

November 1 - December 31, 2024 | 30 Tishrei -30Kislev 5785

**World Jewish Report • Pages 11-13** 

A Look Back at Yamim Noraim, the High Holy Days, Ten Days of Awe • Pages 19-21

Sukkot Lives: At KJCC and in Israel • Pages 24-26



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors			1 NOV Linda Pollack & Steve Hartz Joe & Kathy Shabathai & Rivka Rizzo-Trent	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 10am Hebrew Studies 12pm		Election Day			Randy Klein-Gross <i>Judy Starr</i>	
Kristallnacht Hebrew Studies 12pm	11	12	13	14 Shabbos Project: Challah Baking with Jane 4pm	15 Shabbos Project Dinner 6pm Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman Joyce Peckman	16
T7 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10am Hebrew Studies 12pm	18	19	20	21	Judy Starr Jeff & Cheryl Margulies, Roy & Elizabeth Pollack	23
Hebrew Studies 12pm	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 Gloria Avner & Rivka Trent Gloria Avner	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
1 DEC Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 10am Hebrew Studies 12pm	2	3	4	5	6 Ken Atlas & Art Itkin Steve & Jan Hartz	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10am					Erica Lieberman Garrett	
Sunday Funday Game Day 1pm	16	17	18	Sisterhood Book Club 12:30pm	20 Rivka Rizzo-Trent	21
Hebrew Studies 12pm	23	24	25 First night of Hanukkah Thai Food at KJCC 6pm	26	27 Hanukkah Dinner 6pm Joyce Peckman <i>Linda Pollack</i>	28
29 Nelson Center Lighting of Menorah 5:15pm	30	31				

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



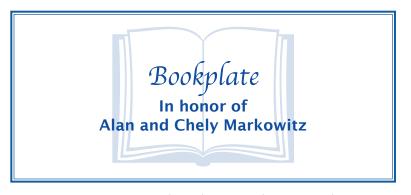
nother High Holiday season has come to a close. Our clergy was phenomenal. And the member support was just as good.

On one hand, this was my easiest fast ever. At no point did I find myself longing for food. That was a great victory for me. However, this was the first year I got dehydrated. I guess you win some you lose some.

My favorite part was the fast talk and all the great comments people were making. Having so many of us, getting to discuss a plethora of Jewish topics is a great way to stay active between Yom Kippur services.

And as this time of year coincides with the end of baseball season, I'm always reminded how legendary Jewish pitcher Sandy Koufax refused to play in Game 1 of the World Series because it was Yom Kippur. Don Drysdale (another great) pitched instead, though lost, and asked the manager, if he wished Don had been Jewish too. Sandy wasn't the first time a player didn't play. Apparently, Hank Greenberg had done this many years earlier. And I just learned that Rabbi and Mindy Agler's son is the play by play guy for the San Diego Padres. I feel that name, having a religious connection, is the most appropriate team to be involved with. However, they lost to the Dodgers, even without Koufax!

October has been filled to the brim with important holidays!. Soon enough we'll be into December and the Festival of Lights. The past year flew by. And as I wish you all a happy new year, I'm guessing the next will too. I also look forward to the return of the rest of our snowbirds.



# WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

#### **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024**

Friday, Nov. 1	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Linda Pollack & Steve Hartz
Sunday, Nov. 3	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Nov. 8	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross
Sunday, Nov. 10	12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Thursday, Nov. 14	4 p.m. Shabbos Project: Challah Baking with Jane
Friday, Nov. 15	6 p.m. Shabbos Project Dinner 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman
Sunday, Nov. 17	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Nov. 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Judy Starr
Sunday, Nov. 24	12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Nov. 29	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Gloria Avner & Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Sunday, Dec.1	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Friday, Dec. 6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Sunday, Dec. 8	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Dec. 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garrett
Sunday, Dec. 15	1 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day
Friday, Dec. 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Wednesday, Dec. 25	6 p.m. Thai Food at KJCC First night of Hanukkah
Friday, Dec. 27	6 p.m. Hanukkah Dinner 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman
Sunday, Dec. 29	5:15 p.m. Nelson Center Lighting of Menorah

#### **NOSH**

# Challah bake and dinner to celebrate The Shabbos Project.

The Shabbos Project began 12 years ago in South Africa, as a way to encourage Jews of every background to experience the joy of Shabbos. It has grown into an experience shared in 100 countries, in over 1500 cities, and KJCC is part of it. Everyone is invited to join us Thursday Nov. 14th at 4 p.m. as Jane Friedman leads a group challah bake. Bring your large bowl, two cookie sheets, measuring cups and spoons. Sisterhood will provide the ingredients. We will prepare the dough, have a glass of wine or tea while we wait for it to rise, then bring home the braided challah to bake. The next evening we will return to KJCC at 6 p.m. for a traditional Shabbos meal, followed by services. Contact Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 before November 10 to RSVP for the challah bake or coordinate your offering for the dinner.

#### Asian food for Christmas - a Jewish tradition

This year the first night of Hanukkah falls on December 25th. Jews have a long history of going out for Chinese food on Christmas. This year we have a Keys spin on the concept. We will come together at KJCC at 6 p.m. December 25th to light our candles, sing some songs and enjoy take-out Asian food. The cost will be \$25 p/p. RSVP to Joyce at 732-447-5225.

#### Light Up Key Largo on Hanukkah

We are proud to announce that there will be a large Hanukkah Menorah near the Christmas tree on US 1 at the Murray Nelson Government Center. Thanks to donations from some of our board members, we will have a 9-foot-tall menorah installed for all to see as they drive through Key Largo during the entire month of December. On Sunday December 29th, we plan to meet by the waterfront behind the Government Center at 5:15pm to watch the sunset. We will then go light the Menorah in celebration of the 5th night of Hanukkah.

#### Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner & Latke Party

On Friday December 27th at 6pm we will celebrate the third night of Hanukkah with a dairy and latke pot luck dinner. Please contact Loni Padden to RSVP no later than December 20th. Bring your own Menorah as we celebrate the 3rd night of Hanukkah with our annual communal lighting & blessings.

#### Sisterhood Book Club

We will skip the November meeting, which would fall on Thanksgiving. Our December book is a history of the NY Deli called "Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli" by Ted Merwin. It is available on Kindle, paperback or hard cover. The discussion will be on December 19th at the home of Shirley Stein, and on Zoom.

#### **Hebrew Study**

We meet at KJCC Sundays at noon for an hour of Hebrew reading with Joyce. Last year it was beginning Hebrew, but we are already getting comfortable recognizing the letters, so we are going forward to learning words and getting familiarized with prayers. Contact Joyce at 732–447–5225 for more information, or if you don't know the letters and want to learn.

#### **Sunday Funday Game Day**

December 15th at 1 p.m. we will resume our informal game day, led by Jeff & Cheryl Margulies. We are moving to the third Sunday of the month. Participants can decide between Five Crowns, Poker, Scrabble or whatever they choose, for several hours of easy-going fun.

#### Saturday Night at the Movies

Stay tuned for another favorite KJCC activity. We are bringing back "Saturday Night at the Movies". We plan to begin sometime in December and will show one movie each month. The movies will be shown on the big screen in the Sanctuary and will be Jewish themed. We will end the evening in the Social Hall, enjoying conversation and refreshments! ♦



#### ONGOING PROJECTS AND MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

**CEMETERY INFORMATION:** If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

**CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, or email *lindap4000@ymail.com* for rates.

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

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you, Shari Carlquist. Call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

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

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

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at <a href="mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com">lindap4000@ymail.com</a>.

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

# HOW CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CAN INSTANTLY BECOME PERMANENT, LIVING MEMORIALS

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

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

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

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

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

#### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024

In Honor/Momory of

ranrzeit	in Honor/Memory of
Rich & Mindy Agler	Jack Steinberg
Rosalyn Koffler	Lillian Kofler
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	Phillip Fine
Robert Temkin	Kenny Temkin
Unrestricted	
Sandra St Germain	Rosh Hashanah
Michael & Lorena Kaufman	
Richard & Mary Bentolila	Rosh Hashanah
Mark Avner	
Susan Tatelman	Laurie Blum
& Anne Steinman	& Gary Margolis
Dana Levy	Donation gift
Sophia Fischer	Rosh Hashanah
Elinor Grossman	Rosh Hashanah

#### Gold Leaf

Vahrasit

Johanna WillIner

#### **New Year's Greeting**

Ioel & Mary Roth

#### Rabbi & Cantor

Ioel & Mary Roth

#### **Yizkor Book**

Patricia Isenberg Michael Duman Joel & Mary Roth

#### Scholarship Fund

Mark Avner

#### Chai-Lights Support

Iohanna Wilner Joel & Mary Roth

#### Unrestricted

Patricia Isenberg Susan White Joel & Mary Roth Richard & Mary Bentolila.....Rosh Hashanah Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

#### SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

#### Dinner Sponsorships Bob & Michelle Diener Iovce Peckman ......Shabbos Project Friday Linda Pollack ...... Chanukah Dinner Shari Carlquist

#### **General Donations**

Susan & Paul Roberts **Boruszak Family** 

Oneg Sponsorships
Dr. Samual & Deborah ClarkeCelebrating
Their Anniversary
Barb & Richard KnowlesCelebrating Barb
& Sam's Birthdays
Rivka Rizzo-TrentHonoring Her
Grandmother Hilda DaČosta
Judy & Adam StarrCelebrating Sisterhood
Donna BoltonCelebrating Her Birthday
Stuart & Lauren SaxCelebrating Their
51st Anniversary
Elizabeth & Roy PollackRoy's Birthday
Madelyn Ruby Pollack's Birthday
Elizabeth's Birthday
Will Travis Pollack's Birthday
Jeff & Cheryl MarguliesSam's 16th Birthday
Rachel & Max's 13th birthdays
Jeff's Birthday
Their Anniversary
Cheryl's Birthday
Gabriel's 16th Birthday

# Leaf on the tree of life:

To Celebrate the 30th Wedding Anniversary of Barbara and Paul Bernstein October 2, 1994

# Happy Birthday!

November	
2nd	Matt Temkin
3rd	Katherine Shabathai
4th	Zoey Barrett
7th	Joel Stein
	Michele Lindenbaum
8th	Nico Wilbur
13th	Tami Antelman
14th	Larry Wolfe
16th	Lorelei Alexander
18th	Diana Loi-Kamely
18th	Ross Alexander
20th	Betty Small
22nd	Gloria Avner
	Will Travis Pollack
29th	Benjamin Rakov
December	
	Rachel Levine
	Jan Hartz
	Judith Klein
	Geri Smith

5thStuart Sax7thFranklin Rose7thGary Grossinger7thRhett William Casey

9th	Jacob Grossinger
9th	Owen Brody
	Oran Hesterman
11th	Sara Rose Friedman
13th	Robin Margulies Juenger
16th	Diana Lal
16th	Samuel Klimpl
17th	Bruce Forman
	Lilian Forbes
18th	Emelyn Anne Juenger
18th	Jerry Small
19th	Jonah Gross
19th	Lorena Kaufman
19th	Terry Willner-Tainow
22nd	Laura Molly Friedman
22nd	Lisa Miller
	Stuart Smith
	Steven Smith
	Cantor ilana Plutzer
27th	Claire Tallent
28th	Elaine Schulberg
28th	Emily Sherman
	Len Levi
28th	Michael Klimpl
29th	Ioan Stark

#### Anniversaries

	Years
Thomas & Renee Brodie	31
Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages Dandrea	21
Susan Horn and Dot Brooking	
Stanley & Jenny Margulies	
Michele & Alan Lindenbaum	
Jamie & Laura Goodman	19
Joe & Linda Levi	
Linda & Bruce Pincus	35
Max Trent and Rivka Rizzo-Trent	3
	Thomas & Renee Brodie

ONEG SPONSORS			
	ONLY STONSONS		
Nov. 1	Joe & Kathy Shabathai Celebrating Kathy's Birthday		
	Rivka Rizzo-Trent In Honor of Grandmother Hilda DaCosta		
Nov. 8	Judy Starr In Appreciation of Sisterhood		
Nov. 15	Joyce Peckman Shabbos Project Dinner		
Nov. 22	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Celebrating Gabriel's 16th Birthday		
	Roy & Elizabeth Pollack Celebrating Will Travis Pollack's Cirthday		
Nov. 29	Gloria Avner Celebrating Gloria's Birthday		
Dec. 6	Steve & Jan Hartz Celebrating Jan's Birthday		
Dec. 13	TBD		
Dec. 20	TBD		
Dec. 27	Linda Pollack Dinner Sponsorship		



#### **Shabbat Service Leaders**

Nove	mber 1	Linda Pollack & Steve Hartz
Nove	mber 8	Randy Klein-Gross
Nove	mber 15	Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman
Nove	mber 22	Judy Starr
Nove	mber 29	Gloria Avner & Rivka Trent
Dece	mber 6	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Dece	mber 13	Erica Lieberman Garrett
Dece	mber 20	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Dece	mber 27	lovce Peckman

Leaf on the tree of life:

Honoring Arthur Lee Willner Loving Husband and Father Yahrzeit Plaque:

Nona Levin Abrams Adar 1 14, 5784 February 23, 2024



# In Memoriam – November 2024

#### **Eugene Agler**

by Richard & Mindy Agler

#### **Elaine Ruda**

by Sylvia Berman

#### **Shirley Leventhal Strumor**

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

#### **Harriet Feder**

by David & Suzi-Sara Feder

#### **Lillian Skolnick**

by Susan Gordon

#### Jerome Hutchison

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

#### **Helene Tulsky**

by Patricia Isenberg

#### Michal Kamely Levy

by Yardena Kamely

#### **David Kamely**

by Yardena Kamely

#### Sol Levv

by Beth Kaminstein

#### Ron Levy

by Beth Kaminstein

#### Esther M. Klein

by Harvey & Judith Klein

#### Jacob S. Raub

by Harvey & Judith Klein

#### **Fanny Kluger**

by Nancy Kluger

#### **Ethel Hankin**

by Richard & Barbara Knowles

#### llse Doellefeld

by Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

#### Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

#### **Benjamin Margulies**

by Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

#### **Murray Pincus**

by Linda Pincus

#### **Ann Plutzer**

by Arthur Plutzer

#### Tillie Pollack

by Linda Pollack

#### Raymond K. Hess

by Jan Price

#### Shirley Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

# **Albert Kaminsky** by Elaine Schulberg

**Rose T. Steinberg** by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

#### Marianne Cimkowski

by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

#### George Swartz

by Muriel Swartz

#### **Samuel Tallent**

by Lillian Tallent

#### **Kenny Temkin**

by Robert Temkin

#### **Beverly Tobin**

by Andrew M. Tobin

#### Hilda Dacosta

by Max Gordon Trent & Rivka Rizzo-Trent

#### Zara White

by Susan White

#### **Esther Gold Willner**

by Johanna Willner

#### Diana Wolfe

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



# In Memoriam – December 2024

#### Alex Avner

by Gloria Avner & Mark Avner

#### Jerrold Benowitz

by Roos-Mary Benowitz

#### **Hetty Clark**

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

#### **Rose Beth**

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

#### J.D. Stanlake

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

#### **Daniel Birnbaum**

by Norbert Birnbaum

#### **Robert Scott Coltman**

by Barnet O. Coltman

#### **Morris Hitzig**

by Wes & Rita Conklin

#### **Harry Wolfe**

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

#### Mildred Hesterman

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

#### Leonard Hesterman

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

#### Janet Kaplan

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

#### **Kurt Kluger**

by Nancy Kluger

#### **Gary Kreitman**

by Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver

#### Deborah Krissel Cannon

by Michael Krissel

#### Adele Kaufman

by Jeff & Lisa Miller

#### Mitch Harvey

by Linda Perloff

#### **Claire Lempel**

by Linda Pincus

#### M. Arlene Hess

by Jan Price

#### **Raymond Martell**

by Frank Rose

#### Florence Cohen

by Jules & Nettie Seder

#### Rhonie Lee Klipper

by Mary Lee Singer

#### Sylvia L. Singer

by Mary Lee Singer

#### Murray Blinder

by Steven & Barbara Smith

#### Steve Cimkowski

by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

#### **Bertha Swartz**

by Muriel Swartz

#### **Bernard Swartz**

by Muriel Swartz

#### **Harold Tainow**

by Jon S. Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

#### **Frances Willner**

by Jon S. Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

#### **Carlie Trent**

by Max Gordon Trent & Rivka Rizzo-Trent





# Challah Bake

Thursday, November 14, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to our Shabbat Project Challah Bake led by Jane Friedman.

Have your supplies at hand: Cookie sheet, large bowl, measuring spoons and cups. We will provide everything else.

RSVP to Loni Padden at dr.padden@yahoo.com by November 10th so we can purchase sufficient supplies.



# WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



#### Lufthansa Pays a Hefty Fine

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently ordered Lufthansa, the German airline, to pay \$4 million in fines for an incident that took place in 2022 and denied boarding to 128 Jewish passengers. The incident affected men wearing traditionally Orthodox Jewish clothing who were traveling from New York City through Frankfurt to Budapest. In response to a few passengers alleging misbehavior partly related to mask compliance, Lufthansa employees reportedly treated all 128 Jewish passengers as one single group, even though many of the passengers did not know each other, nor were they traveling together. All were denied seats and transport, for which they had paid.

The incident generated outrage from the lewish community worldwide and caught the attention of antisemitism watchdogs, including Holocaust scholar and author Deborah Lipstadt, the United States' Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Dr. Lipstadt called the Lufthansa incident "unbelievable." Later that same year, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) signed a memorandum of understanding with Lufthansa. announcing that the company would adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and that the AIC would train airline employees on how to identify and respond to antisemitism. Lufthansa CEO lens Ritter said the company would hire someone to fill the position for the prevention of discrimination and antisemitism.

The airline also agreed to pay each affected passenger \$20,000 plus a reimbursement of \$1,000. The new penalty, which followed an investigation into more than 40 discrimination complaints from Jewish passengers aboard the flight, is the largest amount ever issued in the United States against an airline over civil rights violations. "No one should face discrimination when they travel, and today's action sends a clear message to the airline industry that we are prepared to investigate and take action

whenever passengers' civil rights are violated," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said. (<u>www.npr.org</u>, 10-15-24)

#### The Oldest lewish Book in Existence

There is a new exhibit at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. claiming to feature the oldest Jewish book ever discovered. The small, handwritten manuscript dates back 1.300 years and originated with Jews who lived in a Buddhist civilization in what is now Afghanistan. (And around the time when Islam was first emerging from the Arabian peninsula.) A relic of an eighth-century civilization on the Silk Road (the ancient trading route from the middle east into China, most famously trod by Marco Polo), the manuscript known as the Afghan Liturgical Quire (ALQ), was created by Jews living as a minority among those Asian Buddhists, who ruled the Bamiyan Valley. Measuring just five inches by five inches, the ALQ contains a variety of texts written by different hands and includes Sabbath morning prayers, poems and what the museum says is the oldest known version of the Haggadah.

The museum's claims are based on years of work by a team of researchers, even though the exhibit opened before those scholars were able to publish their findings. The exhibit's co-curator, Sharon Mintz, acknowledged that until the scholarship comes out, it will be difficult for those working in the wider field of Jewish manuscripts to fully accept the museum's story.

A 2019 laboratory test used carbon dating to estimate the book's age at 1,300 years, astonishing researchers at the museum. The carbon dating indicated that this was the earliest intact Hebrew codex by more than a century. (Far more ancient written Hebrew texts have been discovered, but only on scrolls, most famously the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea scrolls that are displayed prominently in

Jerusalem in the Israel Museum.)

A member of Afghanistan's Hazara ethnic minority discovered the ALQ in 1997 in a cave near one of the giant Bamiyan Buddhas carved into a mountain in ancient times (and deliberately destroyed by the Taliban in an explosion in 2001 when they first took power.) Then, following the 9/11 attacks and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the book's tracks disappeared until 2012, when a rare book dealer photographed it in London.

Eventually, the evangelical Christian Green family based in Oklahoma, who owned the Hobby Lobby chain, bought the book without knowing its true age or origin, and added it to a collection that would evolve into the Museum of the Bible. At that time, it was mislabeled "Egypt, circa 900 CE." A museum curator who was examining the book realized that its real origin was Afghanistan when he came upon a photo of the book in an article in Tablet magazine about Jewish manuscripts being smuggled out of the country. That discovery eventually led to the carbon-testing and the revelation of the book's unique significance.

At some later date, the exhibit will travel to New York, where it will be on view at the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. (The Christian museum has been working to rehabilitate its reputation after a looted antiquity scandal and allegations of misrepresenting Jewish texts.)

(www.jta.org, 9-24-24)

#### DNA Tells the Story...Maybe

According to a new documentary that aired in Spain, Spanish researchers who have spent 22 years researching Christopher Columbus' national origins, have concluded that bones buried in a Seville cathedral are in fact those of Columbus. They also report that DNA tests suggest a high likelihood that he was a Sephardic Jew from the eastern Iberian Peninsula. "We have DNA from Christopher Columbus, very partial, but sufficient. We have DNA from Hernando Colon, his son," José Antonio Lorente, forensic expert at the University of Granada, said in the documentary. "And both the Y-chromosome (male) and in the mitochondrial DNA (transmitted by the mother) of Hernando there are traits compatible with Jewish origin."

The accuracy of the findings may never be known. The forensic scientists have not yet released their raw data and their report was not peer-reviewed before the documentary aired, a must in scientific research. According to a Spanish report, the research will appear in an international scientific

journal in the near future.

Researchers who study Columbus say the alleged findings are of limited significance even if true. DNA evidence would show only Jewish heritage, not Jewish identity. Columbus' own writings convey Christian beliefs and also praise for the decree which expelled Jews from Spain. Ronnie Perelis, a Yeshiva University professor who has written about Sephardic Jews of the era said, "I encourage people to read his own writings to appreciate his complex identity - he was an autodidact, who took advantage of the explosion of knowledge after the birth of printing to create an eclectic theology that had many Judaic elements - but in a deeply Christian, mystical vein. Genetics doesn't make someone Jewish." (If he was Jewish, Columbus would certainly not have been the first, or clearly the last, Jew with inner identity conflicts or a practical need to hide his lewishness.)

Still, the claims add scientific credibility to longtime speculation about Columbus' Jewish origins. Some 90 years ago, a prominent Spanish historian claimed that Columbus was not Italian, as had long been believed, but Spanish, the son of Marranos, Jews who converted to Christianity to escape the fury of the Spanish inquisition. And more recently, Georgetown University professor Estelle Irizarry analyzed Columbus' known writings. She concluded that marks on some pages and other quirks suggest that his native tongue could have been Ladino, a Sephardic Jewish language and blend of Hebrew and Spanish, Still others have made note of the proximity of Columbus' first departure for the new world - August 3, 1492 - to the date on which his sponsors, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, issued the Alhambra Decree in March 1492. That decree gave Jews a choice; expulsion, conversion or death. What is undisputed, however, is the fact that several members of Columbus' crew, including his mapmaker and navigator, were Jewish or prominent Marranos.

The new documentary came on the eve of what has long been called Columbus Day in the United States, the date selected to commemorate Columbus' arrival on the continent. But more and more, the date has become known as Indigenous Peoples Day in honor of the native people whose communities and culture were destroyed by European expansionism. History is never simple. (<a href="https://www.forward.com">www.forward.com</a>, 10-14-24)

#### The Mystery Seed

According to recently published research, the resin of a tree germinated from a mysterious

1,000-year-old seed found in a Judean desert cave could be the source of the biblical tsori, a type of medicinal balm. Radiocarbon dating has dated the seed's origin somewhere between 993 CE and 1,202 CE. The tree, which is still in a pot, has been identified as a species of Commiphora, part of the frankincense and myrrh family.

The seed was found by Dr. Sarah Sallon, Director of the Louis Borick Natural Medicine Research Center at Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. She found it in the Institute of Archaeology of Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Professor Joseph Patrich had excavated it in the mid-1980s from Wadi el Makkuk, a trail in Kfar Adumim in Jerusalem. (In the past, Dr. Sallon also found an unconnected batch of 1,900-year-old date seeds. One was germinated and was nicknamed Methuselah, the biblical figure said to have lived until age 969.) The Commiphora seed, nicknamed "Sheba," was planted in 2010. Five weeks later, a seedling emerged. Once the plant had bark, it yielded resin.

DNA sequencing, phylogenetic, and phytochemical analyses (phyto is the Greek word for plant) were carried out by experts from all over the world. The Commiphora genus has been valued throughout history for aromatic gum resins. Sallon wanted to find out whether it had a strong fragrance and/or if it had medicinal qualities. So far, tests indicate that it is not fragrant but if it was, it could have been a candidate for the legendary Judean balsam or "Balm of Judea," which no longer exists. Prized for its exquisite perfume and medicinal qualities in ancient times, this was a non-native plant cultivated at oases around the Dead Sea for a thousand years, until the ninth century CE.

According to Sallon, this particular species of Commiphora very likely has medicinal qualities. She believes it could be connected to the biblical tsori. Cited in early biblical sources (Genesis and later in Jeremiah and Ezekiel), tsori was associated with the historical region of Gilead located on the east bank of the Jordan River between the Yarmuk River and the northern end of the Dead Sea. Today this area is in Jordan.

Phytochemical analysis of Sheba's leaves and resin has identified compounds associated with wound healing and anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-tumoral activity.

More study is needed into Sheba's chemistry and possible medicinal significance. "It's been hugely exciting. It's bringing something back to life from 1,000 years ago," Sallon said. (<a href="www.timesofisrael.com">www.timesofisrael.com</a>, 9-18-24)

#### In Memoriam

The Jewish world entered into a period of intense communal mourning at the end of August following the announcement confirming the deaths in captivity of six Israeli hostages. Dr. Mijal Bitton, a scholar at the Shalom Hartman Institute, said the following, trying to answer the many questions her young daughter asked as they discussed the news:

"My daughter asked the same question we are all crying out right now — the question at the core of our pain. How could Hersh Goldberg-Polin's parents, who loved him so fiercely, who shook the foundations of heaven and earth to free him, not get to hold their sweet boy again? How could Ori **Danino**, who escaped the hell of Nova but went back to save others, not make it back himself? How could **Alex Lobanov**, whose wife gave birth to their second child while he was in captivity, documenting each new moment of life to share with him, be killed just miles away from his new baby? How could Almog Sarusi, who had already experienced the agony of seeing his girlfriend murdered at Nova, suffer even more? How could Carmel Gat, with her laughing brown eyes, who cared for the hostage children and taught them yoga to help pass the time, be taken from us? How could Eden Yerushalmi, who hid for four hours from monsters at Nova in a shrub and begged her family in her last words to save her, not be saved?" (www.jta.org, 9-3-24)

-George Berci, developer of the tools and techniques of laparoscopy, the minimally invasive surgical procedure, died at the end of August. He was 103. As a Jew growing up in Hungary after it joined the Axis alliance, Berci was forbidden entry to medical school. As a result, he became an apprentice in an electrical shop and studied mechanical engineering. He survived forced labor and narrowly escaped deportation to Auschwitz.

After World War II, he studied to become a surgeon in Budapest and eventually settled in the United States. Berci would go on to combine his medical training and engineering skills, which ended up benefiting millions of people worldwide. It was in his long and illustrious career at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles where he developed the minimally invasive procedure that allows surgeons to perform delicate operations without major incisions. Berci was nearly 70 years old when laparoscopic surgery became the standard in the late 1980s and early 90s. He continued coming to work until after he turned 100. (<a href="https://www.jpost.com">www.jpost.com</a>, 9-26-24) \$



#### From the Committee for Israel

#### Where Do We Go From Here?

by Judy Starr

he background of a fascinating discussion of ideas one year after the Simchat Torah massacres. In reflecting on a day in Israeli and Jewish history that will be forever known as "a day of infamy", a group of five scholars, writers, and editors met under the auspices of Tikvah to discuss what Jews, particularly in the United States, can do to counter the anti-Semitism that has arisen over the year since the attacks of October 7, 2023. Tikvah is a think tank and source of publications about Jewish ideas and the challenges facing American Jews and the State of Israel.

This meeting took place a few days before the first anniversary of the attacks of October 7, 2023 and aired on YouTube exactly one year later. Jonathan Silver, Chief Programming Officer of Tikvah (among other duties) moderated. Ruth Wisse, a scholar of Jewish literature and ideas; Dara Horn, author and speaker; Liel Leibowitz, author and editor, and Elliot Kaufman, editor of the Wall Street Journal's "letters" page and author gathered around a table and talked. They shared a great number of ideas, provided much insight, and basically offered up a discussion that was inspirational. These notes attempt to share some of the more salient points they made. Ideas have been attributed to speakers in many

instances. Reactions that are my own appear in brackets [].

- 1. October 7 was a shot across the bow not only to Israel, but also to the West. Ruth Wisse pointed out that unlike the Holocaust, which was done in secret, the attackers were "advertising" what they would do not just to the Jews, but to civilization. They showed their face to the world and how they intended to operate. She pointed out that we "should not just turn to the suffering of the Jews": we need to acknowledge "the horror" of who the enemy are. Later adding an ironic point, she noted that during World War II the American war effort helped to save the Jews of Europe. Now it seems that the US is looking to Israel to fight the war against the West's enemies in the Middle East, a war against Western civilization and free societies.
- 2. Re-possess the narrative! Elliot Kaufman pointed out the need to expose the lie that Israel stole the land that is the homeland to which the Jewish people, after 2000 years, miraculously returned. He spoke of the need to refute the "anti-colonial" argument.
- 3. <u>Build bridges to allies.</u> As the latent anti-Semitism in this country and

the world has erupted, now is the time to build bridges to allies. Dara Horn noted that there is more support in this country than we realize. [I would have loved to have this point developed in more detail]. Increasingly not only Jews, but non-lews, see that anti-Zionism = anti-Semitism. Participants noted that we need to clear up the ignorance on the issues. We also need to defend our own interests and rights unapologetically - and front and center, ahead of any other causes. [In other words, while we want to repair the world, which is undeniably a good goal, first we have to make sure we're around to do that work.1

- 4. Choose victory over diplomacy if necessary for survival. Liel Liebowitz of Tablet magazine noted that diplomacy won't work against those who want to kill us. Only victory. That is the only language the enemies of Israel understand. They need to fear defeat and potential conquest.
- 5. There is an assymetry of values. Liel Liebowitz brought up "the Jewish habit of mind," which led to a discussion of our idealization of ourselves, seeking civilized solutions, being self-accountable, not being in the habit of conquering others, and other thoughts. This habit of mind is part of our moral code, where we fight in the "civilized" way. Not everyone lives by these values, and following them too often puts us at a disadvantage. [We are too frequently judged by a double-standard].
- 6. An existential question: Are we a people or a religion? Dara Horn raised this question, noting that our history goes back to being a tribal group, sharing alliances with others in the area, that we carry on form an ancient social structure. She points out that the Jewish people generally do not accept the dominant ideology or theology of where they have been over the past 2,000

- years. [In other words, we are always the different ones, "the eternal other."]
- Other interesting points in the discussion:
- Zionism means we don't need to defer to the world in order to live. (Jonathan Silver, discussion moderator)
- Zionism did not end anti-Semitism; it did, however, conveniently for our enemies, put lots of us in one place.
- The government of Israel may vary, and some non-Israelis may not like it, but we need to stand behind Israel unequivocally if we want to provide meaningful support.
- 11. Anti-semitism is an effective distraction to the problems in Arab nations. [Bernard Lewis's works on Islam, particularly "What Went Wrong?" may be of interest.]
- 12. There is "a complete failure of leadership" in the US on the world stage. (Liel Liebowitz).

<u>Closing Thoughts</u>. Being the minority in so many countries gives the Jewish people a unique perspective on the world and its history. The Jewish people are unique in the world and its history. Our long-time minority status in the world also leaves us vulnerable to scapegoat status, a role we are tired of playing. Ruth Wisse asked, "Who makes you pay for hurting Jews?" That is a very good question.

ADDENDUM: American Jews in general have been strong supporters of Israel. Regarding the future of Jewish life in the United States, a very recent book by Eliot Abrams may shed light: If You Will It: Rebuilding Jewish Peoplehood for the 21st Century.

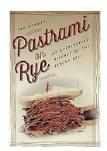
According to one review, Abrams suggests that for individual Jews to feel the connection to Jewish peoplehood, they will need an awareness of Jewish history, a sense of their relation to Israel, and intentional participation in a Jewish community. The book was published on October 8, 2024. ♦



# Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, December 19. 2024 ~ Pastrami on Rye by Ted Merwin



American religion and Judaic studies scholar Ted Merwin's Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli is a comprehensive historical account of the Jewish deli in America: a gathering place, a cultural touchstone, a foodie's delight, and a New York institution that has attained an almost cult-like status.

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

Zoom session is at 12:30 p.m. Live session is at 12:15 p.m.

at the home of Shirley Stein in Key Largo

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

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

#### SISTERHOOD REPORT Loni Padden



he KJCC congregation has ushered in the 5785 High Holy holiday season with many joyous feasts and lots of meaningful contemplations. We were again blessed to have Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin with us to lead Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur services. Together with our loved ones, we shared inspiring moments that will energize us through the coming year. After the somber reflections of the High Holidays, we moved into the joyful celebration of the earth's bounty with Sukkot! Thanks to Rabbi Yisroel Shur from the Key Largo Chabad for generously providing us with an etrog and lulav to smell and shake around in our beautifully decorated sukkah.

Our annual Challah Bake is a beloved tradition that super Jane Friedman leads with her challah expertise. Come get your hands in the dough and be floury with us! November 14th, 4pm at the KJCC, all are welcome. All pantry items will be provided, just bring your baking sheet, large bowl, measuring spoons and cups. The next night will be our Shabbat Project dinner, at 6 pm, sponsored by Joyce Peckman. RSVP by November 10th to Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 dr.padden@yahoo.com.

The Sisterhood is excited to invite you to our Chanukah Shabbat Dinner sponsored by Linda Pollack. Bring your Chanukiah to light on the third night of the Festival of Lights, December 27, 6pm! Please contact Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 <a href="mailto:dr.padden@yahoo.com">dr.padden@yahoo.com</a> to RSVP and coordinate your DAIRY dish. As always, there is no charge, but your generosity is always welcome.

The Sisterhood Book Club led by Linda Pollack will meet at Cynthia's home, 12:15pm Thursday, October 31st to nosh & discuss "Four Women" by Norman Shabel. There will be a zoom session as well. The book club will take a Thanksgiving break for the month of November, resuming in December with "Pastrami on Rye: an overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli" by Ted Merwin. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at Lindap4000@ymail.com

Do a Mitzvah! Sponsor an oneg! You can sponsor a Shabbat oneg in honor of a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit or just because you're feeling fabulous on a Friday night. If you would like to have an oneg date to commemorate something special in your life or a loved one, please call or email Loni Padden at 305–772–2584 dr.padden@yahoo.com

Ladies...you don't want to miss out on the friendship, love and support of the Sisterhood. There is no cost to join. We want to welcome all current members and new incoming women for our next meeting at the KJCC on November 3rd at 10am. We meet in person and zoom to plan our next adventures...Chanukah and more!!!

Moving forward in 5785 with hope, resilience and peace for Israel. L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu, may you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.  $\diamond$ 



### Keys Jewish Community Center Sisiterhood Presents

# The Shabbos Project Shabbat Dinner

Dairy Dinner —



Friday, November 15, 2024 6:00 p.m

Contact Loni Padden to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish at (305)-772-2584.

Please reserve by November 10th.

Sponsored by Joyce Peckman • No Charge

# A Look Back at Yamim Noraim, the High Holy Days, Ten Days of Awe



Taking out and putting back Torahs are significant moments in the High Holiday liturgy. Being called upon to open the ark is always an honor.

Erica does her
Day I Aliyah
with Cantor
Dzubin while Joe
Shabbathai backs
up the cantor
doing Gabbai
duties, keeping
his place in the
parshah reading.



Signs and symbols have always been significant to Jewish philosophers. So how delightful to have a red sky at night over KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam's home territory the night of Rosh HaShanah.



Michael Kaufman holding the torah with Cantor & Rabbi

## 



Joe Shabathai did a wonderful job both as gabbai (helping the cantor keep his place when Torah reading) and at leading Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

#### The Gift of Ceremony

by Gloria Avner

You are called to "go up"
Say a blessing, touch
A sculptured "yad,"
A pointed finger, to the place
On the section of sinew sewn hide
Where the sacred story,
Penned with blade sharpened
feather quill,
Continues.

You know where you stand And with whom.



So good to see Tyler, our next Bar Mitzvah boy and his "ima" (or mother, his favorite Hebrew word to read)



Greetings, Rivka and Max Trent.



Joyce and Loni enjoying the fruits of their labor after setting up for the dinner.

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One of the nicest things about Jewish New Year Traditions is that we see people whom we don't get to see regularly. How lovely it was to have Suzi and David Feder among us and Mindy Agler slicing the round challah before the ceremonial dinner.



Welcome back, Mindy Agler!





Jonah Gross, blowing the traditional rams horn shofar, blows an incredibly long "gadol" to conclude another portion of High Holiday services. We are so grateful to him Mom Randy and Grandpa Arnie also blew the Shofar!

Thank you Shari Carlquist for providing the beautiful fresh High Holiday flowers & to Loni Padden for creating the lovely arrangements.

#### PHOTO GALLERY

#### KJCC GOES TO THE THEATRE

We all enjoyed a delicious meal together at Captain Craigs restaurant & went to the Theatre to see the Keys Players production of The Addams Family.











Harry Friedman graduated his Naval Combat **Engineering Training in** California n October 25. He is now officially a Seabee

We are so proud of you Harry. You must be pretty proud and happy too. We know your parents are. Mazal tov, **Jane and Steve** 

Friedman.



Chantilly Cake, provided by Shari Carlquist who was sponsoring the Oneg in Celebration of her Birthday.



Thank you Loni for creating such lovely Oneg signs every week!



Looks like a great time was had at the Kaufman waterfront home during the Taschlich ceremony of throwing our "sins" into live running water, resolving to trying to be our better selves this coming year.





A joyous Simchat
Torah celebration led
by Joyce Peckman and
a meaningful Yizkor
Service led by Erica
Lieberman Garrett
became even more
joyous with an after
Shabbat service oneg
featuring a chocolate
fountain. Yum.



We welcome our newest members, Richard & Mimi Bentolila







Sukkot in Jerusalem

by Joyce Peckman

y older son Dan and most of his family are spending the Holy Days in Jerusalem. I interviewed 16-year-old Michal and 19-year-old Yosef for this article.

Dan: Before Sukkot I went to *Meir Shearim*, the haredi (very orthodox) section to look for an etrog and lulav. The streets were like a packed outdoor market, with many thousands of etrogs ranging in price from thousands of dollars on down, and hundreds of people examining them carefully to purchase. I ended up going to the *Macheneh Yehudah* market, where merchants sold them for much less than you can buy them in the U.S. There are succahs everywhere – on apartment balconies, and in the streets in front of almost

every restau-

The city set up sukkahs on the street, so anyone who needs one can just use them. There is a huge twenty foot tall sukkah front of City Hall.

Michal: You feel like it's our time of happiness. In Florida, Sukkot is mostly about eating in a hut. Here we take enjoying the holiday so seriously! There is lots of partying in the streets and the people are happy, eating and drinking in their sukkahs. A lot of people have their own sukkahs, and we were invited to people's homes for meals. I love eating in the sukkah, but since we don't have our own in the apartment, we have to bring our

food downstairs to eat in the sukkah set up on the side-walk outside our door. On Ben Yehudah Street there are entertainers walking around in costumes: big puppets, jugglers, magicians, clowns. The street performers are great.

Yosef: Meah Shearim was packed before Sukkot with people looking for just the right etrog. You can't buy them like lemons in the fruit market, because you need to make sure they really



View from Dan's balcony. Setting up outdoor succahs on the street.

etrogs, so you go to the lulav dealers. The week before they are very expensive but now after the holiday, during *Hol Hamoed* (the middle days) they sell them by the box. The myrtle grows naturally on bushes, so you can pick your own if you want. In Efrat and parts of Jerusalem, it is almost like Halloween, with kids going from sukkah to sukkah, where everyone feeds them and gives bags of candy. In each sukkah they make a bracha, eat a little, and take most of the candy home. Unlike Florida, the weather is great.

In Israel the holiday is only one day; it makes *Hol Hamoed* before Simchat Torah a little longer. It's like a vacation. We had parties at my dad's friends' sukkahs. I went with some yeshiva friends to party in Tel Aviv. It isn't like Jerusalem there. There aren't as many sukkahs around and they seem to spend the holiday on the beach or in night clubs. In Jerusalem you really live the holidays. \$\display\$



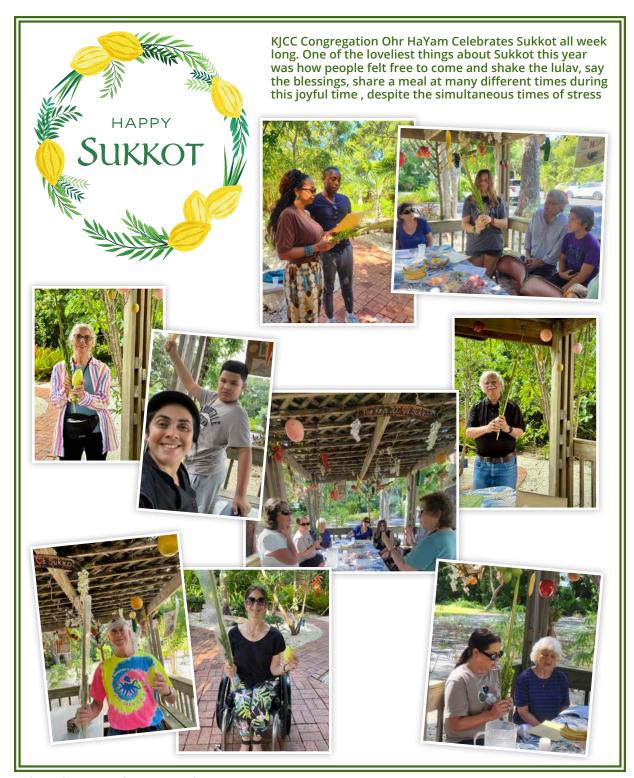
The sukkah on the street outside of Dan's apartment



It is traditional to take fun family trips during Hol HaMoed - the intermediate days of a holiday. Dan, Michal & Yosef at trails in Jerusalem Biblical zoo



Street performers.



# Yom Kippur Is Every Day: A Very Personal Exploration By Judy Starr

had always dreaded Yom Kippur. No matter how bright the sun, how warm the air in the autumnal northeast, the holy day always dawned harsh, gray, and austere. There was no joy to the thought that yes, I could do better, and yes, there was guidance in my faith. It was a stern and unforgiving day.

It wasn't just the sombre air in my childhood home. It wasn't just that everything "normal" had to be suspended. It wasn't that at childhood's end, I was supposed to fast. It wasn't even the fact that everywhere around me the world went spinning on as it had the day before and no one else but we Jews paid attention.

It was the thought, on that day, that I was somehow always wrong. How could my parents' ancient faith say such a thing to me?

What I didn't know was this: what I was looking for on that day was chesed (loving-kindness, the way we should ideally treat each other). There was no debating that life was a learning experience; that there was hope for improvement; that "yes, I could" learn from my errors. But on Yom Kippur there was no love in the overtones of the prayers that I heard. There was no sense of pending moral exploration with a loving teacher, there was no anticipation in the air other than the day would have an end. There was, instead, a sense of rejection.

So for years all I heard was reminders of "wrongness". I had greeted the holiday with resentment, avoidance, and dread.

This year after Kol Nidre I slept lightly, but awoke with a growing epiphany: I would interpret and internalize the holiday in a way that had meaning to me. I would dig into the meaning of the day, not in traditional terms, but on my own. It had to be that way; otherwise, I would be observing by rote and not in spirit. What would be the point of that?

I realized what I was looking for on that stern, forbidding day was the quality - of which we speak so highly - chesed.

If I was going to work to be a better, kinder person, I needed a holiday that was better and kinder to me. Acceptance had to be the first move in this direction. I accepted the value and importance of the holiday: a reminder of potential moral frailty and the need to do something about it. This reminder is important if we are to be better both as individuals and as social beings. We speak often of "Tikkun Olam." This is "tikkun" of each of us: that can lead to the best kind of "tikkun" of our families, of our friendships, of our communities, of the larger world around us.

Additionally, I accepted that I am always going to be a "work in progress". So what would this day now be all about? It would be a Day of Reflection. I could turn to the moral guidance of my faith to help me exercise the free will to improve. There was so much less of the sense of constant "wrongness", and so much more a sense of hope.

Yom Kippur will come to serve as a blinking sign that reads: "Pause, Reflect, Proceed". It would be a single day dedicated to every other day. It would lead to a "road to redemption" paved with chesed, bathed in light, a road as challenging and long as life itself, and maybe even stretching far beyond. >

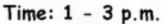




# Sunclay Fun Day Game Day

Join your friends for an afternoon of game playing and camaraderie. We will meet at the KJCC on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Sunday December 15, 2024 Sunday January 19, 2025 Sunday February 16, 2025 Sunday March 16, 2025



Games will be provided beginning with Mexican Train, 5 Crowns, and Poker. If you would like to bring a different game, by all means do so.

Thank you to Jeff and Cheryl Margulies for facilitating this enjoyable activity. If you have questions or input, they can be reached at ~ Cheryl 201-681-8182 cherylmargulies@aol.com

Jeff: 201-923-5013 jazzy316jeff@aol.com

Please RSVP to Susan Gordon so we can prepare for the day. susangordon424@yahoo.com 305-766-3585



# Tuning the Planet

by Lucinda Kurtz

The plaintive cry of the shofar ushers in the new moon of Tishrei.
The new year 5785.
Our yearly opportunity to release regrets and missteps of the past.
Embrace our sacred soul soar to our highest potential encounter the Source of all Blessings.

Can we walk with open heart and awakened mind into our world of suffering and joy? To renew our lives accept our Divine calling?

We are like the shofar tuning the planet to a new vibrational frequency for this next cycle.

Let the sharp staccato blast of "Truach" pierce the dome of heaven.

Release tears of compassion for deep divisions and fear that separate us from each other.

Through faith and trust
we can surrender.
Become the holy shofar.
Clear channels to
carry the message of the Divine
through our breath and being.
Celebrate the gift of creation and re-creation
in each moment
with reverence and awe.

May the collective vibration of our vessels sparked by the Holy Breath inspire us this New Year.

Forgive ourselves and forgive others.

Embody the pure resonance of love where the shattered become whole the broken are healed.

Create balance and peace.





# Sisterhood Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday December 27, 2024 6:00 PM Dairy Dinner - Latkes!

Services at 7:30 pm

Contact Loni Padden by December 23rd dr.padden@yahoo.com 305-772-2584

to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish

# Bring Your Own Chanukiah to Light!





No charge ~ **Donations Always** 





# By the Lights of Another First Yahrzeit

by Judy Starr

It had almost slipped my mind again the unkindness that constantly nibbles away at the soul of an unsuspecting world.

It's a story like an old dust-bitten cloak pressing on bent shoulders in the rain.

Sure, you can shake off the rain outside your door but the dust which has permeated the bitten cloth remains.

Now, at the setting of the sun shall we together light a candle at the first anniversary of the latest pogrom where gleeful evil flaunted its spike-toothed face - broadcasting itself to all the world in real time with color and sound so proud of itself?

Let us hold our candle up against a sky that's grown fierce in the year since that warm October dawn that was pursued by a darkness deeper than the night that mourns the missing moon and remember the unsuspecting celebrants at a concert at the margin of the desert and the sleepers woken from warm dawn-fuzzed dreams

to be steeped in pain and cavalierly tossed into a final sleep and let us we honor those who ran towards the fire offering themselves for the sake of others?

I'd like, with you, to do that.

Perhaps the Yahrzeit lights reflected in our eyes will help us figure out a new resolution to the tired old story.

Perhaps our Yahrzeit lights will even shine
a silver spark into the mind
that has been blinded by deceit
or knotted in complacent
patterns of thought
or simply embraced
the ancient habitual lie.

Then,
if you figure out a line to mend the story
please clue me in.
It's been so long.



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