

# Chai~Lights



March 1 - April 30, 2026 | 12 Adar - 13 Iyar 5786

**Looking forward to Purim and Passover – Pages 6-7**

**More than a Classic Piano Concert – Pages 10-11**

**Rebirth of the Women's Seder – Page 16**

**Photo Gallery and New Members – Pages 26-38**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>MAR</b>	2 Purim Celebration 5 p.m. <i>Ken Atlas</i>	3	4	5 Age-Ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda & Oran 3-5 p.m.	6 Rivka & Max Trent <i>Richard &amp; Mimi Bentolila</i>	7 Torah Service 10am Joyce Peckman & Erica Lieberman Garrett <i>David &amp; Pat VanArtsdalen</i>
8 Classical Piano Event with Jan Price 4 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Age-Ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda & Oran 3-5 p.m.	13 Gloria Avner & Shari Carlquist <i>Jeff &amp; Cheryl Margulies Shari Carlquist</i>	14
15 Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20 Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman <i>Ken Atlas</i>	21 Movie Night 7 p.m.
22 Women's Seder 5 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 Steve Jacobs & Lily Salomon <i>Jeff &amp; Cheryl Margulies David &amp; Pat Vanartsdalen</i>	28 Lily Salomon Bat Mitzva 10 a.m.
29	30	31	1 <b>APR</b> First Passover Seder 5:30 p.m.	2	3 Erica Lieberman Garrett <i>Jane Friedman</i>	4
5 Sisterhood 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10 Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner <i>Jules &amp; Nettie Seder</i>	11
12 Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Ken Atlas & Art Itkin <i>Sisterhood</i>	18 Movie Night 7 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24 Joyce Peckman <i>Susan Gordon</i>	25
26	27	28	29	30	Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors	

## 2025 - 2026 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the  
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Keys Jewish Community Center  
[chailights@keysjewishcenter.com](mailto:chailights@keysjewishcenter.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



Having just led the Friday night service, this past February 13, I wanted to take some time to reflect back on that.

Many of you know that I led my first Friday night service, the night before I was bar mitzvahed. And though that will always be the most significant one to me, I see the ones at KJCC as different. The main difference is the one I led back in 1988 was only because I wanted to, and not because I was needed. But every service I lead at KJCC, is also because I am very much needed. And that is much more important to me in the grand scheme.

I lead about five services a year, and have done well over 50 at this point. I started about 17 years ago when Allan Beth first asked me. It had been almost 2 decades, since I had last led a service, but I was excited to be back in the driver seat, so to speak.

In the last few years, things have changed a bit. The majority of our services have now become a team effort. In some cases like my own, my partner is on zoom. Other services have been husband and wife or father and son, and at least once a year, our entire sisterhood.

Services typically last between 45 minutes and an hour and 15. However, the material being covered is way more important than the duration. Every service, of course hits certain basics that

must be done and then everybody decides what additional prayers they'd like to add. Having different people each week, doing different prayers and changing melodies, will always keep things fresh and interesting for us.

As president, I think the two most exciting things for me, are when we get new members, and when we have new people participating in services. And now we have added a monthly Saturday service. It's a bit of a double edge sword, since it requires our wonderful ritual team to find even more leaders. But it also means additional opportunities. Thank you as always to our ritual team and all of those that participate in a service one way or another. And thank you to our wonderful Zoom team of Shari and Steve. Nearly every week the two of them keep us going on Zoom.

By the time the March issue is released, we will already have had our fourth annual Purim & Pastrami, as well as many other activities from the aging classes and movie nights. The next week, March 8th, we will have Jan's classical music concert with costumes.

I'm so pleased to have started my 5th term as president at such a great place. It's not September, October or January, but still I can say here's to another great year! ♡

# WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Monday, March 2	5 p.m. Purim Celebration – RSVP
Thursday, March 5	3–5 p.m. Age–Ing & Sage–ing with Lucinda & Oran
Friday, March 6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka & Max Trent
Saturday, March 7	10 a.m. Torah Service led by Joyce Peckman & Erica Lieberman Garrett
Sunday, March 8	4 p.m. Classical Piano Event with Jan Price
Thursday, March 12	3–5 p.m. Age–Ing & Sage–ing with Lucinda & Oran
Friday, March 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Gloria Avner & Shari Carlquist
Sunday, March 15	10 a.m. Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, March 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman
Saturday, March 21	7 p.m. Movie Night
Sunday, March 22	5 p.m. Women’s Seder – RSVP
Friday, March 27	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Steve Jacobs & Lily Salomon
Saturday, March 28	10 a.m. Lily Salomon Bat Mitzva
Wednesday, April 1	5:30 p.m. First Passover Seder – RSVP
Friday, April 3	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garrett
Sunday, April 5	10 a.m. Sisterhood
Friday, April 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat & Yizkor Service led by Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner
Sunday, April 12	10 a.m. Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, April 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Saturday, April 18	7 p.m. Movie Night
Friday, April 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman

*Leaf on the tree of life:*

To Honor  
Richard Plutzer  
Loving Son of  
Ann and Arthur Plutzer  
1969 – 2026

*Yahrtzeit Plaque*

LILA MCKENZIE HENRY-STARR  
January 8, 2022 – March 14, 2022  
Sweetness and Light  
Love Always

# NOSH

## Artists among us

There is a new mix of our artist offerings in the KJCC Social Hall and entryway to the Sanctuary lately. Many of you have already noticed and remarked upon the dramatic, lovely pieces. Please excuse us for not having our identifying labels up yet, but as we get older, we get slower. Soon, all will be up. Soon you will see a collection of many beautiful images photographed and manipulated by Jan Hartz and two exquisite watercolor paintings by Barbara Bernstein. There are also compelling new works by Beth Kaminstein, Mercia Kreitman and the ever newly creative John Hawver. Encourage your friends to come to Jan's concert. Let the art be a bonus.

## Film Series

The next "Saturday Night at the Movies" will be on March 21st at 7 p.m. "Dough" is a 2015 comedy about an old Jewish baker struggling to keep his business afloat. Then his young apprentice drops some cannabis in the dough.... There will be dessert and discussion after the film.

## Sisterhood Book Club

Often the best meetings are when we agree that a book is less than wonderful. We pick it apart and begin to tell our own stories. Sometimes we add valuable personal information that gives background to a book. Several months ago, when our book delved into the privations people suf-

fered during WWII, Maria Deluca told us how her grandmother in Italy had made a gown using silk from a recovered parachute. Then at the February meeting held at Shirley Stein's home, she brought it to show us! If you or a friend want to join the book club, contact Linda Pollack at [Lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:Lindap4000@ymail.com).

## Purim

Purim & Pastrami was the brainchild of Ken Atlas several years ago, and has grown to be one of our favorite days of the year. We will celebrate Monday night March 2, Erev Purim, by reading the Purim story in English, round-robin style from our brand new Megillat Esther books. Then comes our Seudah - the required Purim feast. Ken, our sponsor, provides the pastrami, while Shari, Loni & Susan are cooking corned beef. We all provide the rest of the meal, coordinated by Susan. (RSVP required by March 1) That fulfills the mitzva of bringing gifts of food. A 50/50 raffle not only provides fun, but the proceeds will go to the Burton Memorial food bank, fulfilling the mitzvah of feeding the hungry. ♡

## ONEG SPONSORS

- March 6 ..... Richard & Mimi Bentolila • Celebrating Their Anniversary
- March 7 ..... David & Pat VanArtsdalen • Honoring Sisterhood
- March 13 ..... Jeff & Cheryl Margulies • Celebrating Jeff's Birthday  
Shari Carlquist • In Memory of Her Mother
- March 20 ..... Ken Atlas • Celebrating His Birthday
- March 27 ..... Jeff & Cheryl Margulies • Celebrating Their Anniversary  
David & Pat Vanartsdalen • Celebrating David's Birthday
- April 3 ..... Jane Friedman • Celebrating Her Birthday
- April 10 ..... Jules & Nettie Seder • Celebrating Their 60th Anniversary
- April 17 ..... Sisterhood
- April 24 ..... Susan Gordon • Celebrating Her Birthday

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:shari@directflowers.biz) to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

**ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR:** An oneg costs only \$72; a dinner is \$360. To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

**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 Ochs, 305-772-2584, or email [Dr.LMOCHS@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.LMOCHS@gmail.com) or Barbara Knowles, 305-772-0503.

**TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT 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 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 grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light.”

**Garden Bricks and Benches:** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. Purchase a beautifully engraved Garden Bench for \$1,000, as your ultimate tribute.

## 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.

### MARCH & APRIL 2026

#### Yahrzeit

Nadine Thompson  
 Marilyn Rapp  
 Karen Zoren  
 David Marmar  
 Arthur Plutzer  
 Kathy & Joe Shabathai  
 Joyce Ruthen  
 Joan Wohl  
 Lei Lane Steinberg  
 Larry & Dotty Wolfe  
 Mindy & Rich Agler  
 Dr. Robert Temkin  
 Mary & Richard Bentolila

#### In Honor/Memory of

Joyce Peckman  
 Michael & Lorena Kaufman  
 Harry & Rita Rzepka  
 Elaine Schulberg  
 Dennis Miller & Rosemary Ciotti  
 Steve & Joan Jacobs

#### Fundraiser Concert February 3

Gloria Avner  
 Jan & Steve Hartz  
 Joyce Peckman

#### Movie Nights

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

#### Tree of Life Leaf

Linda Pollack.....In memory of Richard Plutzer

#### General Donations

Michael & Lorena Kaufman  
 Marc Grobman & Luis Hildago  
 Lauren & Stuart Sax  
 Rita & Harry Rzepka.....In Honor of M'Liss  
 Regent-Cunha's Bat Mitzvah

#### Fundraiser Concert March 8

Donna Bolton  
 Judy & Adam Starr  
 Linda Pollack  
 Barnet Coltman  
 Jan & Steve Hartz  
 Gloria Avner  
 Erica Lieberman Garrett  
 Joe & Kathy Shabathai  
 Jenny & Stan Margulies  
 Harry & Rita Rzepka  
 Nadine Thompson  
 Shari Carlquist

#### Sisterhood Oneg Sponsorships

Jane Friedman ..... Celebrating Her Birthday  
 Roy & Elizabeth Pollack.....Celebrating Birthdays  
 of Roy, Elizabeth,  
 Madelyn, Will & Linda

### Shabbat Service Leaders

March 6 – Ki Tisa .....	Rivka & Max Trent
March 7 – Ki Tisa .....	Joyce Peckman & Joel Roth
March 13 – Vayechal Pikudei .....	Gloria Avner & Shari Carlquist
March 20 – Vayikra .....	Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman
March 27 – Tzav .....	Lily Salomon & Steve Jacobs
March 27 – Lily Salomon bat mitzvah .....	Lily Salomon & Steve Jacobs
April 3 – Chol Hamoed Pesach .....	Erica Lieberman Garrett
April 10 – Yizkor service – Shemini .....	Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner
April 17 – Tazria Metzora, Rosh Chodesh Iyar .....	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
April 24 – Acharei Mot –Kedoshim .....	Joyce Peckman

# KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER PURIM & PASTRAMI DELI NIGHT



**Monday, March 2, 2026**

**5:00 p.m. Purim Megillah Reading**

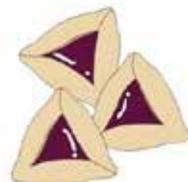
**6:00 p.m. Dinner**

**FESTIVE COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED**  
**Raffle will be held to benefit Tikun Olam**

**MAKE FOUR MITZVOT IN ONE NIGHT:**  
**Hear Megillat Esther ~~ The Ganze Megillah**  
**Enjoy a Festive Meal**  
**Share gifts of food with Neighbors and Friends**  
**Give Charity**

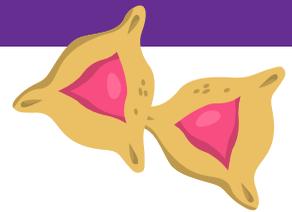


**Contact Susan 305-766-3585**  
**susangordon424@yahoo.com**  
**and let her know you are coming**





## Purim: Our Ears and Haman's: Self-Indulgence, Self-Sacrifice, and Selflessness



By Gloria Avner

**W**hat 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 spiral of Jewish life. Though the cyclical round of Jewish holiday observance remains constant, new insights into the old holidays pop up regularly. The *chagim* 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*, never changes. God's hidden hand is always at work behind the scenes as coincidence piles on co-incidence.

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. 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 (*mishloachmanot*, 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 remember what it was like. When we eat our pastrami and take up a collection in 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 Monday night, March 2nd, be outrageously slapstick on the eve of Purim: read the Megillah, eat pastrami generously donated by our President, Ken Atlas, and corned beef prepared by Susan Gordon and Shari Carlquist, drink wine, give gifts, and collect money for the poor. 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 44 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 a special thank you not just to Esther but to the intrepid Vashti, the girl who started this ball rolling by standing up and saying "NO!" Our ears are open. We hear you. ◇





*In Memoriam – March 2026*

**Frederick Schuessler**

by Richard Bentolila &  
Mimi Bentolila

**Harvey Roazen**

by Sylvia Berman

**Lorraine Levinson**

by Sylvia Berman

**Robert Berman**

by Sylvia Berman

**Dorothy Stanlake**

by Alan L. Beth &  
Candace J. Stanlake

**Mathew Strumor**

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Blitzer

**Gloria Portnof**

by Shari Carlquist

**Leroy Weisberg**

by Gerri Emkey & Frank Emkey

**Maxine Kaplan**

by Marsha Garrettson

**Harry Kaplan**

by Marsha Garrettson

**Sol Kurtz**

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

**Anna Horn**

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

**Harry Phillips**

by Patricia Isenberg

**Miriam Jacobs**

by Steven Jacobs & Joan Jacobs

**Luba Tuchman**

by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

**Monroe (Monty) Kaplan**

by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

**Jack Kaufman**

by Michael S. Kaufman &  
Lorena I. Kaufman

**Albert Cohen**

by Harvey Klein & Judith Klein

**Marian Rose Klimpl**

by Michael Klimpl

**Samual Lieberman**

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

**Oscar Margulies**

by Stanley Margulies &  
Jenny Margulies

**Jeffrey Pollack**

by Lani Moss

**Dorothy Ross**

by Joyce Peckman

**David Harvey**

by Linda Perloff

**Denise Moss**

by Linda Pollack

**Jeffrey Pollack**

by Linda Pollack

**Jeffrey Pollack**

by Roy Pollack &  
Mary Elizabeth Pollack

**Nate Schulberg**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Sondra Lundy**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Ida Seder**

by Jules Seder & Nettie Seder

**Isadore Seder**

by Jules Seder & Nettie Seder

**Alexandra Louise Starr**

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

**Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr**

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

**Mrs. Anne Miller**

by Shirley Stein

**Sara J. Cohen**

by Lei Steinberg

**Theresa Steinbock**

by Stephen Steinbock &  
Rosemary Barefoot

**Abe M. Reider**

by Muriel Swartz

**Gilda Tainow**

by Jon S. Tainow &  
Terry Willner-Tainow

**Anne Temkin**

by Robert Temkin

**Alice Weber**

by Judith Weber

**Deborah Eichler**

by Judith Weber

**Maxine Ruby Feinberg**

by Larry Wolfe & Dorothy Wolfe

**Leonid Vinarsky**

by Gregory Zakharin &  
Maya Zakharin





*In Memoriam – April 2026*

**Sylvia Agler**

by Richard Agler & Mindy Agler

**Roos Boudewijns**

by Roos-Mary Benowitz

**Helen Berman**

by Sylvia Berman

**Joe Clark**

by Alan L. Beth &  
Candace J. Stanlake

**Audrey Meddin Pearlman**

by William Bolton & Donna Bolton

**Irving Cohen**

by Rick Cohen & Bonni Cohen

**Ellen Coltman**

by Barnet O. Coltman

**Mark Hitzig**

by Wes Conklin & Rita Conklin

**Larry Ira Frankel**

by Miriam Frankel &  
Nadine Thompson

**Barbara Linda Hayes**

by Jane Friedman

**Frances Wolfe**

by Michael Gilson & Suzanne Gilson

**Bill Gordon**

by Susan Gordon

**Stella Hartz**

by Steven Hartz & Jan Hartz

**Gertrude F. Kaplan**

by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

**Nathan Klein**

by Harvey Klein & Judith Klein

**Elaine Gross**

by Randy Klein-Gross

**Fred Silverstein**

by Randy Klein-Gross

**Marilyn Janet Barr**

by Michael Klimpl

**Fred Klimpl**

by Michael Klimpl

**Shirley R. Krissel**

by Michael Krissel

**Bruce Pincus**

by Linda Pincus

**Joseph Lempel**

by Linda Pincus

**Erwin Moss**

by Linda Pollack

**Dr. Joel Pollack**

by Linda Pollack

**David Dale Regent**

by M'Issa Regent-Cunha &  
Tim Cunha

**Rabbi Milton Greenwald**

by Paul Roberts & Susan Roberts

**Mrs. Trudy Roth**

by Joel Roth & Mary Roth

**Sam Sax**

by Stuart Sax & Lauren Sax

**Richard Schulberg**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Sally Shabathai**

by Joseph Shabathai &  
Katherine Shabathai

**Claire Smith**

by Stuart Smith & Geri Smith

**Morris Smith**

by Stuart Smith & Geri Smith

**Ida Tallent**

by Claire Tallent

**Lillian D. Tallent**

by Claire Tallent

**Buffie Marie Sherman**

by Robert Temkin

**Dr. Milton A. Wohl**

by Joan P. Wohl





**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
CONGREGATION OHR HAYAM**

# **A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**

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*Come and experience parlor life through  
intimate stories and pictures,  
period ballgowns,  
afternoon refreshments,  
and a  
Classical Piano Recital*

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 8, 2026**

**4:00 P.M.**

**DONATION \$36**

**STUDENTS \$10**

**PAY VIA PAY PAL**



**CONTACTS:**

**JOYCE 732-447-5225**

**LONI 305-772-2584**

**LOCATION - KJCC**

**MM 93.5 OCEANSIDE**





# Tradition

**THE JEWISH FAITH AND CUSTOMS VERY MUCH ENGAGE IN LIVING HISTORY REENACTMENTS.**

**W**e re-create the Seder every year, We dress up for Purim and read the story of Esther, and every Friday night, light candles, sing old, familiar tunes with the prayers & we turn around to the back door to welcome the Sabbath bride. This is some of the glue that both connect us and reminds us of important lessons; remembering history through Tradition. This I have experienced at the KJCC.

I don't remember when it really first began, my interest, fascination and curiosity, with history, it's stories, societal influences, wondering what it was

really like 'back then': however, I think living history reenactments both teach us, honor our ancestors and keep good traditions alive.

For me, historical reenactments involve the dress, customs, food, the arts of the era including the dances and music. So yes, for the 1800s that includes wearing corsets, learning parlor games, hand sewing garments and of course the music - Beethoven and Chopin to name just two of the Titans of 19th Century music. And when it comes to dancing! What a shift from 18th century Playford balls to the popularizing of the scandalous waltz and all its styles and permutations.

I don't always go around in corsets, petticoats; stepping into a life of 100 years ago. My dog Etta 'helps' at the piano, and often piano practice garb is sweats! However, I have been practicing the piano while wearing my corset because on March 8, 2026 4PM you will have the opportunity to step with me into 19th Century, meet two wonderful women, both pianists of the day who were very involved in Beethoven and Chopin's lives and their world. Listen to their music, stories and see how it was back then- through music, period dress, refreshments and deportment. ◇



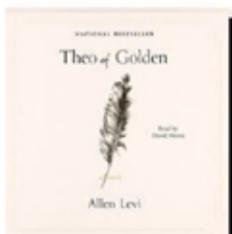


## KJCC SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

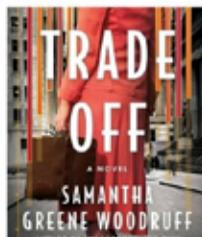


March 26, 2026 *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi

April 26, 2026 *The Trade Off* by Samantha Greene Woodruff



**A mysterious, kindhearted man brings joy to a southern town by buying local art and returning it to its subjects, sparking stories and connections.**



**A brilliant and ambitious young woman strives to find her place amid the promise and tumult of 1920s Wall Street in a captivating historical novel.**

*We will always Zoom and usually meet in person as well. An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.*

**QUESTIONS/INPUT: CONTACT LINDA @ 305-587-7429  
LINDAP4000@YMAIL.COM**

**LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
LIVE AT 12:15  
ZOOM AT 12:30**

**Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book.**

## WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



### **Saving Lives on the Battlefield**

Oz Lotati, 29, IDF reservist and industrial design graduate of Holon Institute of Technology (HIT), developed a portable blood bank powered by military contact batteries. Lotati saw firsthand the gaps in battlefield medical care during Israel's Swords of Iron War (the name given by Israel for the war launched against Hamas in Gaza following the October 7th, 2023, attacks) and was determined to fix one of the most critical problems he experienced on the battlefield himself.

"I was on reserve duty from October 7 and couldn't stay indifferent to what we went through in the field," Lotati said. "...I understood that a well-designed product can save lives."

The reality of combat today shows an unfortunate deficiency in life-saving care. There is currently no reliable way to keep blood supplies properly cooled in the field. Standard containers and ice chests offer only limited preservation time, leaving medics, combat lifesavers and front-line doctors unable to ensure blood quality under extreme conditions. "When I found out there was no solution for carrying fully cooled blood in the combat zone, I knew this was a project I had to develop," Lotati said. So, for his final design project, he created a portable rugged blood cooler specifically for soldiers and field medical teams. The system uses an active cooling mechanism with a compact compressor and advanced insulation, maintaining a stable temperature longer than makeshift options. The cooler runs on standard military radio batteries already used by soldiers and can also connect to vehicle power outlets, generators, electric sockets and even solar panels.

"The goal is that blood reaches the wounded quickly and at top quality," Lotati said. "I want to

make life-saving treatment accessible even in the most remote and dangerous parts of the battlefield under fire...For that you need a system that's autonomous, mobile, durable, lightweight and compatible with operational gear. That's exactly what I aimed for."

This current blood refrigerator is a working prototype, laying the groundwork for further development and field testing. "This is much more than a final project," Lotati said. "It's a moral duty. I saw with my own eyes what it means to be in the field without available blood, and if this product saves even one soldier, then I've fulfilled my mission." ([www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com), 1-6-26)

### **Israeli Bobsled Team: How it Began**

He's a dreamer who imagined building a Mediterranean team for the Winter Olympics. He then added a rugby player who can do flips, threw in three athletes who gave up on their disciplines and put them all into a bobsled. That's how the story of Israel's bobsled team begins — a team that made its debut at the Milan-Cortina Winter Games.

The driving force behind the Israeli team is Adam (AJ) Edelman, 34, the man with the vision. He is believed to be the first Orthodox Jew to compete in the Winter Games. (At the time of this writing, the team is in last place out of 26 sleds at the midway point of the Olympics.) They had the slowest starts and slowest finishes in both of their two heats and finished nearly five seconds — a massive gap, behind leader Johannes Lochner of Germany. They also had absolutely no complaints afterward, thrilled to just have had the opportunity to participate.

In the team photo released after qualification,

two things stood out: a verse from the Bible written on the sled — “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” The quote is from Genesis 28:16, where Jacob realizes God’s presence in a place he did not expect. Also, a picture of a small dog named Lulu, – Edelman’s pet who sometimes accompanies him on trips and serves as something of a team mascot.

The story behind the biblical verse originated when their sled, which they had lent to another team, returned damaged. “The frame was bent and that has a huge impact. We’re like Formula 1 — without good equipment it doesn’t matter how good you are,” explained head coach Itamar Shprintz. “AJ panicked. We were two weeks before a competition and he posted on X that we were looking for a sponsor. Alongside insane hate messages because of the war, a call came from a man who asked to remain anonymous. He said he would buy the team whatever it needed. The sled costs more than \$100,000 and the next day it was already ordered. He asked for just one thing – that this verse be written on it.

*Israel had 10 athletes at the Milan Cortina Olympics. (www.ynetnews.com, 2-6-26)*

### **And the Winner is...**

Eli Sharabi’s memoir, “Hostage”, recounting his experience in Hamas captivity and the daily struggle to survive after Hamas terrorists stormed Kibbutz Be’eri

on October 7, 2023, has been named Book of the Year by the National Jewish Book Awards. Sharabi spent 491 days in captivity, much of it in tunnels beneath Gaza, before being released as part of a negotiated deal.

The awards, presented by the Jewish Book Council and considered among the most prestigious honors in Jewish literature, recognizes outstanding English-language books of Jewish interest across dozens of categories.

Founded in 1950, the program is the longest-running North American awards initiative devoted to Jewish books. Sharabi’s memoir became a best-seller in Israel and was then released in English in the U.S. “This recognition means so much to me, not only personally, but for the memory of my family and all those we lost,” Sharabi said. “‘Hostage’ is my testimony, a story of my survival, written so others could bear witness. I hope it helps ensure that what happened is never forgotten.” Throughout the ordeal, Sharabi clung

to the hope of rescue, writing: ‘I refuse to let myself drown in pain. I am surviving. I am a hostage. In the heart of Gaza. A stranger in a strange land. In the home of a Hamas-supporting family. And I’m getting out of here. I have to. I’m getting out of here. I’m coming home.’”

For a full listing of awards, go to <https://www.jta.org/2026/02/18/culture/eli-sharabis-hostage-memoir-named-jewish-book-of-the-year> ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-28-26)

### **“A True Showing of Solidarity with Israel”**

At the end of December, Israel Bonds announced that it exceeded \$2 billion in global sales in 2025, the third year in a row that it has nearly doubled its typical annual totals before 2023, president and CEO of Israel Bonds Dani Naveh said. “This record-breaking momentum reflects sustained global confidence in Israel’s economy,” he said. “Investing in Israel Bonds is both a financial decision and a meaningful way to stand with Israel and the Jewish people.”

Israel Bonds said global sales rose sharply following the Hamas attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and have “remained consistently elevated” during what it described as an “increasingly hostile global climate toward the Jewish state and its supporters. This achievement demonstrates that the surge of support we witnessed was not a temporary response, but a true show of solidarity with Israel,” said Dr. Andrew Hutter, national and international chairman of Israel Bonds’ board of directors. Israel Bonds are government-backed bonds issued by Israel that let individuals and institutions invest in the country’s economy while earning interest. Since its founding more than seven decades ago, Israel Bonds has generated more than \$55 billion in global investment.

The announcement comes as Israel Bonds approaches its 75th anniversary in 2026 and as U.S. state investments in the bonds continue to draw political inspection. ([www.jns.org](http://www.jns.org), 12-29-25)

### **In Memoriam**

–According to data provided by Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the number of active-duty Israeli soldier suicides in 2025 was 22, the highest number since 2010, when 28 soldiers took their own lives, the year after Operation Cast Lead – a three-week military campaign launched by Israel against Hamas in late 2008 and early 2009. It was a response to increased rocket fire from Gaza into

southern Israel.

Army officials warn that 2026 is expected to be a particularly challenging year due to the cumulative strain following a prolonged period of fighting.

*The IDF data provides only a partial picture of the phenomenon as it does not include soldiers who died by suicide after leaving active-duty service. Army officials estimate that since the start of the war, some fifteen former soldiers who served during the conflict have taken their own lives after discharge. Unlike those who died while on active duty, these individuals are not officially recognized as IDF fallen soldiers (although their families may apply to the Ministry of Defense for recognition as "fallen soldiers who died following discharge.")* ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 1-1-26)

- Saul Zabar, who led his family's famed grocery store for over seven decades and helped make it a cornerstone of Jewish culture in New York City, died recently at 97. For more than seven decades, Zabar led his family's famed Upper West Side Jewish market, beloved for its bagels, smoked fish, and classic Ashkenazi fare. Former New York City Mayor Eric Adams said, "Zabar's isn't just a store, it's a slice of NYC soul. May his memory be a blessing."

Born in 1928 to Jewish immigrant parents who established Zabar's in 1934 as the smoked fish department of a supermarket on Broadway, Saul Zabar initially set out to become a doctor. But those plans were cut short in 1950 when his father died at 49, and Zabar and his brother, Stanley, stepped in to run the store alongside Murray Klein, who joined the store in 1953. As the grocery's president and principal owner, Zabar took a hands-on approach to the store's counters, where the Manhattan storefront serves some 2,000 pounds of smoked fish and 8,000 pounds of coffee each week to roughly 40,000 customers.

Today, the iconic Jewish market features a wide array of classic Ashkenazi foods, from bagels and babka to fish salads, pickles, deli meats, and the family's signature rugelach.

The store appeared in "You've Got Mail," starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, as well as on "Seinfeld." It's been said that the only local issue to unite Jews and non-Jews, Zionists and anti-Zionists and progressives and conservatives in New York City is a love for the Upper West Side emporium, Zabar's.

*Announcing his passing, Zabar's wrote, "Saul's*

*passing marks the end of an era, but his legacy lives on in every bagel, every slice of smoked fish, every cup of coffee, and every conversation that fills our store each day."* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 10-7-25)

- Hessa Levinsons Taft, the Jewish woman whose photo as an infant was publicized throughout Nazi Germany for being an example of the perfect Aryan baby, died in January at age 91. In 1934, when Taft was 6 months old, her parents — Latvian Jewish opera singers living in Berlin — had her portrait taken by photographer Hans Ballin. Ballin submitted her photo to a Nazi contest seeking the perfect Aryan baby. It was selected by Joseph Goebbels, the notorious Nazi chief of propaganda, and appeared on the cover of *Sonne ins Haus*, a pro-Nazi publication. The image spread widely across Germany in magazines, advertisements, postcards, and homes. When confronted with the matter by Taft's parents, Ballin said he knew she was Jewish but submitted her photo anyway as a prank, exposing the absurdity of Nazi theories on race.

Taft told Reuters in 2014 that she thanked the photographer for having the courage to challenge his government despite not being Jewish. "It was an irony that needed to be exposed." Her parents were horrified by the ordeal, fearing execution if her true identity were discovered. Consequently, they kept her indoors and rarely took her out for walks, determined to keep the truth of the photograph a secret.

Taft revealed the story publicly in 1987 in the book "Muted Voices: Jewish Survivors of Latvia Remember" by Gertrude Schneider. The episode became a source of pride for her, and she described it as a form of "good revenge."

The family decided to leave Germany in 1937 as Nazi power intensified. They moved through Latvia, Paris, Nice and Cuba, eventually settling in New York City in 1949.

Taft would go on to pursue a degree in chemistry, receiving degrees from Barnard and Columbia. She worked for over 30 years at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey, overseeing Advanced Placement chemistry exams for high school students. At age 66, she became an adjunct professor at St. John's University in Queens, teaching chemistry and researching water sustainability.

In 1959, she married Earl Taft, who died in 2021. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 1-10-26) ◇



# 21st Annual Women's Seder



**Sunday, March 22, 2026, 5:00 p.m. at KJCC**  
**Honoring our Woman of the Year**



**Join us as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam**  
**~Repair the World~**

**Please contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett**  
**hippiejap@hotmail.com**  
**305-570-9310 by March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**to coordinate your food offering and**  
**reserve your spot.**  
**Seating is limited.**  
**Donation \$39**

**Mail your check, payable to KJCC Sisterhood,**  
**to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070**



This year we will celebrate in person our 21st annual Women's Seder, continuing our tradition of fund-raising for Tikkun Olam, while we celebrate Passover and honor our woman of the year. This year we will present Nadine Thompson and celebrate her accomplishments.

We will join together in making our beautiful tapestry, we will dance together, and we will enjoy a delicious homemade traditional Passover meal.

Our fundraising efforts will support three charities, The Talia Agler Girls Shelter founded by Rabbi Richard and Mindy Agler, Belev Echad, a fund for families of wounded Israeli soldiers, and to our local Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, which helps our local Keys women and children.

We will honor historically a woman of the past this year. We will present Susan Gordon whose woman of the year honor came during our Covid time and we were unable to fully acknowledge her.

Tickets are \$39 for the evening and we are excited to be having wonderful raffle baskets at the event to further support our charities. We will be sending out a letter to our congregation with hopes that all the donations will help in our fundraising efforts for these meaningful and important charities.

Please contact Erica Lieberman Garrett at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) to reserve your space which is limited. We look forward to seeing all the women this year and enjoying this wonderful annual special event.

*Spring's breath whispers soft,  
Buds unfurl in joy's embrace...  
Fruits of grace abound.-Spring haiku*

## SISTERHOOD REPORT Loni Ochs



Welcome to the spring months that are full of wonderful activities and exciting opportunities to become more involved with your mishpocha at the KJCC. Purim is upon us, Passover begins the first of April and Sisterhood is busy planning for two wonderful Seders and lots of other festivities as well!

Join us for the much-anticipated annual Purim & Pastrami Deli Night!!! Monday, March 2nd, starting at 5pm at the KJCC. Do all your four mitzvot in one night...hear Megillat Esther, enjoy a festive meal, share gifts of food with friends, and give charity. We will begin at 5pm for the Megillah reading, 6pm deli feast, followed by 7:30pm services. Wear your festive masks and costumes for the party and bring your wallet for our Tikun Olam raffle. Please contact Susan 305-766-3585 [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com) for a reservation and to coordinate your deli side dish, as usual there is no charge for this always well attended event, sponsored by Ken Atlas.

The Sisterhood is most pleased to host the Annual Sisterhood Passover Seder on Sunday March 22nd, 5pm at the KJCC. Please join us as we continue our mission of Tikkun Olam...repairing the world, or at least our little corner of it! This is a special time for our women to celebrate Passover together in a meaningful way. Our honored woman of the year was chosen as Nadine Thompson for her years of selfless service and overall menschiness. Nadine's contributions to both the KJCC and the sisterhood are endless, and we truly appreciate everything she does! During the intermission between dinner and dessert we will be dancing and giving out the Joel Cohen award. Any donations for our raffle would be greatly appreciated... art, jewelry, gift certificates, etc. Contact Loni or Susan for raffle submissions. Please contact Erica Lieberman Garrett [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) 305-570-9310 by March 18th for reservations and to coordinate your food offering. The cost is \$39 per person, and we do have a maximum of 50 ladies, so secure your spot early for this most festive and inspiring event!

Join us for a historical musical soiree on Sunday, March 8th at 4pm at the KJCC for a special performance on our 1901 grand Steinway piano by our very own concert pianist, Jan Price. Come experience 19th century parlor life through intimate stories and pic-

tures, period ballgowns and afternoon refreshments. Donation is \$36 per person, students \$10. This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year, so we also have tier levels for donors starting at \$100. Please contact Joyce 732-447-5225 if you would like to be a donor and contact Loni 305-772-2584 for regular tickets.

Please plan to join your KJCC mishpocha for the Annual Community Seder on Wednesday, April 1st at 5pm. Be on the lookout for a flyer in your inbox for this very special catered event. Tickets are \$55. Contact Susan Gordon for reservations. 305-766-3585 [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com)

The Sisterhood Book Club led by Linda Pollack meets every 3rd Thursday of the month, always on zoom and usually in person to nosh & discuss the latest book. The February 26th meeting will be at Shirley Stein's home, and the book selection is *The Girl that was Left Behind* by Tamar Ohrenstein. After discovering a photograph hidden in her late mother's cabinet, a young woman travels to Europe in the hopes of uncovering her origins...and the reason she was left behind. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at (305)587-7429 [Lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:Lindap4000@ymail.com)

Once again, I would like to thank the sponsors that we rely on to support the onegs and dinners throughout the year. To honor a loved one or celebrate a milestone or just because, contact Joyce at [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com) or 732-447-5225. Oneg sponsorship is \$72 and dinner sponsorship is \$360. The sisterhood ladies always put together a delicious spread with love for our congregants after Friday services. We are grateful for everyone's continued support in funding challah, wine, coffee, soda, cake, and paper goods.

By the time you are reading this, Sisterhood will have already had the March meeting but please join us for the next meeting on Sunday April 5th, 10am at the KJCC. We always have much planning to do, and I am grateful to all the dedicated women who work so hard and with a smile to keep our KJCC full of life and thriving.◊

# Eye on the Arts

- “Little Shop of Horrors” at Marathon Community Theater. March 5-21 – 305-743-0994. [www.marathontheater.org](http://www.marathontheater.org)
- “In The Heights” – Coral Shores Drama Club – Sat. Feb. 28 & March 7 – 7:30 p.m. Sun – 2:30
- Key Largo Library “The Kennedys” singer/songwriters. 6-7 p.m. March 6
- Jan Price Classical Piano “Living History” presentation, featuring life and work of Beethoven, Chopin & Schubert. March 8 – KJCC – 4 p.m. \$36 [www.keysjewish-center.com](http://www.keysjewish-center.com) 732-447-5225 for info
- Art Walk at Morada Way – Thursday night March 19 – 6-9 p.m. MM. 81.5 Original art, crafts, live music
- Art Guild of the Purple Isles –60th annual Juried Art show – through March 30 at Dolphin Life Hospital 82748 Overseas Hwy. Free admission to the show 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- “Wildlife of the Florida Keys” art exhibit at Our Place in Paradise, 88711 Overseas Hwy, March 7-30. 10a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sundays
- Moss Center at Cutler Ridge – Although not in our Keys, it is only just off Turnpike exit 12 and has some pretty good events, including “Swan Lake” on March 29th. Check out [www.Mosscenter.org](http://www.Mosscenter.org)
- Island Fest – Founders Park 10 a.m.-5 p.m. –March 28 & 29 – juried art show, music, food and more
- Key Largo Library concert “Alligator Alley” April 4 6-7 p.m.
- “Wait until Dark” at Marathon Theater April 16-30. For info: [www.marathontheater.org](http://www.marathontheater.org)





*From the Committee for Israel*  
**Notes on the News**  
by Judy Starr

**In these turbulent times, it is important to note events of positivity, pride, and hope.**

1. Home at Last, and brought home by his own people of his country, the remains of Ran Gvili, the hero who sacrificed not only his surgery date, but ultimately his life, to save the lives of others on October 7, 2023, were at last return to his family. This was accomplished autonomously by Israel, in the complete absence of cooperation by the enemy who took Ran Gvili's life, along with the lives of so many others, both Israeli and Gazan. Still in uniform, his body was buried along with the remains of hundreds of others, including women and children, apparently who had been cynically used as human shields. The process of rescue required 150 Israelis working on-site under the protection of the IDF. The details of this complex operation, completed in under 24 hours, are covered in (among other sources) the New York Sun.\*

Isn't it ironic, if not hypocritical, that the craven strategy of innocent humans substituting for shields yields minimal public outrage?

The same is true of the massacre of Iranian protestors, whose courage and determination deserve a place in the history of the human struggle for freedom.

2. "Let My People Go," could well apply to the cry of the thousands of oppressed Iranians who are rebelling against the tyranny of the ayatollahs and their enforcers who have ruled the population for nearly fifty years.

What is additionally encouraging is that these demonstrators, so many of them, want to overturn the government that wants to destroy Israel, and ideally, the United States. Great numbers of the population are allied to many of

the things that the United States, the West, and our spiritual homeland, Israel, represent.

While this is an unbalanced civil war, there are signs as of this writing that the outcome, at great cost to the Iranian population, may nevertheless result in an alignment of powers more favorable to our values and every nation aligned with Western Judaeo-Christian values.

3. The discussion of strategies to disempower anti-Semitism - including systematic reform of institutions, i.e. schools, that have anti-Semitism and anti-Westernism embedded in their administrators, is ongoing and public. There is no hiding in the shadows, but rather a confrontation with an evil that needs to be addressed, and neither acquiesced to nor ignored. That is, people at points of power are acknowledging that this problem for the Jewish people is, in fact, a problem for all people of good will. Major progress may not be immediate, but the vile tide of the past three years is subject to public and open discussion, and anti-Semites are subject to censure and shame. And that is a very refreshing, encouraging thought.

So, as we segue into the spring of this year, let us take with us a breath of fresh air and encouragement, and stand, if cautious and alert, even so grateful, engaged, tall, and proud.

\*Jotan Confino, "We Worked Through 800 Graves': Inside the Harrowing Overnight Operation to Recover Stain Israeli Hostage Ran Gvili," The New York Sun (online), 1.28.26. \*\*Belated thanks are due to Commentary Magazine for their kind permission to reprint the article by Seth Mandel in the January-February C'hai Lights (pp. 18-19), "Israel Is Where Theory Stops and Reality Begins." ◇



KEYS JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTER

*Congregation Ohr HaYam*

Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**

## **KJCC FAMILY PASSOVER SEDER**

**It is time to gather 'round the collective table and tell our story of escape one more time. It is why we are here and how we survive (while eating great food).**

**HAPPY  
PASSOVER**



**For information and reservations contact  
Nadine Thompson.**

**Email [nagft@aol.com](mailto:nagft@aol.com) or send text to 646-361-2399.**

**Please rsvp and pay by 3/25/26 - limited seating.**

**This is a catered dinner.**

**Scan QR code to pay by Venmo or mail check to  
KJCC Sisterhood,  
PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070**

**Donations - Adults \$55; children 12 and under \$18**



# Happy Birthday!

## March

2nd..... Nadine Thompson  
 3rd ..... Stephen Steinbock  
 7th ..... Hannah Feig  
 8th ..... Rita Rzepka  
 10th ..... Kate Horowitz  
 12th ..... Oceana Gross  
 13th ..... Ira Stein  
 13th ..... Lily Salomon  
 14th ..... Jenna Lane  
 15th ..... Johanna Willner  
 15th ..... Maria Cartagena  
 16th ..... Jeff Margulies  
 16th ..... Natalie Hope Markowitz  
 17th ..... Daniel Friedman  
 23rd ..... Ken Atlas  
 24th ..... Chuck Traugott  
 25th ..... Stephanie Coeurjoly  
 25th ..... Sylvia Berman  
 26th ..... Marsie Rubin  
 26th ..... Tamerat M. Duman  
 27th ..... Sarah Hesterman  
 29th ..... Jacklyn Nina Zakharin  
 30th ..... David VanArtsdalen  
 31st..... Jane Friedman  
 31st..... Sari Eliz. Goldstein

## April

4th ..... Larry Weber  
 4th ..... Lauren Lane  
 4th ..... Thomas Brodie  
 5th ..... Jon Tainow  
 8th ..... Dennis Miller  
 9th ..... David Feder  
 9th ..... Landon Blackford  
 10th ..... Steven Jacobs  
 12th ..... Richard Knowles  
 13th ..... Moira Knowles  
 13th ..... Samantha Kichler  
 15th ..... Rachel Roth  
 16th ..... Adam Starr  
 16th ..... Dave Jacob VanArtsdalen  
 17th ..... Susan Ellner  
 18th ..... Jennifer Garrett  
 18th ..... Lauren Sax  
 19th ..... Ryan Simpson  
 20th ..... Michael Duman  
 22nd..... Susan Temkin  
 22nd..... Sydney Cohen  
 24th ..... Susan Gordon  
 25th ..... Shirley Stein  
 28th ..... Joni Sages Dandrea  
 29th ..... Linda Pollack  
 30th ..... Joel Roth  
 30th ..... Rachel Barrett

# Happy Anniversary

## March

	<b>Years</b>
6th Richard & Mimi Bentolila.....	44
3rd Rick Cohen & Bonni Cohen .....	42
16th Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	18
30th Jeff & Cheryl Margulies .....	58
8th Ken and Tonya Salomon .....	18
8th Adam & Judy Starr .....	22

## April

	<b>Years</b>
25th William Fusco and Melissa Katz-Fusco .....	27
25th Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder .....	30
3rd Jules & Nettie Seder .....	60
10th Stuart & Geri Smith.....	61
18th Susan White.....	22

# A New Take on the Ten Commandments

Steve Jacobs delivered this d'var to us about a month ago. It had such interesting insights, we didn't want anyone to miss the opportunity to mull it over.

## ENVY AND THE NINE COMMANDMENTS

By Steve Jacobs

**P**arshat Yitro is found right at the midpoint of the book of Shmot, the book of Exodus. At this point in the book of Exodus the Israelites have just been freed from their slavery in Egypt, escaped Pharaoh's pursuit by God's parting of the Red Sea, and are at the foot of Mt. Sinai.

The title of the parsha, Yitro, is actually a proper name. It is the name of Moses' father-in-law. The first part of the parsha details how Yitro had come down from Midian to see Moses after hearing of the miracles that God had performed. Yitro, actually a priest of a pagan religion, explicitly states that the Israelite's God is the true God. But we're not going to dwell on Yitro's visit with Moses as the second part of the parsha describes possibly the single most important event in the Torah – the revelation of God to the people of Israel from atop Mt. Sinai, the confirmation of the covenant between God and the Jews, and the presentation of the Ten Commandments.

God reveals himself to the people of Israel in a light and sound show. As they are gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai, there is thunder and lightning, the blast of a shofar, and the mountain quakes violently. To the entire nation of Israel God repeats

the covenant that he originally made with Abraham -- that if the Jews obey God's commandments, he will make them his chosen people. God then proceeds to tell them the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are frequently divided into two groups of five. The first five are said to deal with our relationship to God – one God, no other God, don't take God's name in vain, keep the Shabbat and honor your parents – a bit of a stretch, but grouped here because like God, your parents created you. The second five are said to deal with relations between us and our fellow humans – don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness, and don't envy your fellow man or woman.

But many of the sages grouped them into three groups of three. The first three (one God, no other God, do not take God's name in vain) are about God. The second set (keep Shabbat, honor parents, do not murder) are about createdness. Shabbat reminds us of the birth of the universe. Our parents brought us into being. Murder is forbidden because we are all created in God's image. The third three (don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't bear false witness) are about the basic institutions of society: the sanctity of marriage, the integrity of private property, and the administration of justice. Lose any of these and freedom begins to crumble.

But let's focus on the tenth commandment, "You shall not covet your neighbor's

house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Covet here means to desire, yearn for, crave.

First, some argue that this commandment doesn't fit into any of the three prior categories. But more importantly, whereas the prior nine commandments all deal with a belief or with an action, either proscribed or forbidden, this commandment deals with an emotion, envy or jealousy. You can choose to believe that there is only one God, and you can choose to either commit or not commit an action. But here we are expected to be able to control our emotions, envy, and not feel something, even transiently.

Of all the possible emotions that God could've chosen that could've been in the 10th commandment, why this one? To answer this the Rabbis have focused on what God is telling us in this commandment.

God's preamble before stating the Ten Commandments is, "I the ETERNAL am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage". He ends with this 10th commandment. God has liberated us from externally-imposed slavery, but it is up to us to liberate ourselves from the slavery to things and possessions, from the slavery of thinking that we deserve more than we have, from the slavery of focusing more on what we don't have than what we do have.

Envy has already been one of the prime

drivers of violence in the Torah. It's what led Cain to murder Abel. Abraham and Isaac at times feared for their lives, as they were concerned that local rulers who coveted their wives would murder them. Envy lay at the heart of the hatred of the Joseph's brothers. They resented his special treatment at the hands of their father and his technicolor deamcoat. That envy led them to contemplate killing him and then selling him into slavery. Envy can lead to breaking many of the other commands: it can move people to adultery, theft, false testimony, and even murder.

We as Jews have a special insight into the evil of envy. Envy and jealousy have played a large part in the basis of anti-Semitism for centuries. Anti-Semites have long envied the Jews ability to succeed and prosper, even or actually especially under adverse conditions. Anti-Semites blame their own failures on the success of the Jews. Envy.

Envy creeps into consciousness when, instead of defining ourselves in terms of our relationship to God, we start defining ourselves by comparing ourselves to other people. Avoiding envy allows us to celebrate what we have and to be what we are, instead of focusing on what we don't have and wanting to be what we are not. By following this 10th commandment we are not only honoring our part of the covenant with God, we will lead more fulfilling and joyful lives. ◇

# Passover, When Our Soul Food Crunches

By Joyce Peckman

Jews are called the “People of the Book” and on Passover our book is the Haggadah. This book is read around a dining table, along with friends and family, and food. For me, that scene epitomizes what our faith is all about: history, prayer, thankfulness, friends, family and food.

Food is one of the more difficult aspects of Judaism. For the observant Jew, a lot is already off limits. No shellfish or fish without scales (eel, catfish, shark, skate are examples); no pork products (that includes bacon, Italian sausage and lard), no furry little animals like squirrel or rabbit. Then there is the prohibition against mixing milk with meat, so bye-bye cheeseburger.

Along comes Passover, and the strictures multiply. Many people, like me, who aren’t totally kosher outside their homes, will “become orthodox” with their food during the week of Passover.

Keeping kosher for Passover means abstaining from hametz, the fermented products of five grains: wheat, rye, spelt, barley and oats. Yeast or sourdough starter are some examples of how fermentation makes bread. Matzah is made from grain, but it is produced under highly controlled

conditions to ensure that it does not ferment. Shemurah matzah (usually round and very thin) is literally “guarded” from the moment the wheat is harvested. The wheat is ground in a mill which has been cleaned, dried and inspected by rabbis, then watched as it transported to the bakery, to make sure no water touches it. The

dough is generally kneaded and shaped by hand. Holes are made to prevent air pockets from forming that might keep the dough from completely cooking within 18 minutes. Shemurah matzoh is believed to be similar to the unleavened bread carried in haste by the Children of Israel as they fled Egypt. For that reason, many people believe that the prayers recited during the

seder should be over shemurah matzah. My sons love the stuff, even though it is more expensive than the Streits or Manischewitz machine-made varieties. I think it sometimes tastes like cooked cardboard. Because it is baked quickly in a very hot oven, it is more burnt than the machine-made, and often has broken pieces. Although the broken pieces can’t be used to make a blessing, they are just fine with charoset or chopped liver.



We are told in the Bible to remove all leaven from our homes. For me, that means using up the bagels and cakes in my freezer as the holiday approaches, then emptying my closets of opened cracker and cereal boxes, taking off the couch cushions to vacuum out cookie crumbs and thoroughly cleaning the fridge. Anything opened gets tossed. Anything unopened gets boxed or segregated in a taped cabinet. But it is still in my home...how to deal with that? The rabbis found a method: sell the chametz! Rabbi Zucker of Key West Chabad is my go-to-guy. I go to his website, give my address, and he arranges for a non-Jew to "buy" all of my stuff. In theory, this person could come to my house and take my cereals, rice cakes, beer and whiskey, but he never has.

Kitniot (or kitnios since this is an Ashkenazi issue) is the next Passover food topic. The word comes from the Hebrew word katan which means "small." It refers to the small grains not included in the grains listed above, such as rice, buckwheat/kasha, beans, peas, chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower, mustard and poppy seeds and corn; these are all kitniyot. It is an Ashkenazi minhag (custom) that developed in Europe in the Middle Ages to avoid this during Pe-

sach. The reasons cited in Mishnah Berurah are that these grains are harvested, ground into flour and baked in the same way as the five grains of chametz. Because they are so small, they may have grains of chametz accidentally mixed in. Avoiding kitniot can be difficult. Corn syrup is found almost everywhere, as is corn and soybean oil. Vegetarians who rely on beans for protein have a right to complain as well. The evolving rabbinical discussion would take its own book. Those who keep strictly kosher look for the small P next to a regular kosher symbol. In the spring, Coke makes a run of special soda using sugar instead of corn syrup. Many soda lovers stock up... it really tastes better! Most Sephardic Jews do not follow the rules of kitniyot, and enjoy rice and beans at their Seders. In the 19th Century, Reform Judaism formally permitted eating kitniyot, and in 1989 the Responsa Committee of the Israel Conservative movement ruled that Conservative Jews in Israel may eat it. Orthodox and most Conservative Ashkenazi Jews worldwide avoid Kitniot during Passover, but attitudes are slowly changing, including in my house.

However you celebrate it, I wish you a happy holiday. Enjoy the crunch. Chag Samaich! ◇



## PHOTO GALLERY

During the KJCC Annual meeting, the new Officers & Directors were installed for another year. Thank you to Samantha Simpson for leading the swearing in ceremony.

Loni Ochs, President of Sisterhood, presents a \$10,000 donation check to KJCC President Ken Atlas during the General Annual Meeting.



Erica and niece Carlie enjoy an oneg together.

Gloria Avner and Judy Starr--just two of our widely diverse service leader partners. They would be happy to work with you too.





Michael Kaufman sent us this picture of his "beautiful Geisha Girl." Lorena looks lovely in Japan.

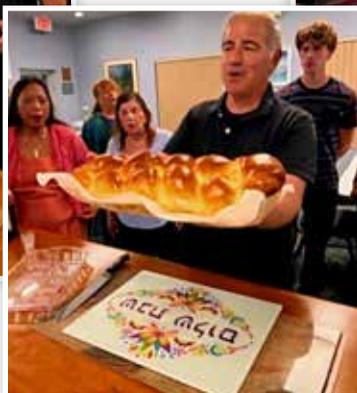


It was a very cold day in Tavernier, but we managed to plant a blackberry tree for Tu B'shvat!



KJCC Sisterhood looks forward to another fabulous, fun, and productive year! We welcome our new slate of officers: Loni Ochs/President, Shari Carlquist/Vice President, Erica Lieberman Garrett/Treasurer, & Jan Price/Recording Secretary. Thank you to Donna Bolton for expertly conducting the swearing in ceremony.





Rabbi Ed leads kiddish after services. Eight students from Eckerd College spent the day doing Coral restoration. Holding one of Jane's giant freshly made challah



Some of us went to Surprise Art Itkin on his birthday! What a wonderful celebration for a wonderful man! He was happily surprised to see us.



Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman lead a beautiful Havdalah service generously hosted by Linda Pollack at her home, a perfect sunset viewing place. Our "third meal" was great, the sunset was beautiful, the service was sweet and we really enjoyed the ukulele concert afterwards



Susan's Nephew Jeffrey and his daughter's Rosie and Lily and wife Sarah spent a fun-filled day in Key Largo Kayaking and swimming with Mannatees



Susan takes to the High Seas again with Grandson's Rhett & Hank, onboard Royal Caribbean cruise ship, Wonder of the Seas!



15 women participated in our annual Sisterhood service on Feb. 20. The energy was beautiful and intense, enjoyed by all

## *New Members & Advertisers Dinner*

Our Annual New Members and Advertiser's Dinner, February 6th, was a record breaker event, showing how vital and exciting our congregation and its programming has become. We are growing. In this one year, we added 24 new memberships, many of which consisted of families. We are delighted to have more children with us and trust there will be a steady stream of B'nei Mitzvot with us for years to come. Profound thanks to Medina Roy, who organized the whole event and created a most beautiful color scheme of dinnerware and table runners. We must also congratulate the cooks who created delicious food for over 70 attendees.



President Ken Atlas and Organizer Medina Roy welcome new members and old with what must have been a very good pun.



Steve Jacobs gave a Shabbat morning d'var on parsha Yitro that was the best discussion of the 10 Commandments I've ever heard. Perhaps we'll publish it here.

*New Members & Advertisers Dinner  
Continued...*



Joyce, who co-led Shabbat mornin services with Steve Hartz, prepares for blessing over Challah.

Ellen and Aaron are now official members!



*New Members & Advertisers Dinner  
Continued...*



Jan and Steve Hartz, after the second of this season's lovely Shabbat morning services.



## *New Members & Advertisers Dinner Continued...*

Gloria Avner is ready to fill in for Rabbi Efrat, who is at the hospital with her ailing husband, Avi.



## *M'liss Regent Cunha Bat Mitzvah*

On the 2nd last day of February, 2026. A lifelong wish was realized. Bravo, M'liss Regent Cunha. You had your Adult Bat Mitzvah and performed all the rituals with integrity and purpose. Beautifully! You worked hard and the 85 people--family, friends, and KJCC members--who watched you, couldn't be more proud, especially your Hebrew teacher Joyce Peckman, and your Bat Mitzvah tutor, Gloria Avner. You are an inspiration.



## Shabbat Morning Torah Service

Yes, there is something new happening at KJCC/Congregation Ohr HaYam. Once a month during season we will have a Shabbat morning Torah Service; This one was led by Joyce, Erica & Aaron. Sweet. Keep your eye on the calendar for the next one.



## Hamantaschen Workshop

New members Julie & Jeff



Erica and Anjelica



## Rosemary Ciotti's birthday.

We celebrated Rosemary's Birthday with her, following our Sisterhood meeting. She brought in an amazing catered luncheon for her birthday festivities!



## Lil Rev! Performance



We were treated to world class entertainment by "Lil Rev!" Yiddish and Hebrew Folk songs, humor and Jewish Folklore. It was an evening to remember! People loved his merchandise because they loved his music and wanted more. He played many instruments, from mandolin to dulcimer, banjo, ukulele, guitar and harmonica. As much as people loved his songs and music, they loved his stories and positive take on importance of community and Jewish tradition. We extend our condolences on the recent loss of his mother, Marcia, who was a great inspiration to him. Many thanks to the members standing with Lil Rev. They generously sponsored this concert and we are grateful to the 80 people who attended and told us how much they loved this event.

## Artists Among Us

Jan Louise Lindsey Hartz won first place in the category of digital photography with this exquisitely colored capture of a rare moment.



Gloria Avner's "Ring Around a Roseate" Won a first place ribbon in the Acrylic Division. All three artists were surprised, humbled and grateful to accept these awards from the only judged show put on by their art guild, AGPI, annually. Bravo. It's a lovely show and venue, open until the end of March at the Dolphin Hospital. MM 92. A visit is highly recommended.



Marcia Kreitman's work that previously graced our KJCC walls was recognized with a first place ribbon

## *Eggroll Workshop*

Thank you to Super Jane Friedman for teaching us how to make your delicious egg rolls! Another new learning Activity sponsored by Sisterhood. Next up will be Hamantaschen.



## *Community Outreach in Key Colony Beach*





NEW MOON POEM

# JOY IN STANDING STRONG

*by Lucinda Kurtz*

Arm and arm they march  
bundled in padded coats  
brilliant blue, purple, yellow hats  
muffs pressed close to burning ears  
hold signs aloft with pride.

Crackling bullhorn bleats action call.  
Grey-haired elder, crunchy ice  
dripping off sodden beard, lends hand to  
mom with babe huddled in backpack  
waving mittened fist in frigid air.

Smiles beam from chilled faces  
joy at releasing rage, arms stretch high  
sway in time with beating drum  
celebrate, untangle tight nerves  
to stand strong on solid ground.

Clergy lend unsullied voices  
prayer shawls wrapped against the wind  
grasp shoulders of teachers, plumbers  
neighbors who no longer look away  
triumph in connecting shivering bodies  
Courage honored this new moon of Adar.

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