

July 1 - August 31, 2025 | 5 Tammuz - 7 Elul, 5785

The Future of American Jewry — Pages 16-21 Cope Family Bar Mitzvah — Pages 24-25 Shabbabaque & Mickey Frankel Turns 100 — Pages 26-28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July July	y & August 2025	1 JULY	2	3	Shababaque 6 p.m. Joe Shabathai Nadine Thompson	5
6	7	8	9	10	Judy Starr & Ken Atlas Steve & Jan Hartz & Judy Starr	12
13	14	15	16	17	Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman Special presentation to Miriam Frankel Roos-mary Benowitz	19
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Fast of Tisha B'Av Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Erica Lieberman Garrett Sisterhood	9
KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 Michael Kaufman & Ken Atlas Rosemary Ciotti & Barbara & Richard Knowles	16
17	18	19	20	21	Donna Bolton Rivka Rizzo Trent & Loni Padden	23
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31	Services are every Friday at 7:30pm • Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors					

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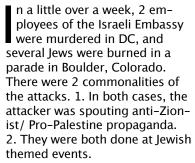
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CHAI-LIGHTS is the bimonthly publication of the Kevs Jewish Community Center chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas

I try to keep my messages on the positive side, but sometimes I can't. I need to address the recent attacks on our fellow lews.



This leaves me with three messages. First, this kind of violence should never be acceptable. I hope the system will prosecute to the fullest extent. But also, we need people everywhere (Jew and non-lew) to speak out against this. We cannot let would be attackers think it's accepted by society or that they will remain free if they do stuff like that. Secondly, we cannot let this stop us from living our lives, continuing to worship, or stop us from feeling and expressing pride in our faith. Finally, we must remain extremely vigilant. We must be extra careful when attending Jewish events or doing things at Jewish sites. However, we should continue to be cautious when leaving such places.

We've seen dangers occur in major cities as well as small towns. Unfortunately, there is no place that is entirely safe. For the most part, our community is safer than most others. But that should not give us a false sense



of security. Though we are small, we are a prominent tourist destination. That could lead others to cause violence here, with the belief it would gain more atten-

Over the last couple of years we have instituted many physical security measures on site. Those are different layers of security that do help. We use those layers in conjunction with people who are designated to keep an eye for anything out of the ordinary. If anyone sees anything unusual, while heading into or out of KJCC, please contact myself, if available or law-enforcement immediately. A key example, would be if you see someone trying to get in the gate who shouldn't be there. This has already happened once. The member who observed this, correctly backed away and called me for help. I came out and confronted the person at the gate. I, in fact, already knew who they were, and that they had a violent criminal record. I denied that person access, and called law-enforcement to respond.

Although I want everyone to remain vigilant at all times, I also want to reassure you that we do everything possible to keep everyone safe when attending any event at KICC. For the time being, we will be upping our off duty officer presence here. \diamond

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

JULY & AUGUST 2025

Friday, July 11	7:30 Shabbat Service led by Judy Starr and Ken Atlas
Friday, July 18	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman Special presentation to Miriam Frankel
Thursday, July 24	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, July 25	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo Trent
Friday, August 1	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Judy Starr and Ken Salomon
Sunday, August 3	10:00 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting
Friday, August 8	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garrett
Sunday, August 10	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, August 15	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Michael Kaufman & Ken Atlas
Friday, August 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton
Thursday, August 28	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, August 29	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo Trent

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July 4	Nadine Thompson • 100th birthday of Miriam Frankel
July 11	Steve & Jan Hartz • Celebrating Steve's Birthday
	Judy Starr • Celebrating Her Grandson's Birthday
July 18	Roos-mary Benowitz • Celebrating Her Birthday
July 25	Loni Padden • Celebrating Spencer's Birthday
	Nadine Thompson • In Memory of Herbert Frankel
August 1	Sisterhood
August 8	Sisterhood
August 15	Rosemary Ciotti • Celebrating Her 38th Anniversary
	Barbara & Richard Knowles • Celebrating Their 26th Anniversary
August 22	Rivka Rizzo Trent • Celebrating Her Birthday
	Loni Padden • Celebrating Her Birthday
August 29	Sisterhood

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Sisterhood Book Club

It may be hot outside, but a cool group of ladies will continue to meet the final Thursday of each month through the summer to talk about...not just the book of the month. Thank you Cynthia, for hosting June's meeting. The next meeting will be July 31 st at 12:30 on Zoom only. We will be discussing "A Bend in the Stars" by Rachel Barenbaum, On Thursday, August 28 th we will discuss "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick. Joyce will send out the Zoom link before the meeting. For information or to be added to the mailing list, contact Linda Pollack lindap4000@ymail.com.

Hebrew Learning

We have taken a summer break, but KICC's commitment to Hebrew learning continues. On Sunday September 14th at 12:30 we will begin again, focusing on words we will see in the High Holy Day prayerbook. Our class has students aged 11-75, reviewing the letters, practicing reading and understanding words. If you want to practice with Joyce on Zoom over the summer, contact her at 732-447-5225. We also want to let everyone know how proud we are of Tyler, who did an amazing job at his bar mitzvah in lune.

Dues Packet

Check your mailboxes for the dues packet, which will be mailed shortly. If you have changed your address or other personal information, let us know ASAP. Your generous response to this mailing is our main resource to keep KJCC going in the year ahead. We rely on your additional contributions for specific needs that are not met through dues alone: Security, Cantor and Rabbi High Holy Day expenses, Scholarships. Our dues have remained the same for many years, but our expenses have not.

Maximize The Impact of Your Donation to The KICC

With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), you can make a gift directly from your IRA to the Keys Jewish Community Center. It is a tax smart way to support the critical needs of KICC. The benefits of a OCD are:

- Reduce taxable income with no need to itemize deductions.
- Satisfy all or part of required minimum distributions ("RMD's).
- Give up to \$108,000 per individual per year. Planning a QCD involves important steps and requirements. Contact your IRA custodian and tax advisor, for help. >

Happy Anniversary lulv Years 18th 9th August Mark & Anthea Avner......4 8th Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer......53 14th 31st 4th Arnold and Tina Klein 59 15th 16th 21st 15th 31st 16th Ira & Shirley Stein 67 28th 7th

ONGOING PROJECTS AND MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KICC

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: 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 Padden, 305-772-2584, or email *dr.padden@yahoo.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*.

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 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.

MAY & JUNE 2025

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of
Carol Laskin	Jeff Pollack
Pam Friedman	Sheila Steinberg
Larry & Dotty Wolfe	Rose Fine Frieda Feinberg
Linda Pollack	Lillian Tallant Jeff Pollack Plaque
Medina Roy	Jeff Pollack
Jeff & Cheryl Margulies	Max Margulies Fred Doellefeld
Marmar Family Merce	des Ruth Pietromartire
Claire Tallent	Lillian Tallent plaque
Maria Cartegena	Carlos Cartegena
Ronald & Deborah Kaplan.	Sidney & Catherine Kaplan
Myra & Marshall Kaplan	Les Reitman

General Donation

Steve & Joan Jacobs
Steve & Jan Hartz
Michael & Lorena Kaufman
Stan & Jenny Margulies
Sisterhood Annual Donation

Meditation Garden

Mindy & Rich Agler Memory of Carol Steinberg

Tikkun Olam

Sisterhood Annual Seder Donation

Yahrzeit plaque

In Loving Memory
Lillian D. Tallent
Devoted Wife, Mother & Grandmother
April 30, 2025

Sisterhood Donations

Women's Seder Tikkun Olam
Joel & Mary Roth
Steve & Jan Hartz
Linda Pollack
Marcia Kreitman
Gloria Avner
Steve & Joan Jacobs
Michael & Lorena Kaufman
Mindy & Rich Agler
Joyce Peckman
Donna Bolton
Medina Roy
Loni Padden

General Sisterhood Donation

Lee Steinberg	Chupah Cover
	Created by Sheila Steinberg
Steve & Joan Jacobs	
Andrea Pitera	Tallis for Bar Mitzvah
	of Grandson Tyler Cope

Oneg Sponsorships

Jane Friedman Anniversary
Shanti Cope Celebrating Bar Mitzvah of Tyler
Steve & Jan Hartz Anniversary & Steve's Birthday
Judy and Adam StarrGrandson's Birthday

Dinner Sponsorship

Claria Aumar

Gioria AvnerShavuos Din	ner
Joyce PeckmanShavuos Din	ner
Nadine Thompson July 4 Shabbabao	
in honor of her mother Miri	am
(Mickey) Frankel's 100th birtho	day

Cl. D:....



In Memoriam – July 2025

Jack Steinberg

by Richard Agler & Mindy Agler

Nettie Goodman

by Gloria Avner

Sidney Stark

by Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Mrs. Judy Goldberg

by Salmon Goldberg

Sylvia Hershoff

by Jay Hershoff & Nancy Hershoff

Dorothy Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Jacob Ratchik

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Ronald Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Margaret Isenberg

by Patricia Isenberg

Les Reitman

by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

Otto Kluger

by Nancy Kluger

Harvey Taub

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Miriam Margulies

by Stanley Margulies & Jenny Margulies

Fred Ross

by Joyce Peckman

Dora Levy

by Arthur Plutzer

Leon Kirschenbaum

by Medina Roy

Alan Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Beth Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Harvey Kelman

by Elaine Schulberg

Stanley H. Klipper

by Mary Lee Singer

Manya Starr

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

Norman James Schuman

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

Mollie Z. Cohen

by Lei Steinberg

Ben Steinbock

by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

Mack Swartz

by Muriel Swartz

Milton Swartz

by Muriel Swartz

Tracey-Yvette Sinclair Mcmillon

by Max Gordon Trent & Rivka Rizzo-Trent

Frieda Feinberg

by Larry Wolfe & Dorothy Wolfe





In Memoriam – August 2025

Isaac Berman by Sylvia Berman

Mr. Jacob Ephraim Brush by James Brush

Shirley Cohen by Rick Cohen & Bonni Cohen

Sandra Kanarek by Wes Conklin & Rita Conklin

Elsie (Chava) Duman by Michael Duman & Laura Duman

Elliot Mandl by Jane Friedman

Jesse Ginsberg by Bernard Ginsberg

Richard Gross by Randy Klein Gross

Sonia Silverstein by Randy Klein Gross

Manuel Hershoff by Jay Hershoff & Nancy Hershoff

Sheldon David Horowitz by Beth Horowitz

Shlomo Kaboli by Yardena Kamely

Ketty Tuchman by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

Eva Raub by Harvey Klein & Judith Klein

Max Lieberman by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Billie Kornbloom by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Shirley Lieberman by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Isaac Cohen Pardo by Stanley Margulies & Jenny Margulies

Josephine Marguliesby Jeff Margulies & Cheryl Margulies

Lyla Berkson by Barry Neumann & Ellen Ecker

Anna Pincus by Linda Pincus

Chanoch Shiloh by Jan Price

Stan Beitscher by Carol Rose

Howard Shutan by Stuart Sax & Lauren Sax

Martha Schulberg by Elaine Schulberg

Tom Klipper by Mary Lee Singer

Selma Smith by Steven Smith & Barbara Smith

Olga Schuman by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

> **Erik S. Persoff** by Lei Steinberg

Erwin Wainer by Lei Steinberg

James Nobil by Lei Steinberg

Meyer G. Cohen by Lei Steinberg

Samuel Wainer by Lei Steinberg

Albert White by Susan White

Happy Birthday!

July	
1stChely Markowitz	
1st Eitan Loi-Kamely	
1stJennifer Gilson	
2nd Dan Levi	
2ndRabbi Ed Rosenthal	
3rd Michael Kaufman	
4th Mindy Rosenthal	
9thJoyce Peckman	
11thSteven Hartz	
12th Miriam Frankel	
12th Richard Steinberg	
13th Dot Brooking	
14th Paul Eric Bernstein	
17th John Hawver	
17thShira Goldman	
18thLuzviminda Levine	
18thSage Indy Lebofsky	
19thMatt Hallenburg	
20th Bonni Cohen	
20th Roosmary Benowitz	
21st Arlington Garrett	
21stBrian Smith	
21stJoshua Samuel Bernstein	
21stLinda Perloff	
21stTim Cunha	
22nd Millie Tainow	
22ndRichard Plutzer	
23rdBarat Barefoot	
23rdCarrie Temkin	
25thAlan Markowitz	
26th Beckham Jordan Kline	
28thLila E. Juenger	
28thLily Gitel Padden	
28thRick Cohen	

29th	Andy Loi-Kamely
29th	Barry Neumann
29th	Candy Stanlake
29th	Mary Lee Singer
31st	Jonathan Kline
31st	Ken Salomon
31st	Linda Levi
31st	Mark Steinberg
August	
4th	
8th	Hank Ryan Casey
8th	Sean Kaufman
9th	Arnold Klein
9th	Delia Grace Smith
9th	Eric Freundlich
10th	Barbara Smith
10th	Emma Feig
13th	
13thS	•
14th	Joey Lindenbaum
15th	.Patricia Isenberg
16th	Alan Lindenbaum
16th	•
17thBi	niyam M. Duman
17th	Tina Klein
19th	Craig Cope
19th	Pamela Friedman
20th	Loni Padden
20thR	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
22nd	Murray Blitzer
23rd	Andrew Kichler
26th	Jonah Jacob Kline
26th	Mikhaela Bitton
30th	Robert Temkin

WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Rov



"The implications are profound."

So says Dr. Maruf Dhali, assistant professor of artificial intelligence (AI) at the University Groningen in the northern part of the Netherlands where an international team has combined radiocarbon dating, paleographic analysis and artificial intelligence to assign more precise dates to individual Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts. The results show many are significantly older than previously thought. Using a learning module called Enoch, researchers input digitized images of 135 scroll fragments and trained the system to recognize microscopic ink trace patterns - such as curvature and character shape - alongside new radiocarbon results for 24 samples. By correlating these handwriting features with empirically established dates, the team narrowed dating uncertainty to roughly plus or minus 30 years, outperforming conventional radiocarbon ranges for the period 300-50 BCE. Until now, most Dead Sea Scrolls had been broadly placed between the third century BCE and the second century CE based on paleography alone, a method that lacked empirical markers.

"There simply were no securely dated Hebrew or Aramaic manuscripts from the late Hellenistic era against which to compare," Professor Mladen Popovic, director of the QumranInstitute at Groningen said. "Our approach bridges that gap by using 24 radiocarbon-anchored examples to give an objective time code for handwriting styles."

Once trained. Enoch produced date predictions that aligned remarkably closely with radiocarbon results - and, in some cases, suggested scrolls written in Hasmonean type script may date to decades earlier than the approximate 150-50 BCE range. Similarly, Herodian style fragments appear to have emerged in the late second century BCE rather than the mid-first century BCE. Dr. Dhali, co-author of the study that was published in PLOS One said, "With empirical evidence now anchoring paleographic analysis, scholars can revisit long-

standing questions about when particular biblical texts circulated - and how these scripts relate to political and cultural shifts in ancient Judea... Within a few decades, we could use this model to date more than a thousand additional scroll fragments. The resulting new chronology will reshape our understanding of literacy, script development, and textual transmission in the eastern Mediterranean during the Hellenistic and early Roman eras."

Researchers emphasized that Enoch does not replace human paleographers but augments their expertise with quantitative, explainable AI inferences. For now, however, the Dead Sea Scrolls are drawing renewed attention thanks to this breakthrough and they remain as historically vital as ever. With a precise "timecode" now embedded in their script, the scrolls promise fresh insights into the political upheavals, theological debates, and cultural transformations that shaped the Jewish and early Christian worlds. (www.ipost.com, 6-5-25)

"...You are Touching the Bible with Your Hands" Archaeological excavations were recently started at the ancient Samaria National Park (Sebastia), the only surviving remnant of the ancient Kingdom of Israel and location of the biblical Israelite Kings' palace. The excavations mark the beginning of efforts to preserve the site and turn it into a national park following a decision by the Israeli government which was approved two years ago, led by the Ministries of Heritage, Environmental Protection and Tourism. Uri Greenfield is the Samaria regional archaeologist and is leading the excavations. He explained that this is one of Israel's most significant archeological sites, which functioned as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel during biblical times. The site appears frequently in biblical texts.

Archeological work was previously done at the

site more than a century ago by a crew of archeologists from Harvard University. That work uncovered the western wing of the fortress of the kings of Israel from the era of Omri and Jehu. (This period refers to a time in history of the Kingdom of Israel – also known as the Northern Kingdom, spanning roughly 50 years from the mid to late 9th century BCE. It encompasses the reigns of King Omri and his dynasty, followed by the reign of King Jehu, who overthrew Omri's dynasty.) Many of the artifacts discovered are now on display at the Israel museum.

Another excavation was conducted at the site in 1931. During that expedition, one of the largest theaters in the region constructed by Herod during the Second Temple period, was discovered. The site also contains areas sacred to Christianity, including the tomb of John the Baptist. The current excavation work begins at the ancient city gate and is scheduled to reach the location of the ancient Israel royal palace.

Yossi Dagan, head of the Samaria Regional Council said, "This is a historic day. No people has a connection to their historic homeland stronger than the people of Israel to the land of Israel. When digging in ancient Samaria, you are touching the Bible with your hands. Living in Samaria is not just a right; it's also a duty to protect the most sacred biblical sites – the cradle of the Jewish people's homeland, the cradle of human civilization. We are saving the sacred places and will not rest until ancient Samaria fulfills its destiny, and the national park operates fully as a site welcoming visitors." (www.israelhayom.com, 5–12–25)

Outrageous!

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) has totally excluded Yuval Raphael, Israel's representative from the official video album compilation, despite her second-place finish at Eurovision's 2025 competition. The deliberate omission has reignited widespread controversy with accusations of discriminatory treatment and double standards.

Raphael's emotional performance of "New Day Will Rise" resonated powerfully with Eurovision audiences, propelling her from a disappointing 15th place in jury voting to an impressive second-place overall finish through massive public support. But then the EBU released its official Eurovision album compilation video and Raphael's performance was nowhere to be found, and appeared to be completely erased as though her remarkable come-

back performance never happened. This "selective inclusion" provoked immediate backlash from Eurovision enthusiasts. "It's deeply disappointing to witness Israel, which secured second-place in Eurovision this year, being deliberately excluded from this post. This contradicts the spirit of fairness and unity that the slogan 'United by Music' purports to embody," an angry fan wrote. "Selective inclusion represents more than mere disrespect – it reveals a double standard that countless viewers refuse to overlook."

This exclusion continues a disturbing pattern with Eurovision's "Israel problem." Last year's stirring performance by Israel's Eden Golan's fifth-place performance was omitted from promotional materials. The EBU forced her to change the name of her song from "October Rain," a direct reference to the Hamas attack of October 2023 to "Hurricane." (www.israelhayom.com, 5-25-25)

Your (Jewish) Voice was Heard

According to preliminary results released by the American Zionist Movement (AZM), over 230,000 American Jews voted in the 2025 election for the World Zionist Congress (WZC), setting a new turnout record – nearly doubling participation-compared to the last election five years ago. The results suggesta growing interest among American Jews in shaping Zionist priorities. One hundred fifty-two delegates from the United States – nearly one-third of the 525-member Congress – will be traveling to Jerusalem in October to help decide how over \$1 billion in annual funding will be allocated to lewish and Israeli institutions.

The top vote-getter was the *Vote Reform* slate, representing the Reform movement, United States Jewry's largest denomination, with about 48,000 votes. The liberal-leaning on. slate won some 16,000 more votes than the last election five years ago, when it also placed first. This shows that the Reform movement is the leading voice of American Jewry. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) said, "This is more than just a win for our slate – it is a resounding mandate for the values we champion."

The second-highest vote-getter, *Am Yisrael Chai*, received 32,000 votes, or about 14 percent of the total. It is a new Orthodox slate focusing on young adults. It is considered a centrist and Orthodox voice, courting Jewish college studentsand young professionals with a focus on pro-Israel advocacy, Jewish pride and promoting "love of Torah." *Eretz Hakodesh*, an Orthodox

slate, placed third with about 29,000 voters. *MercazUSA*, representing Conservative Judaism was fourth with 28,000 votes, and *Orthodox Israel Coalition–Mizrachi*, the political arm of Modern Orthodoxy, secured about 27,000 votes.

In all, 22 slates competed in the U.S. election, up from fourteen in 2020 – a sign of growing political, religious and generational diversity among American Jews. The election was administered by the AZM and Herbert Block, AZM's executive director said, "American Jews have spoken – through their record-breaking turnout in the 2025 World Zionist Congress (WZC) election, they have powerfully demonstrated that Zionism in the United States is not only alive and well but stronger than ever. Thanks to this historic participation in the election, U.S. Jewry is poised to make an indelible mark when the WZM gathers in October."

The World Zionist Congress was established in 1897 by Theodor Herzl. It meets every five years and serves as the governing body of the World Zionist Organization. It influences leadership appointments and funding decisions across major Israeli and Jewish institutions, including the Jewish Agency, which is involved in immigration and the Jewish National Fund, which has power over land use across large swaths of the country.

The 39th Congress will convene in Jerusalem from October 28th through the 30th. (www.jta.org, 6-6-25)

In Memoriam

We continue to mourn the brave soldiers of the IDF who gave their lives protecting our Jewish homeland. As of June 18th, the IDF has reported 870 soldiers, officers and reservists have died.ls-raeli police have sustained the loss of 70 officers along with some 2,000 Israeli civilians.

-The remains of Gaddi Haggai and his wife Judith Weinstein Haggai, hostages with U.S. citizenship, were brought back to Israel for proper burial. The two were murdered on October 7th, 2023 while on their regular morning walk on their kibbutz Nir Oz by Hamas terrorists. (More than one quarter of their community of 400 were slain or taken hostage.) The Haggai's bodies were dragged into Gaza and retrieved by both the IDF and the Shin Bet security service in early June based on information secured during interrogations. (www.jta.org, 6-5-25)

-The IDF recovered the bodies of three hostages from the Gaza Strip on June 22nd. All were held in Hamas captivity since October 7th, 2023:

-Yonatan Samerano, 21, attended the Nova Music Festival in Re'im and when the attacks began, he fled to Be'eri where he was killed and kidnapped to Gaza.

-Shay Levinson was a tank commander in the 77th "Oz" Battalion in the 7th Armored Brigade. He was caught by surprise when Hamas terrorists crossed the border in the early morning on Oct. 7th. His tank managed to kill some fifteen terrorists before being overwhelmed.

-Ofra Keidar, 71, was murdered alongside her husband, Sami, on Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7th. The mother of three, her body was taken to Gaza. Along with Inbar Haiman, Keider was the only female hostage left in Hamas captivity. (www.ipost.com, 6-22-25)

Did You Know...

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, more commonly referred to as the Claims Conference, has projected that almost all Holocaust survivors alive today will be gone in fifteen years. The projection marks the first time the Claims Conference has tried to plot out a trajectory for the disappearance of survivors.

The Holocaust ended 80 years ago which means that all survivors are at least octogenarians. According to the analysis, the median age is 87 and nearly half will pass away by 2031. By 2040, 90 percent are expected to die, leaving a total remaining population estimated to be around 21,300.

The analysis comes a year after the Claims Conference's first-ever exhaustive count of living survivors which found that some 240,000 people who experienced the Holocaust were still alive. The organization says the findings underscore how important it is to hear and document survivors' stories, which it has made a centerpiece of its work since successfully negotiating compensation from countries whose Jews were persecuted during the Holocaust. (www.jta.org, 4-22-25) \rightarrow

Yahrzeit plaque

JEFFREY NEAL POLLACK May 27, 1963 - March 16, 2025 Remembered Always by Your Loving Family and Friends



KJCC SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB



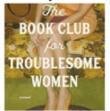
July 31, 2025 A Bend in the Stars by Rachel Barenbaum

August 28, 2025 The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

September 25, 2025 The Spectacular by Fiona Davis



Literary WWI-era
novel and epic love
story of a brilliant
young doctor who
races against Einstein
to solve one of the
universe's great
mysteries.



An ode to selfdiscovery, persistence, and the power of Sisterhood.



A thrilling story
about love,
sacrifice, and the
pursuit of dreams,
set amidst the
glamour and glitz of
Radio City Music
Hall in its midcentury heyday.

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

LIVE AT 12:15 TOWN AT 12:30

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

Sunset guilds peaked waves, The oblique orange sunlight Painting long shadows.

SISTERHOOD REPORT



fter 49 days of eager counting, we culminated Shavuot with a feast of dairy foods and more at the KICC. The Sisterhood organized a beautiful buffet dinner and presented a generous check to our president, Ken Atlas for the KJCC. We will also be dispersing this month the generous donations we received through our fund raising efforts to our charities: the Talia Agler Girls Shelter, located in Kenya, and supporting women and children; the Wesley House, in the Florida Keys, promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and local families: the Women's Amutot Initiative in Israel, in partnership with the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. Thank you to everyone who opened their hearts & wallets to make our fundraising season the most successful to date!

Exciting news, we have a new young Jewish adult in our midst! The KJCC was honored to host Tyler Gordon Cope's Bar Mitzvah, with many families and friends filling the Sanctuary. The Sisterhood gave Tyler a Kiddush cup, which he used to make his first official kiddush at the Elks Lodge reception. The KJCC & entire congregation gifted Tyler a mini Torah scroll for his future studies in life (and with Joyce Peckman, Hebrew teacher extraordinaire). Mazel tov to Tyler & the entire Cope family!

The future starts with the education and dedication of our younger members, so many thanks to Shanti & Craig Cope for raising another conscientious member of our tribe. Mazel toy!!!

The Sisterhood Book Club led by Linda Pollack meets every 3rd Thursday of the month live and on zoom to nosh & discuss the latest book. The June selection is The Bird Hotel by Joyce Maynard. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at Lindap4000@ymail.com

We always need Oneg sponsorships during the summer. To honor a loved one or celebrate a milestone or just because, contact Joyce at *joycepeckman@gmail.com* or 732-447-5225. Oneg sponsorship is \$72 and dinner sponsorship is \$360. Thank you to our sponsors for funding challah, wine, coffee, soda, cake, and paper goods.

Sisterhood is on holiday for our July meeting but will come back in August refreshed and ready to plan for the High Holidays! Wishing everyone in our far-flung mishpocha a peaceful and restful summer. •

Shabbat Service Leaders

July 4	Joe Shabathai
July 11	Judy Starr & Ken Atlas
July 18	Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman
July 25	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
August 1	Judy Starr & Ken Salomon

August 8	Erica Lieberman Garrett
August 15	Michael Kaufman & Ken Atlas
August 22	Donna Bolton
August 29	Rivka Rizzo-Trent



From the Committee for Israel Today the eyes of the world turn to Israel.

Israel has long depended upon American support, especially the support of American Jewry. From the perspective of Israel as well as that of American Jews, then, Dan Senor's article, reprinted below, is not only of interest, but most timely.

Reprinted from the June 2025 issue of Commentary Magazine, with kind permission of the magazine. www.commentary.org/issues/june-2025/

The Future of American Jewry After October 7 How to find purpose and clarity in horror's wake by Dan Senor

or many of us, October 7 was a wake-up call of sorts, which gave birth to what some have taken to calling "October 8 Jews." I prefer not to use that term, as it implies that they suddenly became Jews on October 8.

Nonetheless, there was a crack in Jewish consciousness on October 8, 2023. Suddenly, many Jews began to think differently about their Jewish identity, their Jewish community, and their connection to Jewish peoplehood everywhere—especially in Israel. Sociologists and Jewish leaders heralded a "surge of interest" in Jewish life.

People started wearing Jewish stars for the first time. They went to rallies. They donated hundreds of millions to emergency campaigns and sent supplies to IDF units. And the new openness to Jewish identity opened them up to indignation and shock. Over WhatsApp, people forwarded articles by the score in chat groups. I call them the "Can You Believe!?" groups, as in: "Can you BELIEVE Christiane Amanpour aired that segment?" Or "Can you BELIEVE Thomas Friedman trashed Israel again in his column?" In truth, this wasn't as much a Jewish awakening as an outpouring of Jewish adrenaline.

And as with adrenaline, I think we can all feel the moment fading with the passage of time. It would be dangerous for us to return to the false sense of security we felt on October 6.

Since October 7, I have heard the following two comments more than any other from American Jews.

First: Jews have played key leadership roles in so many pillars of society: finance and Hollywood, hospitals, the environment and civil rights, the arts, symphonies, museums and elite universities. How could they turn on us?

We hear this all the time. We Jews have collectively spent so much, even named wings after ourselves at these institutions. But, historically speaking, none of this has mattered in stemming the tide of anti-Semitism. No, in fact, our perceived power is deployed against us in these periods. Jews in the Diaspora have too often been, as Douglas Murray says, prominent but weak.

Murray's observation calls to mind The Pity of It All, Amos Elon's 2002 chronicle of German

Jews from the mid-18th century until Hitler's rise in 1933—timely today because it shatters so many of our comfortable narratives about progress, assimilation, and the supposed safety of living in an educated society. Elon shows how, over nearly two centuries, German Jews transformed themselves from marginalized peddlers and cattle dealers into the intellectual, cultural. and economic backbone of German society. They didn't just assimilate-they excelled. A community that never was more than 1 percent of the German population produced bankers, journalists, artists, industrialists, and academics whose contributions to the flourishing of Germany are well documented.

They believed in Germany. They believed in Enlightenment values. They believed that reason and education would triumph over prejudice. They were wrong.

What's so piercing about Elon's account is that he shows how the very success of German lews became weaponized against them. Their visibility in commerce and banking and in cultural and intellectual life was recast as evidence of a sinister influence. Their patriotism was guestioned as dual loyalty. German Jews watched their neighbors—people they'd known their entire lives—turn against them. Many thought that by downplaying their Jewishness or converting to Christianity, they could secure their place in society. But anti-Semitism proved remarkably adaptable.

We've seen this—Jews contributing to their societies, only to be turned on—throughout Jewish history. Spain, in the 15th century. Iraq and the broader Muslim world, the early 20th century. Russia, the 19th and 20th centuries. France, the 19th century. And now, we're seeing echoes of it in our own time.

And if indeed this is the historical norm, which I argue it is—and that philanthropy to certain institutions can backfire, how might we reorient, reorganize, and reprioritize our commitments? What is the new wing at the University of Pennsylvania or Harvard really going to achieve for our community and our legacy in our communi-

The second major question I hear is: Why can't Israel just tell its story better to the world? If only we could get the facts out, right?



We want to believe that the way to counter the lie is with a better story, media tools, and distribution of content. People think: If we can just hack the algorithm, tweet that viral tweet, our kids won't have to view those toxic reels on TikTok attacking Israel.

Now, the algorithm spreading the lie is a problem. But the bigger problem is the popularity of the lie itself. It's a lie that has stood the test of time. An earlier communications innovation spread similar lies—not on a social media platform but with Guttenberg's invention of the printing press in 1440, which led to a spate of books in Europe trafficking in anti-Semitic blood libels. Did the printing press enable the spread of anti-Semitic ideas? Yes. As innovations before it and after have as well. The reality is that today there are 16 million of us and 8 billion people in the world. I don't care how good we are, the reel telling a story of a supposed Zionist genocide will get a ton of engagement.

If we can agree that Israel isn't going to win the information war, and we can't make the anti-Semites less anti-Semitic, and that simply investing in non-Jewish causes will never be enough to grant us a get-out-of-the-pogromfree card, then what are we to do?

I think the answer is shockingly simple: We must lead Jewish lives. For this is what has sustained Jewish life, and Jewish existence, in every century.

Who leads a Jewish life? For the past year and a half, I've been on what you might call a college tour, but not the kind parents take with their high school juniors. I've visited Michigan, Brown, Tulane, UT, Duke, Vanderbilt, Wash U, Florida, and others, usually to connect with Jewish students navigating a difficult time.

I went to help educate about Israel and the Middle East, I went to show solidarity. And in conversation after conversation with these remarkable young people. I noticed that, almost without exception, the students who were leading Jewish and pro-Israel communities on these campuses shared one formative experience: They had attended parochial school, or what we call "lewish day schools."

The data here are not complicated: Day school alumni are more than twice as likely to feel deeply connected to their Jewish identity compared with their peers. They're four times as likely to feel a strong connection to Israel, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once said: "To defend a country, you need an army. But to defend an identity, you need a school."

Day schools strive to be living, breathing Jewish communities where students absorb Judaism through every sense-where they learn not just Jewish ideas, but how to think, how to argue respectfully across differences, how we build community. They learn Hebrew and how to pray, they learn how to be a mensch. At Jewish day schools, practicing Judaism is normative. Studying Jewish texts, caring about Israel—it's all the norm. It's not weird. There's no baggage, no connotations, and no apologizing for it. Day schools build Jewish confidence and pride.

They develop what I can only describe as Jewish muscle memory. I've seen this in my own family after sending our children to the Heschel School in Manhattan. What's been most surprising isn't just how it's shaped our kids, but how it's transformed our entire family. Their school has become our Jewish community, too.

Increasingly, day schools offer answers to some of this age's most vexing challenges. Jonathan Haidt has pointed to Jewish day schools as the vanguard of the phone-free schools movement. "One of the best examples of collective action" he says, "is the way Jewish day schools banded together to go phone-free and restore play, book-reading, learning, and fun."

And I've witnessed how these schools respond in moments of crisis. After October 7, there was no equivocation, no confusion about values. For our kids' school, displaying hostage posters wasn't controversial; it was simply what you do

when members of your extended family are suffering. These schools demonstrated what Jewish resilience looks like in real time.

But here's what keeps me up at night: Only about 5 percent of non-Orthodox lewish children in America attend Jewish day schools. For the Orthodox, Judaism is the center of their lives, as much a part of their moment-to-moment existences as breathing. For the non-Orthodox, living a lewish life is a moment-to-moment choice. And it should be easier to choose.

Take schooling. Two decades ago, Jewish schools were opening across the country. Over the past decade, schools have been merging, downsizing, and closing. Day schools matter, and day schools are in crisis. The guestion is: What will it take to make them accessible, affordable, and even competitive with the best independent schools for far more than just 5 percent of Jewish American students?

I am hopeful here, because interest in Jewish day schools is actually increasing for the first time in years. The Ades family has almost single-handedly built Miami's new Jewish Leadership Academy. The Tikvah Fund created Emet Academy in New York City. Tamim Academy is opening elementary schools across the country in Portland, Austin, Salt Lake City. A Cleveland foundation committed \$90 million to grow five local day schools. Yavneh Academy in New Jersey has built an innovative program to integrate students with little to no lewish background into a dual curriculum (teaching in Hebrew and in English). Existing Jewish day schools are looking to expand to keep up with new demand. The beginning of a renaissance in Jewish education is already happening.

There's only one environment in America that's even more immersive than day schools: the Jewish summer camp. Jewish camps have a similarly profound impact. One survey showed that 92 percent of parents said it directly strengthened their child's Jewish identity. Participation is growing, too, as families double down on their Jewish identities amid rising anti-Semitism. Last summer, 189,000 kids, teens, and young adults attended Jewish camps—a 5 percent increase over 2023. Camp is not just a seasonal touchpoint; it's frequently the beginning of a lifelong Jewish journey. And yet, despite everything we know about the value of Jewish camp, it remains dramatically underfunded. Costs are rising—Jewish overnight camp alone costs \$500 million annually—but philanthropic giving to camps has not kept pace.

Simply put, we can no longer view day schools and Jewish camps as nice-to-haves. In today's environment, they're indispensable.

It's never too late. Too often I hear from my adult friends, It's too late for me. I missed my chance. And so the very people raising Jewish children, leading our institutions, and writing the checks that keep our community humming have quietly decided that Jewish learning—and even real communal involvement—is for someone else. But it's not. This is a tale as old as time: Famously, Rebbi Akiva, the Talmudic sage, did not begin studying Torah until he turned 40.

My friend Dan Loeb—a hedge fund manager and a late Jewish learner who did not have a bar mitzvah at age 13—took up this mantle after October 7 when he issued a very simple challenge: Read the weekly Torah portion each week in memory of the murdered. He set up a website to get people started. The Simchat Torah Challenge was born. In just a few months, 15,000 people signed up. Most of them weren't Orthodox. Many learn on their own. And the challenge has spawned learning groups and community events nationwide.

I'm reminded of a line in Jonathan Safran Foer's book Here I Am. "Jewish Americans," he wrote, "will go to any length, short of practicing Judaism, to instill a sense of Jewish identity in their children." Foer's sarcasm reveals a deep truth: We look at the next generation and say, Why don't they care? We know that they watch what we do.

Redefine the college experience. We must also help them choose to live in a way that will make leading a Jewish life easier. And that takes me to higher education. Jewish students and parents are beginning to rethink the conventional metrics of excellence in college and beyond. Is where a school sits in the college rankings still impressive if large groups of masked students can literally invade the college library in the middle of finals?

And yet, because we Jews were seeking prestige, we willfully ignored what many of us had a

sense was going on at America's top universities. We found prominence—and became weak. But only now do we know how pervasive and entrenched anti-Semitism has been and that it was spreading and getting entrenched long before October 7.

As the historian Niall Ferguson explained to me on my podcast, Call Me Back, "Like all elites in history, our elites are obsessed with the impossible challenge of passing their achievements on to their children. And, because we're not that good as a species at transmitting intellectual firepower and the work ethic from generation to generation, there is this race by high-achieving people to get their children to achieve as much as they did. And this is done through educational credential-seeking."

This post-October 7 reevaluation is overdue—and it has created space for universities outside the so-called super-elite to stand out. Smart institutions have begun to seize the moment.

The chancellors of Vanderbilt and Washington University recently released guiding principles that push back against the dual erosion of academic excellence and ideological diversity in higher education—two pillars that have served American Jews so well over the past half century. Dartmouth College deserves mention here, too.

We're also seeing large public universities standing apart from the groupthink dominating so many elite campuses. Some are dismantling administrative offices that, under the guise of promoting inclusion, have become sources of division. Most important, they're launching new academic initiatives—and, in some cases, entirely new schools—committed at the outset to civil discourse and viewpoint diversity.

The Hamilton Center at the University of Florida, for example, aims to become the world's premier school for the study of Western civilization, with a heavy focus on the study of Jewish texts and history as core to the evolution and enduring strength of Western civilization. The new school of Civic Leadership at the University of Texas at Austin is built on the same principles. There's the audacious effort under way in Austin to build an entirely new university from the ground up: the University of Austin. UATX admitted its first undergraduate class last spring—with average test scores in the 95th per-

centile. There is a growing hunger for alternatives. Even radical ones.

In each case, the leadership of these institutions is also making serious efforts to reintroduce the study of Jewish thought. They are building large kosher kitchens. They're building Jewish life on campus in partnership with Tikvah. They're working on study-abroad programs in Israel and forming partnerships with Israeli universities while students on other campuses debate the fastest way to divorce their institutions from the only Jewish state.

The gap year. And regardless of where you go to college, I would add, especially if you have not gone to a Jewish day school or a Jewish camp, there is a very good way to prep: Spend a gap vear in Israel.

In Israel, such gap years are already well established. They're called mechinot. Thousands of young Israelis choose to delay enlisting in the army for a year of learning, training, and volunteering. Eighteen-year-old Israeli and American kids are preparing for very different life experiences. What if more American Jews spent a year learning and living among their peers in Israel?

There are already programs—Young Judaea Year Course, Kivunim, Bar Ilan, Masa-that offer this kind of experience. Many even provide college credit. But we need more. And we need to reframe the way we talk about this year, not as a delay—not as "putting off" college—but as a foundation for living a Jewish life.

And here again, Jewish living and giving are not keeping up. I know too many American Jews graduating high school who say they'd love to do a gap year in Israel, but they can't afford to go into more student debt. For every Jewish kid heading to a U.S. campus who wants to first spend a year in Israel, and wants to develop that Jewish and pro-Israel muscle memory, our community should do whatever necessary to make it happen.

So: Day schools. Camps. Adult Jewish education. Innovations in higher education. Gap years. Scaling these immersive Jewish experiences would amount to nothing short of a Jewish renaissance. We should experiment with the most ambitious and creative efforts to bolster identity and fight assimilation.

But this renaissance will not come cheap. These

programs are expensive. Just who is going to pay for it?

The givers. The Jerusalem Talmud expresses amazement at the generosity of the lewish people. "One cannot understand the nature of this people," one clever text reads. "If appealed to for the Golden Calf, they give. If appealed to for the Sanctuary, they give."

Jewish philanthropists are extraordinarily generous. In just the past year, one generous donor committed \$1 billion to Einstein Medical School to make it tuition-free. Another made a similar gift to Johns Hopkins for the same purpose. Jews are disproportionately represented on every list of prominent philanthropists. The Talmud was right: This is a giving people. When asked, we say yes.

But here's the uncomfortable truth: The overwhelming majority of Jewish philanthropic dollars go to non-Jewish causes. I saw one statistic: Of 33 Jewish individuals on a Forbes 400 list with publicly reported charitable giving, no more than 11 percent of their giving went to Jewish causes.

I am not suggesting that Jewish generosity to the broader civic square come to an end. But I am arguing that it is time for a recalibration in favor of our community's needs. We need to strengthen the core specifically so we can play the role we are meant to play beyond it.

If the goal we seek is the safety, growth, and flourishing of the Jewish people, then we need to spend like we really mean it. We need to invest in amounts big, and small, and really, really bigso that we can look back on this moment in 10, 50, 100 years and say: American Jewish life was not the same after that. It was better.

Two philanthropists, Mindy and Jon Gray, made a big bet last week: \$125 million to Tel Aviv University. This kind of giving is inspiring and will make an enormous difference in Israel. And now I wonder: Who will be next, and here in America? Who will make that bet on American Jewish life?

'The time is now.' In January 1948, Golda Meir delivered a famous speech to a group of Jewish leaders in Chicago a mere four months before the establishment of Israel. Her message was clear: The future of the Jewish state hung in the balance. The Jews in Palestine needed every cent American Jews could spare.

"I beg of you—don't be too late," she said. "Don't be bitterly sorry three months from now for what you failed to do today. The time is now." She intended to raise \$25 million; by the end she had raised \$50 million. (In today's dollars, that would be nearly \$700 million.)

The tables have turned. Israel is going to be fine, in part because of Israeli strength and resilience, backed up by the Diaspora's continued commitment. But I do think the future of American lewish life hangs in the balance, And I don't want any of us—whatever our resources—to regret not doing more.

We really do have the tools to rebuild American Jewish life. The guestion is: Do we have the sense of purpose—the whv—to match?

Hersh Goldberg-Polin spent just three days with a fellow hostage named Eli Sharabi in the tunnels of Gaza. In that time, Hersh taught Eli a lesson that would change his life. He guoted the psychologist and Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl: He who has a "why" will find the "how."

Israelis have a why. Many who may have forgotten it were reminded of it on October 7, when everything changed. Since then, Israelis have seen the why come roaring back.

Agam Berger, held in captivity for 450 days, had a why. "I learned," she said after her release, "as my forebears did, that imprisonment can't overwhelm the inner spiritual life. Our faith and covenant with God-the story we remember on Passover—is more powerful than any cruel captor. Even as Hamas tried to coerce me into converting to Islam—at times, forcing a hijab on my head they couldn't take my soul." Her friend, Liri Albag, fashioned a Haggadah out of whatever materials she could find in captivity, and they marked the Passover Seder together, yearning for redemption.

Aner Shapira had a why. In a bomb shelter beside Hersh on October 7, he faced a death squad and chose to act. He hurled seven live grenades back at the terrorists before the eighth took his life. He died saving his friends—and strangers because he knew he served a people greater than himself.

Ben Zussman had a why. A reserve officer in the IDF, he wrote a letter before heading to the front lines in case the worst came to pass. And when his parents opened the letter after his death, they found these words: "If you're reading this, something must have happened to me. As you

know about me, there's probably no one happier than me right now. I'm happy and grateful for the privilege to protect our beautiful land and the people of Israel."

We—the Jewish people—should look to Israel not simply for its defense innovation or health care advances. We should look to Israelis for their clarity, their purpose, their deep sense of identity. Hersh, Eli, Agam, Aner, Ben-very different people, very different lives. But each of them met this moment with courage. With faith. With an unshakable sense of why.

The deepest question. What is our why? Why are we here? Are we truly owning the story we're living in? These are not theoretical questions. They are practical and will determine the future of our families and our communities.

The state of World Jewry depends on how we answer.

If we answer in the way I'm suggesting, by resolving to live Jewish lives, and making sure our children do as well, we will begin to find that answer. The road in the near term will not be smooth. We know enough to know that we are witnessing another story, another chapter in Jewish history. There will be libraries invaded by campus mobs, there will be Nazi graffiti scrawled on the walls of subway cars, there will be another podcaster spreading libels about the Jewish people. Of this, we can be sure. I am confident, however, that in the long term, if we strengthen our Jewish identity, our people will not be prominent but weak. They will be Jewish and strong.

Many young American parents over the past 18 months have chosen to pay tribute to some of the Israeli heroes we lost in this war. Everywhere you look, it seems, you might meet a young baby Hersh—named for Hersh Goldberg-Polin—or baby Carmel, for Carmel Gat, or Ori, for Ori Danino, or Maya, for Maya Goren.

These young American Jews will carry their names into the future. I imagine, 18 years from now, young Hershs and Carmels and Oris and Mayas walking onto the quad together, on one of a thousand American campuses. And my prayer is that as much as they carry their names, they will also carry their courage, their essence. That they will know who they are, where they come from and where they're going. >



Honor your loved one in our **MEDITATION GARDEN**

KJCC has specially designed a lovely outdoor space intended to promote mindfulness and contemplation. It's a place where our community can connect with nature, find solace, or simply enjoy quiet moments of reflection.

Inscriptions on Bricks and Benches are available to purchase as honorariums or memorials, and as gifts to be placed in our beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden.

Place your order for one or several to support your congregtion.

Single brick - \$125.00 4"x 8" - 4 lines Up to 21 characters per line

Double brick- \$200.00 8"x 8" - 8 lines

Bench - \$1000.00 6 lines Up to 21 characters per line Up to 35 characters per line







Donations are also welcome to help support our lovely garden and will be used toward the purchase of native plants, shrubs and trees.

Print inscription on reverse . Mail form and payment to KJCC, PO Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070 Payment or Donation can also be made on our website: www.keysjewishcenter.com

Annual Women's Seder Tikkun Olam

Our Annual Women's Seder Tikkun Olam was very successful this year through the generosity and donations of our members, including our raffle and letter responses. Despite not having an in person Seder, I am happy to report that we have exceeded our fundraising goals, and raised the most amount of money in our 21 years. I'm proud to be able to continue our mission of repairing the world one life at a time.

This year I'm pleased to announce that we will be donating \$1063 to each charity for a total of \$4252 raised.

The charities are:

KJCC TIKKUN OLAM/ for the members of our congregation who need some financial assistance during the tough times

Talia Agler Girls Shelter: or the Talifund: This organization was formed in 2012 by our own members Rabbi Rich-

ard and Mindy Agler to honor the memory of their daughter Talia who in her young age sought to better the world and succeeded in doing so through her work, wit and love. The fund financially supports the Talia Agler girls shelter an arm of the center for domestic training and development in Nairobi Kenya. For more information TaliFund.org

Wesley House Family Services: nationally accredited non profit agency that encompasses all aspects of the child welfare system throughout Monroe County.

Women's Amutot Initiative, established in 2003 which allocates funds to empower women and girls in Israel through social, economic, religious and political equality.

We thank you for your generosity and support in our annual project. \diamond

Erica Lieberman Garrett, Women's Seder Committee



PHOTO GALLERY



Can you guess which of your fellow KJCC members these babies grew up to be? See answers on pg 33.































Newly cleaned and upgraded Meditation Garden, Great opportunity to honor loved ones with brick, bench, orchid or tree. **Contact Shari** Carlquist at 305-962-0000.



Rosemary & Dennis Ciotti hosted Joyce and poodle Ruby as they traveled north for the summer





KJCC gets its quarter share of money raised for Tikkun Olam by Sisterhood activities in place of the woman's Seder



How lovely to receive this photo of long-time member and friend Joan Wohl (smiling, in white sneakers) on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Be well and happy, dear Joan.



President of KJCC delightedly accepts the donation made to our Synagogue by our hardworking creative fundraising arm President of Sisterhood, Loni Padden

Tyler Cope's Bar Mitzvah

CELEBRATING THE BAR MITZVAH

TYLER GORDON COPE

JUNE 21", 2025 KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



Friday night, the first day of summer, began the Bar Mitzvah festivities with a special Oneg sponsored by Tyler Cope's parents, Shanti and Craig. Mazal Tov to the entire family.

Tyler the Bar Mitzvah boy with

Mom, Shanti & Dad, Craig.

Tonights Oneg is sponsored by Shanti & Craig Cope in celebration of Tyler Cope's Bar Mitzvahl Mazel tovi

Shanti Cope and her mother light the Shabbat candles.

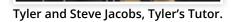














Michael Kaufman, Executive Vice President of KJCC congratulates Tyler and presents him with his Bar Mitzvah certificate. Susan Gordon, Education Chair and VP, and Sisterhood President Loni Padden present Tyler with his very own Kiddish Cup and small Torah Scroll.

Steve Jacobs, Tyler's tutor, joins Tyler in reciting the blessings over wine and challah.







Tyler and tutor, Steve Jacobs, perform this most significant ritual of Jewish life beautifully.



All the KJCC members who attended the party at the Elks Lodge, along with approximately 100 of the Cope family's out of town guests, family and friends. Such a proud and happy moment!!



Our President, Kenneth Atlas. Executive VP, Michael Kaufman with family Sean and Lorena Kaufman, Erica Lieberman Garrett & Stanley Margulies

SHABBABAQUE

KICC loves traditions. For years we have celebrated the birth of our democracy with our men grilling meat and sisterhood working to provide all the festive decoration and the ever more evolved side dishes and deserts. What a pleasure to see one of our youngest adult males working smilingly over a hot grill. Thank you Jonah Gross! Thank you Jane Friedman and Luz Levine for a beautiful home-baked cake. Joe Shabathai capped the evening with a lovely, meaningful service.



We are so happy to see our friends Terry Willner-Tainow, Jon S Tainow, Judy and Adam Starr, and Donna Bolton all enjoying the evenings festivities!

It was a wonderful surprise to see, in person, Steven Hartz and his lovely wife, Jan Louise Lindsay!



Thank-you to everyone who contributed delicious food for this year's Shabbabague! The buffet was so plentiful, no one left hungry, and many 'to-go' containers went home!

Traditions! We love our star spangled Rivka and Max along with beaming President Ken Atlas.

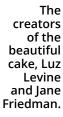




Our grilling chef of the evening, Jonah Gross. Mom, Randy Klein Gross has a wonderful son to be very proud of!



Joe Shabathai leads the Kiddush prayer before dinner.







Linda Pollack with her sister, Lani Moss and family!



No Kjcc Shul event would be complete without a 'selfie' of Erica Lieberman Garrett & Susan Gordon!

A hearty thank you as well to all members who came to celebrate Mickey (Miriam) Frankel's 100th birthday party. We have been an active congregation for over 43 years and this has happened only once before. Pauline Roller would have loved you. We are honored to be present to congratulate you achieving that rare distinction. Bravo, you! We are in awe of your continuing creativity as a working artist! We are delighted whenever you come to a service or other celebratory event. Thanks for letting us show off your paintings, on canvas and ceramics in our social hall.



Thank you to Luz Levine for making this spectacular birthday cake, and to Jane Friedman for decorating it!

Loni Padden brought her talented friend lames, who sketched a sweet birthday card & presented it to Mickey.







Nadine Frankel Thompson enjoys the celebration for her Mother!



Our birthday girl poses with some of her original artwork which is on display in the Social Hall and her hand-painted porcelain plates.

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

A FATHER'S DAY MEMORY

by Judy Starr

his was a Sunday not in June, but rather in September, a blue-sky clear and breezy day that was all about Dad and me. Mom staved at home with my brother, while Dad and I had a special day all to ourselves. In a red and white striped dress with a navy-style blue collar, wearing new patent leather Mary Janes with folded-down anklets that had scalloped borders with a small embroidered flower above every scalloped curve, I was dressed in my best party clothes. My hair, braids newly cut to make getting ready in the mornings for school quick and easy, was in a fashionable child's pixie, short and with bangs across the forehead. So many years in the past. and yet this day is as clear as that sky that glowed above.

It was an errand, though I did not realize it then, a trip to Williamsburg, to see a rabbi's representative who might be able to help my brother, who needed special schooling. This was in the days before the public school system provided the special education programs that benefit a number of students today. Our host smilingly pronounced me "a shaine maidele" and turned me over to a smiling woman who took me to the kitchen for milk and cookies and left me there alone. I remember looking out the window at the narrow end of a rectangular kitchen through chiffon curtains into a gray-looking courtyard or alley. Then my father came, took my hand, and led me home.

Many years went by before I realized the significance of that Sunday subway excursion from our walk-up in the Bronx to another walk-up in Brooklyn. I did not realize the choice my parents faced. They could choose between living as Jews in a neighborhood with many other Jews, among them some other Holocaust survivors, where there was an Orthodox shul as well as a Conservative synagogue within walking distance, and

continuing to search for the proper program for my brother. The alternative was merging with the Setmar community in Brooklyn, which was the only way they would be admitted to participate in what services their organizations would offer. Of course, though my father had studied in a yeshiva before the war, he would be the new kid on the block. My brother would get a special education, which would have lightened the burden upon my mother. (What she sacrificed for my brother is another story to be told another time.) However, part of the trade-off for joining the sect would be that I would get a very specialized education, with opportunities in the wider world very limited.

Why I would remember this particular Sunday afternoon excursion was beyond me. I was probably only five years old.

What dawned on me almost too late in my father's life is that it was largely through his insistence that my family stayed in the Bronx, rather than merge with the Williamsburg Chassidic community, which allowed me the opportunities in life that followed. It allowed me to explore intellectual and artistic avenues of learning and expression that I doubt I would ever have traveled. How different my life would have been if my parents had made a different choice, if my father had not taken his stand. For while my mother might have been comfortable with a life-style reminiscent of the life that was torn from her by the Nazi horror, my father had his feet firmly on the soil of the new world in which they both arrived in 1946. It was to this new world that he wanted to lead me, even as he took us to Williamsburg to see what he would find there on that mild and gorgeous September afternoon.

It took so long to realize that for me, the first Father's Day came on a Sunday not in June, but in September.

And this is why my father is my hero: because he led me clear-eved on the path to who I am, more so than I could know when I was still so young and thought I knew it all. >

New Moon Poem: Where Are We Going? June 2025 Tammuz 5785

by Lucinda Kurtz

On this new moon of Tammuz, a path through murk and fog.

The thread bonding us rips from its mooring.

Where are the waypoints for the dusty traveler searching for the lost tree?

Like the Israelites cast out from the crumbled walls, we are lured onto narrow ledges falling away to steep cliffs to dead ends without escape.

A deep rumbling in our aching bellies
wakens us to the call,
time to draw fresh water
from the sparkling well,
trust our clear vision
circle arms around beloveds
join hands to tread
the clouded trail ahead.





Israel:

Heritage, Homeland and Haven

oes it ever take the fear of losing something you've taken for granted, to realize how much it means to you? After 9/11, when our country was attacked, and after 10/7 when the homeland of our heritage was invaded by marauders out of Gaza, each time I realized how much the United States and Israel meant to me.

The United States is my home; born and raised here, steeped in American culture, this is where I feel I should and do belong. And yet...and yet, like most if not all of us, I have heard too many stories of exclusion. belittlement, persecution, and pogroms. And the blood libel, ever morphing. We know of the worst of all pogroms, the Holocaust. We know of the most recent libel, that of shooting people waiting in line for the distribution of food. We also know there is a place where we, as Jewish people, will be accepted without question, reservation, prejudice or persecution because of our history and faith. While admittedly, my life-long home is here, there is both comfort and an assurance in the sovereign existence of Israel, which offers me unquestioned acceptance along with an open invitation to merge my personal history with our shared and ancient history. It always feels nice to be wanted.

The place where we're wanted and welcomed, Israel, is our haven. If every other historical nationality has a geographically traceable homeland, if other religious groups are free to flourish without fear of challenge or harm, then why can't the Jewish people have such a place to call their own, too? If every other nation that has won a war has acquired the land of the defeated enemy, why can't the Jewish nation even keep the land within even pre-war boundaries – never mind expanding those boundaries post-war – without being bombarded with challenges? Why all these attacks on a legitimacy that has been proven?

These are rhetorical questions, but they are

born of the pangs of our history and our unlanded status through so many years and in so many places. "Next year in Jerusalem" has become, at last, "This year, right here and now." Israel makes it that way. Israel is a reality, it is ours, and we must keep it so.

As a case in point, imagine the thoughts and fears of so many of the Jews in France, who according to a recent report, have recently applied to make Aliyah in record numbers. Their country of birth can not guarantee their safety, and one wonders about the demographic and cultural future there as well. As unfortunate as the urgency of our French co-religionists, it is fortunate that they have the choice of Aliyah. Too often Jews have had to shift from place to place, too often unwelcome. Israel offers an alternative: a welcome, a haven.

It would serve the world well, particularly the Western world, to open their eyes and marshal the will to support Israel, defend its legitimacy, and deny and disown the lies and attacks against it. Perhaps you, too, have heard it said that certain fanatical parties plan first to take down "the Saturday people," after which they will pursue "the Sunday people." These are words well worth marking. Those who care for their liberties and lifestyles would do well to attend to the proverbial canary in the mine. What Israel endures is a harbinger of what they, too, may well face.

We can be grateful and proud that the values of the Jewish people and our faith are a cornerstone of the freedoms that we in the Western world take for granted. These are the freedoms that enable us to worship and live according to our consciences, consciences honed by teachings transmitted through millennia. Embattled, Israel owns a heritage worth fighting for, values and ideals that are worthy of the struggle, a struggle that is worthy of the recognition and support of everyone who cherishes freedom and treasures the gift of life. Am Yisrael Chai.

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- Ken Atlas
- Joyce Peckman
- Ionah Gross
- 4. Lilly Padden
- Nadine Thompson
- Lilly Padden
- Susan Gordon
- Randy Klein-Gross (with grandmother)
- Mickey Frankel (left)
- 10. Shari Carlquist
- 11. Loni Padden (with mom)
- 12. Mark Avner
- 13. Susan Gordon (at age 5)
- 14. Medina Roy



