also learned that on October 7th as soon as word of the attack reached the government, the scrolls were immediately removed from their displays and stored in a secure vault deep below the museum, where they remain. We learned the fascinating history of the Aleppo Codex, and saw its replica as well.

We stopped at Pomerans Moher Bookstore, which is filled floor to ceiling with prayerbooks and volumes in English and Hebrew about every aspect of Judaism, from the works of Rabbi Ionathon Sacks to Breslover Hasidism. Hebrew novels and children's books filled the rear of store. The young clerks were eager to help. By the time we returned home, Eliana was feeling well enough to join us for dinner at Brizola, a tiny restaurant in Baka near Yosef's school that featured soft jazz along with deli and Italian style meats. We had luscious sandwiches.

Mine was called a Rubi Rivlin. and was like a deliciously modified pastrami reuben. including vegetarian cheese. on wonderful dark rve.





Day 5 Mahene Yehuda on Friday is nothing like on Monday. It was completely packed with thousands of people, music was blaring from some of

the crowded coffee shops, people were elbow to elbow at the bakeries and fruit stands, and it is impossible to just stand in the middle of the aisle..the crowd forces you to either find shelter in a shop or keep moving. One shop filled with colorful ceramic and glass menorahs had a "Black Friday" sign to catch the eye of American tourists. We bought fresh baked bread, some fruit and flowers to bring to the family who will host us for Shabbat lunch.

On the way back we stopped at a supermarket for Elite instant coffee (cafe namas), vogurt and mango drink, which comes in 1.5 liter bottles and has become my favorite beverage.

Everything closes down at 2 pm. After we offloaded our purchases in our apartment and dropped off the bouquet we had purchased at the apartment of the family who would host us for Shabbat lunch, we went out to a sandwich shop called New Deli. It is set up a bit like a Subway combined with felafel shop, but the food and sauces are much better. You enter your order on a computer screen, choosing the meat, bread type, and condiments, then they make it up and wrap it behind the counter. We were the last people to put in our order before the young manager started calling out "Sagur!" (Closed) and waving people away.

Sunset in Jerusalem was 4:30, so by 4 p.m. the streets were emptying, and candles were lit. We had been invited to the home of a South American Sephardic couple who had gone to the Long Beach Sephardic congregation where my boys were bar mitzvah many years ago. They live on the 11th floor of a lovely apartment building that has a "shabbos elevator" which automatically stops at every floor; no

need to push any buttons. When I walked in their door, I was reminded of the commentary we sometimes read in our Friday service: candles brightly lit, table set with silver and flowers... Other quests included the Spanish speaking wife and daughter of one of his employees who was away on business, and a pair of veshiva boys from South America. The evening began with "Shalom Aleichem" and several other songs in beautiful Sephardic melody. Through the appetizers, sumptuous meal and desserts, our hosts kept the conversation flowing, translating as needed. At the end of the evening, he gave a short "drash" (lesson) on the weekly portion, then we sang "birkat hamazon" thanking G-d for our blessings and praying for the welfare of Israel, our family and our hosts. We walked the few short winding blocks back to our apartment and walked up the six flights of stairs - because we did not have a shabbos elevator.

Day 6

A quiet morning. No cars in the streets, no hustle and bustle of the shops below. We slept late. Yosef prayed at home. We had a lunch invitation to a friend of my son's - a prosperous businessman who lives with his wife on the top floor of a luxurious apartment building near where we had gone the night before. Lunch is a little less formal than dinner, but also begins with kiddush, hand washing and blessing over bread. The other quests were an older couple who live in the building. After several hours of eating and pleasant conversation, Yosef walked to shul with our host, and Eliana and I returned home to our sixth-floor walk-up.

By 6 pm it was dark. and slowly the street came back to life. At around 7 we heard the sound of drums and chanting. I took the



elevator down, turned right toward Ben Yehudah Street, and joined the march of several hundred people, who were chanting and carrying yellow flags and signs in Hebrew & English- "Bring them Home! "This march, led by drummers, has gone on every Saturday night for over a year. I walked with them until they turned a corner, and I wasn't sure I would find my way back.

Mahaneh Yehudah on Saturday night is a place of young people, coffee shops and bars, each with different music blaring into the evening. Yosef kept running into his yeshiva classmates.

We walked the half mile back to Ben Yehudah St. and purchased sandwiches and "chipsim" (fries) at "Just Meat" next to our apartment, to bring upstairs. Is there a blessing for elevators?

Day 7

Productive shopping day on Ben Yehudah Street. It began when Edina, the newlywed, asked Eliana to help her shop for household supplies for her newly rented apartment just a few blocks away. We took our folding shopping cart and all trooped to the local "makolet" (grocery store) to find the Hebrew equivalent of detergent, lysol, vinegar etc, which we took to the new apartment. Returning our cart, we went back down and spent the day looking for gifts and personal items. Best locations: Pomeranz Bookstore, Ohr Neeman for jewelry and Judaica

And Shkalim, where we spent a delightful hour talking with Uri as he sold us high quality sweatshirts and t shirts with our choice of graphics that he pressed on as we watched. He has college degrees from Bar Ilan and Hebrew U, but took over the store when his parents retired.

Day 8

Yad VaShem- how to describe it? Four hours of total immersion. The museum entrance is free, but we paid for the headphones, which were not really necessary but would have been if it had been too crowded to linger over the displays. Watching the videos of survivors telling their stories was unforgettable. Outside,



Day 9

our hearts.

Eliana and I took the #7 bus to Israel Museum again, only to find that it is only open from 4-8 on Tuesdays! So we walked around the corner, past a sculpture garden, to the new Library of Israel. The building is modern and magnificent. The reading room is bright and inviting, three ascending levels around a circular stair. filled with books of all ages and languages. with comfortable chairs and computer stations occupied by people silently reading and working. In order to enter, we had to register as members of the library, so I now proudly carry my Israel library card. As we opened the heavy doors to exit to the bustling entryway and cafeteria, we realized that it had been completely soundproofed. We paid to visit the exhibition area, which featured a wonderful film, an exhibit about Kafka, and a museum quality display of ancient books and pottery.

Day 10

Clean the house, visit the old city and The Wall one last time, then Yosef takes us to his favorite outdoor bar & grill for our last meal together. We take the train to the plane for on overnight flight. B'ezrat HaShem, we will return. ♦



PHOTO GALLERY



Erica Lieberman Garrett and her niece Karlie presented us with such a lovely service they can't stop smiling. We are Also happy that she and her mom Risa, the creator of our logo, will be back again for a birthday bash in March.

> Randy Klein Gross sent her Lionfish spine filled Mezuzah on the second day of Chanukah to the Heller Museum in NYC to be on display for the next 1 1/2 years. "So thrilled to share it with the world so everyone can learn about the lionfish invasion, being "Jewish in the Keys."



Giant Menorah Lighting



A gratifyingly large crowd of members and visitors joined the regulars of KJCC/Congregation Ohr HaYam at the Murray **Nelson Government** Center Steve Hartz gave a very nice introduction and gratitude speech as the sun sank below clouds.



Commissioner Holly Raschein helped parents too.





Our own KJCC/Ohr HaYam Chanukiah, with Susan Gordon and Gloria Avner lighting the lights.



Loni Padden and Erica Lieberman Garrett and sister Andrea discover a Menorah on Duck Key!



Chanukah Party



Our most loyal lighters of the giant 8 ft. Tall menorah, Max and Rivka, are so lovingly ready to light lights, start dinner and celebrate.





Luz, Jane and Maria, three of our Congregation's Best dessert bakers enjoying a quiet moment.



This table of last minute invitees fresh from Israel were one of the best stories of the night. Ask Randy and her Klein-Gross family. They were very serious about their dreidel playing.



We were filled to the rafters at our Chanukah party, happily nearly overflowing. Yet one seat remained empty, the one covered in red cloth, the seat awaiting return of our hostages.



Good to have Jules back from New Jersey and Jakob back from North Carolina

Erica runs the kitchen and serving staff with a tight hand and big confident smile.



Levine women and a friend. We had so many great guests that night.



Chanukah Party Continued...



Loni Padden, president of Sisterhood, has done it again and created, with her fabulous team, a delicious, meaningful and very fun party. Beyond that exit sign, the delicious potato latkes were still frying!





Happy to welcome snowbirds Steve and Joan Jacobs back from Maine. We love when Steve leads us in the Kiddush.

Key Largo Boat Parade

This year's annual Key Largo Boat Parade was unforgettable, and Luz and Steve Levine stole the show by winning the "Most Creative" award with their incredible boat design!



Menorah Making

At the generous invitation of Rabbi Schur and wife Leah, we enjoyed an evening of meaningful storytelling and creative Chanukiah making.



Auntie Erica and Karlie are enjoying the martinis aspect of the evening as well as the creativity.

Rivka Rizzo Trent definitely is out of the box.





Lonnie Padden is so creative.

Karlie creates her own wall.



Barbara Bernstein and Georgia Landau enjoying the latke eating portion of the evening.





KJCC CONGREGATION OHR HAYAM INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, February 9, 2025 11:00 A.M.

Hear The State of KJCC Annual Message & Reports

Vote for our Officers and Directors for 2025.

A list of Nominees will be issued after the

January Board meeting.

We value your support and input!



ISLAMORADA COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS BAYGRASS BLUEGRASS

This fun event, benefitting music education, will be held at Florida Keys Brewing Company from January 17-19, with the big event on Monday, January 20th at Founders Park.

For information, go to www.Keysice.com

FLORIDA KEYS CONCERT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS SIX CONCERTS

Mondays at Marathon High School Auditorium and Tuesdays at Coral Shores High School Performing Arts Center., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30, with \$45 preferred seating available. Cost for the entire series is \$110 or \$160. Tickets and information at *Floridakeysconcerts.com*

January 13th & 14th

FLKCA presents "An evening of Dixieland Jazz with Boilermaker Jazz Band"

January 20th & 21st Opera highlights

January 27th & 28th

Pianist Fred Moyer, playing works by Rachmaninoff, Mozart, and Lizst

February 10th & 11th

Trio Zimbalist. Highlights will include Ravel 's Piano Trio in A minor





Certaldo, Tuscany and Agrigento, Sicily by Lucinda Kurtz

The new moon of Kislev rises over gentle Tuscan hills still green with Van Gogh cypress trees reaching their long, strong arms up in prayer.

It rises over ancient, dusty monuments in Sicily, reminding us of civilizations past that have toiled and trampled the barren earth destroyed by lust for profit and power.

It rises over our torn and troubled country mired in mud of vengeance and anger brother against sister locked in an invisible dance of recrimination and discord.

The energy of Kislev invites us to rekindle our hope and dreams believe in miracles like the one vial of oil that burned for 8 days celebrating victory of the human spirit reaching for freedom, illuminating the night.

At this darkest time of year, healing energy from sleep and dreams can channel deep connection to the One spark our intuition, wisdom, and courage bring in the light keep our faith flaming strong and clear release anxiety, unease, and fear.



n 164 BCE, during a war in which the evil Assyrian King Antiochus sought to destroy the Jewish People, our ancestors fought to preserve our heritage and were victorious. During Hanukkah, in addition to lighting the Menorah and eating lots of fried food, we also insert "Al Hanissim" into the daily Amida which reads: "You delivered the mighty into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, the impure into the hands of the pure, the wicked into the hands of the righteous." When the Maccabees finally defeated the Assyrians and liberated the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they found it desecrated and violated. With love and devotion, our ancestors cleansed and restored the Holy Temple and rededicated it to the Service of God. Hanukkah is all about dedication and rededication.

The Abayuda in Mbale, Uganda pose with the 20,000+ plastic bottles collected during Reverse Tashlich

The Holy Temple was the spiritual lifeblood of our people in ancient days. Standing on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, it was the focus of everything. To imagine it desolate and violated cuts at the heart of the Jewish soul. If I may be so bold, I would draw a modern-day, Hanuk-

kah comparison. Today, the Ocean and water on the planet, like the Holy Temple in ancient days, are the lifeblood of our planet. And like the Holy Temple, they have been desecrated and violated by powerful forces; global corporations, agriculture conglomerates, fishing fleets, deep sea mining companies, and many more. Like the Maccabees, fighting such powerful forces could seem overwhelming. However, with the knowledge that without water there is no future for life on Earth, and with the conviction of our principles that what we are doing is good and right, we can continue to raise awareness and encourage action to make a difference to protect and restore the lifeblood of our planet. So, in the spirit of Hanukkah, and like the Maccabees before us, let us rededicate ourselves to protect and restore the sacred gift of water: The Source of Life.

The Abayuda in Mbale, Uganda pose with the 20,000+ plastic bottles collected during Reverse Tashlich

Thank you to all of our friends and supporters for your participation and support over this past year.

All of us at Repair the Sea, wish you and yours a Happy Hanukkah. ♦

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