

July 1 - August 31, 2024 | 25 Sivan - 27 Av 5784

World Jewish Report • Pages 9-11

Beautiful Article by Maddy Pollack • Pages 16-17

Photo Gallery: Shavuot to Shabbabeque • Pages 18-24



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	2	3	4	5 Shabbabaque 6 p.m. Erica Lieberman Garrett Joyce Peckamn	6
7	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	9	10	11	Rivka Rizzo-Trent Steve Hartz	13
14	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	16	17	18	Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman Erica Lieberman Garrett	20
21 Matinee Performance of "Grease" at Seminole Theatre, Homestead 3 p.m.	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	23	24	Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	Randy Klein-Gross	27
28	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	30	31	1 AUG	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin Joe & Kathy Shabathai	3
Sisterhood Meeting KJCC and Zoom 10 a.m.	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	6	7	8	9 Erica Lieberman Garrett & Shari Carlquist	10
11 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	13	14	15	Rivka Rizzo-Trent Jane Frieman	17
18	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	20	21	22	Donna Bolton Rivka Rizzo-Trent	24
25	Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	27	28	Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	TBA	31

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Gloria Avner

CHAI-LIGHTS is the

bimonthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center

chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



very month my CL letter has something in common with Adon Olam when I lead a service. I never know what melody I'm doing, until I'm up there. With CL, I never know what I'm going to write about until I start typing.

I want to start by saying I was thrilled with the turnout at the Shavuot dinner! I think that food gets better every year. At the combination of the dinner and the service we had two new quest families that were both very lovely people. I'd like to say the efforts of those involved in community outreach are paying off. Thank you to those that do that either officially or on their own. Many times someone has come to a service and said I ran into so-and-so. They said

I should come.

Today is the first day of summer, and that has me thinking about our next big event. July 5th we have our Shababaque dinner. This is one of my 3 favorite dinners of the year, and I hope to see everyone there.

I led services last week, and I must say, it was a lot of fun. We have had a few new leaders, but are always looking for more. And there are lots of opportunities for first time leaders to share a service with a seasoned veteran. So, anyone interested in taking part in the service please contact lovce, Gloria or myself.

I wish everyone a great summer. \diamond

ONEG SPONSORS

July 5	Joyce Peckamn Celebrating Her Birthday
July 12	Steve Hartz Celebrating His Birthday
July 19	Erica Lieberman Garrett Celebrating Her Birthday
Aug. 2	Joe & Kathy Shabathai Celebrating Julie Ruzycki's Birthday
Aug. 16	Jane Frieman Celebrating Steve's Birthday
Aug. 23	Rivka Rizzo-Trent Celebrating Her Birthday

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

JULY & AUGUST 2024

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Contact Steve Hartz
Friday July 5	6 p.m. Shabbabaque
Friday, July 5	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Erica Lieberman Garrett
Friday, July 12	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Friday, July 19	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman
Sunday, July 21	3 p.m. Matinee Performance of "Grease" at Seminole Theatre, Homestead
Thurs, July 25	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, July 26	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Randy Klein-Gross
Friday, Aug. 2	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Sunday, Aug. 4	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC and on Zoom
Friday, Aug. 9	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Erica Lieberman Garrett & Shari Carlquist
Sunday, Aug. 11	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Aug 16	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Friday, Aug. 23	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by Donna Bolton
Thursday, Aug. 29	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, Aug. 30	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service Led by TBA

NOSH

Sisterhood book club

Our July book choice is an unusual one: John David Scalamonti's "Ordained to Be a Jew: A Catholic Priest's Conversion to Judaism." It was suggested by Shirley Stein, who will moderate the discussion on Zoom. The wife of the author.

Diane Scalamonti, has agreed to be present at this Zoom meeting. The book is available on Ebay or Amazon, but it is not necessary to have read it to enjoy the discussion. We invite all KJCC members and friends to join us on Zoom Thursday, July 25 th at 12:30 p.m. Contact Linda Pollack to be added to the email list. \diamond

Anniversaries

July 9th 18th	Yerry Willner-Tainow & Jon TainowGary & Laurie Grossinger	ears 52
August		
4th	Arnold and Tina Klein	58
8th	Mark and Anthea Avner	3
14th	Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer	52
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles	25
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts	56
16th	Dennis Miller and Rosemary Ciotti	37
16th	Ira & Shirley Stein	66
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller	47
31st	Steven & Joan Jacobs	33



Thank you to Jan Hartz for the lovely cover photo.



ONGOING PROJECTS & 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 Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305–393–1351, 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 at *dr.padden@yahoo.com*.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations, condolence card, or phone call 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 305–587–7429 or lindap4000@ymail.com. Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: keysjewishcenter.com. Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai–Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

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 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'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living 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.

MAY & JUNE 2024

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of
Joel & Mary Roth	Trudy Roth
Daviid & Pamela Marmar	. Mercedes Pietrormartire
Medina Roy	Carl Roy
Jeff & Cheryl Margulies	Max Margulies Fred Doellefeld
Hermine Taramona	Robert L Robertson
Adam & Judy Starr	Manya Starr Norman Schman
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	Frieda Feinberg
Judith Weber	Alfred Eickler
Other	
Steve & Jan Hartz	KJCC
Linda Pollack	Richard Grossman
Hariet & Maayan Gadisman .	KJCC
Repair the Sea/Tikkun HaYa	mKJCC
Arthur Plutzer	
Linda Pollack(Graduation of Granddaughter, Maddie

Meditation Garden

Stuart & Lauren Sax...... Rabbi Agler's Wonderful Class

- SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

Steve & Joan Jacobs	Fellowship
Michael, Lorena & Sean Kaufman	Shavuot Dinner Sponsorship
Sistarhood	Annual Donation

Leaf on the tree of life:
Congratulations to
Harry Friedman, Navy Officer

From proud KJCC teachers Yardena Kameli, Gloria Avner, and Susan Gordon

Shabbat Service Leaders -

July 5	Erica Lieberman Garrett
July 12	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
July 19	Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman
July 26	Randy Klein-Gross
August 2	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
August 9	Erica Lieberman Garrett & Shari Carlquist
August 16	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
August 23	Donna Bolton
August 30	TBA



In Memoriam – July 2024

Jack Steinberg

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Nettie Goodman

by Gloria Avner

Samuel Segal

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Sharon Grossinger

by Gary & Laurie Grossinger

Sylvia Hershoff

by Jay & Nancy Hershoff

Ronald Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Dorothy Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Jacob Ratchik

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Margaret Isenberg

by Patricia Isenberg

Les Reitman

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Otto Kluger

by Nancy Kluger

Fred Doellefeld

by Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Miriam Margulies

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Fred Ross

by Joyce Peckman

Tracey Yvette Sinclair Mcmillon

by Rivka Rizzo-Trent & Max Gordon Trent

Harold Rosenthal

by Ed & Mindy Rosenthal

Leon Kirschenbaum

by Medina Roy

Harvey Kelman

by Elaine Schulberg

Beth Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Alan Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Stanley H. Klipper

by Mary Lee Singer

Manya Starr

by Adam & Judy Starr

Norman James Schuman

by Adam & Judy Starr

Wally Steinberg

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Milton Swartz

by Muriel Swartz

Mark White

by Susan White



In Memoriam – August 2024

Sunny Andracchio

by Zoe Berk-Moshe

Isaac Berman

by Sylvia Berman

Sidney Stark

by Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Mr. Jacob Ephraim Brush

by James Brush

Sandra Kanarek

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Elsie (Chava) Duman

by Michael & Laura Duman

Elliot Mandl

by Jane Friedman

Henry Kirschenbaum

by Marilyn Greenbaum

Manuel Hershoff

by Jay & Nancy Hershoff

Ketty Tuchman

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Shirley Lieberman

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Isaac Cohen Pardo

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Dora Levy

by Arthur Plutzer

Chanoch Shiloh

by Jan Price

Howard Shutan

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

Martha Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Tom Klipper

by Mary Lee Singer

Olga Schuman

by Adam & Judy Starr

Samuel Wainer

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Meyer G. Cohen

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Erwin Wainer

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Mollie Z. Cohen

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Mack Swartz

by Muriel Swartz

Ralph Tallent

by Lillian Tallent

Ida R. Estrin

by Lillian Tallent

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
4thMindy Rosenthal
9thJoyce Peckman
11thSteven Hartz
12thDana Grace
12th Miriam Frankel
12th Rebecca M. Schur
12th Richard Steinberg
13th Dot Brooking
13th Ken Salomon
14th Paul Eric Bernstein
17th John Hawver
17thShira Goldman
18thLuzviminda Levine
18thSage Indy Leofsky
19th Matt Hesterman-Kutz
20th Roosmary Benowitz
21st Arlington Garrett
21stBrian Smith
21stJoshua Samuel Bernstein
21stLinda Perloff
22nd Millie Tainow
22ndRichard Plutzer
23rdBarat Barefoot
23rdCarrie Temkin
25thAlan Markowitz
26th Beckham Jordan Kline
28thLila E. Juenger

29th	Andy Loi-Kamely
29th	Barry Neumann
29th	Candy Stanlake
29th	Mary Lee Singer
31st	David Padden
31st	Jonathan Kline
31st	Linda Levi
31st	Mark Steinberg
August	
4th	Jessica Forman
8th	Hank Ryan Casey
8th	Sean Kaufman
9th	Arnold Klein
9th	Delia Grace Smith
9th	Eric Freundlich
10th	Barbara Smith
10th	Emma Feig
	Gina Moritz
13th	Stephan Friedman
14th	Joey Lindenbaum
15th	Patricia Isenberg
16th	Alan Lindenbaum
16th	Alison Thompson
17th	.Biniyam M. Duman
	Tina Klein
	Craig Cope
19th	Pamela Friedman
	Loni Padden
	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
22nd	Murray Blitzer
	Jonah Jacob Kline
26th	Mikhaela Bitton
30th	Robert Temkin

28thLily Gitel Padden

WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



And the Award Goes To ...

One of the most prestigious prizes in Jewish book publishing, The Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, has gone to the nonfiction "Palestine 1936: The Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle East Conflict." by American-Israeli author Oren Kessler. The book suggests how Arabs and Jews might have learned to live together in historic Palestine, possibly offering a small glimmer of hope for the future. But there's another way to understand Kessler's book; a period of military and political consolidation by Zionists and the nearly total rejection of a Jewish state by the Palestinians, foreshadowing the inevitable bloody impasse of the next 88 years. The award, with a top prize of \$100,000, went to Kessler's book for "its nuanced and balanced narrative on the origins of the Middle East conflict, with far-reaching implications for our time."

The book focuses on the years between 1936 and 1939, when Arabs living under the British Mandate rose up against a surging Jewish population and also the British (who had been put in charge of everything encompassing historic Palestine - which at the beginning included what today is called the Kingdom of Jordan - by the League of Nations after World War I finished off the Ottoman Empire, which had ruled the area for some 400 years.) Kessler has worked for various think tanks and cites estimates that 500 Jews, 250 British servicemen and at least 5,000 Arabs died in the three years of rioting and the subsequent British crackdown. As a result of the violence, Britain's "Peel Commission" proposed partitioning the mandate into Jewish and Arab states (while limiting lewish immigration). We all are aware that the Zionist establishment, led by David Ben-Gurion and Chaim Weizmann, accepted the proposal: Mohammed Amin al-Husseini, the grand mufti of Jerusalem and the de facto leader

of the Palestinian Arab community, rejected the idea and called for jihad. (Another troubling item in the region's history is that al-Husseini would later align himself with Adolf Hitler and spend time during World War II as a privileged guest in Berlin.)

What if, Kessler asks, Herbert Samuel, the British high commissioner for Palestine, had appointed a moderate instead of al-Husseini as grand mufti? What if the two-state solution offered by the Peel Commission report in 1937 had gone through? "I think my book and this chapter in history is full of 'what if' questions. The idea that things could have indeed gone differently and that we weren't fated for endless conflict suggests maybe they still can go differently in the present and future." Kessler said.

The annual Sami Rohr prize is administered in association with the National Library of Israel. (www.jta.org, 4-28-24)

After 80 years, a Proper Burial

"Operation Benjamin" is a nonprofit organization that tracks down gravesites of Jewish American servicemen who were mistakenly buried under Christian crosses. Last year, someone visited a German-maintained grave site for Nazi officers and looked at the names of the dead which were engraved on a plague. He noticed an unusual. Iewish-sounding name - Nathan Baskind - and notified "Operation Benjamin" of his suspicion. This began a year-long investigation. Ultimately the nonprofit determined that Baskind, a first lieutenant in the United States Army, had been shot behind enemy lines, died in a German POW camp, and was buried in a Nazi mass grave, where - despite being positively identified by the German War Memorial Commission - he went unidentified as an American Jew for eight decades. The family knew nothing of Baskind's fate other than the U.S. Army had declared him missing in action.

With the help of Baskind's grand-niece Samantha, the grave was dug up and stray bones of Nathan's remains were identified. Samantha worked with the German, French and American authorities to arrange for a Jewish reburial which was held in Normandy on June 23rd, the 80th anniversary of his death.

Enlisting the help of genealogists and excavators, "Operation Benjamin," to date, has identified some 20 Jewish-American soldiers whom the U.S. military had mistakenly buried under crosses and endeavored to provide Jewish burials for them. Like other Jewish burial groups, "Operation Benjamin" places an imperative on burying the dead according to Jewish law, with as many body parts intact as possible. But the organization had never before uncovered a Jewish American who had been buried with the very Nazis he was fighting. Amid the extensive decomposition of the bodies, the excavators were still able to identify two of Baskind's bones.

Rabbi Jacob Schacter, president and co-founder of "Operation Benjamin," said, "You can understand very well how meaningful it is for us to be able to bring a soldier buried with Nazis for so long into the bosom of his ancestral faith and his country." On a 2023 trip to Normandy to attend the reburial ceremony of another Jewish soldier, Schacter got his first look at the grave where Baskind was originally buried. "I got up on a little stone fence around the mass grave, and I said to him, 'Nathan, we're coming for you. We want to take you away from here. We want to bring you back to your home." (When the Army asked Samantha where she wanted her uncle to be buried, she considered the family plot in Squirrel Hill, the Jewish neighborhood of Pittsburgh and the site of the murder of eleven congregants of the Tree of Life Synagogue in October, 2018. She decided to have him buried in Normandy, at the American cemetery for soldiers who died in combat during the invasion, in a place she described as "just cross after cross.") "He'll be in the American cemetery with a Star of David, amid all those crosses." (www.timesofisrael.com, 6-7-24)

For the First Time...in 32 Years

For the first time in more than three decades, a National Hockey League (NHL) team will have a Jewish coach. Ryan Warsofsky was named head coach of the San Jose Sharks after previously serving as an assistant coach with the team. At 36, he's also the youngest coach in the 32-team league. There's a growing Jewish presence in the league; there were at least fifteen Jewish players on the ice this season - from the Oilers' winger Zach Hyman to brothers Jack, Luke and Quinn Hughes to the Sharks' own center, Luke Kunin. Warsofsky joined the Sharks in 2022. Last year he served as an assistant coach for Team USA in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Cup Championship, where the U.S. team finished fourth.

According to the "Jewish Baseball Museum" – which tracks notable Jewish moments in other sport as well – the last time the league had a Jewish coach was during the 1992–1993 season, when NHL veteran Bob Plager served as head coach of the St. Louis Blues for all of eleven games. Before Plager, the most notable Jewish NHL coach was Cecil Hart, who led the Montreal Canadiens for nine seasons in the 1920s and 1930s and won back–to–back Stanley Cup titles in 1930 and 1931. The NHL's "Hart Memorial Tro–phy," given annually to the league's Most Valuable Player, was donated by Hart's father David. Hart is also a member of the *International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame*.

It's possible that Warsofsky might be joined by another Jewish head coach. Jeff Halpern, an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Lightning since 2018, has been considered for multiple head coaching vacancies in recent years. Halpern played fourteen seasons in the NHL and is a member of the Greater Washington Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. (www.jpost.com,6-21-24)

In Memoriam

-We continue to mourn the brave Israeli soldiers and members of security forces who have died *al kiddush hashem*, a term which has many applications, one of them being a Jew who gives his life to save his people. Amid the ongoing war which began on October 7th with the Hamas terror group's onslaught in southern Israel, 716 soldiers and members of security forces have

been killed. They include 603 IDF soldiers, 39 local security officers, 68 police officers, and six Shin Bet members. *Zichronom l'vracha*. (May their memories be for a blessing.)

Most recently, we mourn the death of Chief Inspector Arnon Zmora, 36, from the elite Yamam counter-terrorism unit. Zmora was critically wounded while commanding the team in the astonishing daylight hostage rescue operation where four Israeli hostages were rescued alive. He was evacuated in critical condition to a hospital in Israel, where he died a short time later. After his death was announced, the name of the hostage rescue operation was changed from "Seeds of Summer" to "Operation Arnon" in his memory. Zmora had been involved in the battle against Hamas from the start of the war, fighting terrorists near the Gaza border community of Yad Mordechai and preventing them from infiltrating the kibbutz. He also fought at the Nahal Oz base and at Kibbutz Be'eri. (www.timesofisrael.com, 6 - 9 - 24

-Morrie Markoff, believed to be the oldest man in the United States, died June 3rd at his home. He was 110. One of four children born to lewish immigrants from Russia, the family lived in an East Harlem tenement. Morrie survived the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, which claimed the life of a brother. He attended school through the eighth grade and then began training as a machinist. In the late 1930s, he moved to Los Angeles, where he worked for a vacuum cleaner company and then as a machinist for a defense contractor making artillery shells. Eventually, he became a partner in a series of small appliance businesses. He married Betty Goldmintz in 1938 and the two remained together for 81 years until her death in 2019.

After he turned 100, Markoff became an avid blogger and author and saw a scrap metal sculpture he created exhibited at a Los Angeles gallery. When he was 103, he published his memoir, "Keep Breathing: Recollections from a 103-year-old."

The Brain Donor Project, a non-profit organization that supports the National Institutes of Health NeuroBioBank said that, once donated, Markoff's brain is likely to be the oldest man registered and collected without pathological cognitive decline. (www.thejc.com, 6-11-24)

-Petel, the dog who saved her family from Hamas terrorists on October 7th at Kibbutz Be'eri. has sadly died of her wounds. The Ben Zvi family said that when terrorists tried to enter their home, they heard Petel's barking both from the dog herself and through a baby monitor that was left on and the attackers fled. The dog was lying quietly in the family's safe room, petrified by the explosions. She began barking when they tried to break down the door. "The terrorists heard the dog in stereo. I can only assume that the scene became too complicated for them and they decided to leave the house," Ela Ben Zvi said. But because of her size, the family was forced to leave Petel in the house when they were evacuated later in the day by IDF soldiers. They left her in a bedroom with food and water planning to come back and get her later. Other soldiers carrying out searches in the kibbutz believed there were terrorists in the house and opened fire. Petel was wounded, hit by shrapnel. Realizing their mistake, the soldiers managed to get the dog to a vet where she was treated and eventually returned to her family but died of her wounds in early June. "...she was an older dog, 11 years old. And she went through a lot and spent a lot of energy on her rehabilitation and recovery." (www.timesofisrael.com, 6-3-24)

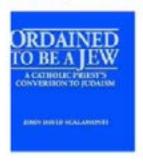
-Yahya Ben Youssef, one of the last six Jews still living in Yemen, died in early June. He was nearly 100 years old. Once a thriving community dating back thousands of years, the Jewish community has all but disappeared. Despite facing harassment from the Houthis who rose to power during Yemen's civil war - which led to additional violence against the several dozen Jews who chose to remain in the country - Ben Youssef refused to follow the tens of thousands of other Yemenite lews who left for Israel in the 1940s. It is reported that he considered emigrating to Israel (where he has some relatives) in the last several vears, but because of bureaucratic issues he was unable to make the move. Ben Youssef was buried wrapped in a tallit by his Muslim neighbors in the village of Madar, north of the capital Sanaa. There are not enough Jews remaining in Yemen to carry out the funeral or to say kaddish. There are some 450,000 Yemenite Jews now living in Israel. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr8ITSD-BQdQ 6-18-24) ◊



Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, July 25, 2024 ~ Ordained to be a Jew by John Scalamonti Thursday, August 29, 2024 ~ The Midnight Library by Matt Haig



The author's journey from training to be a Catholic priest to becoming an Orthodox Jew. The book describes his training to become a priest and his eventual departure from the priesthood. The beauty of Judaism and its wonderful rituals are discovered and described.



Between life and death there is a library, and within that library the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived - to see how things would be if you had made other choices. A novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived.

THE JULY MEETING WILL BE ONLY ON ZOOM.

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

All sessions are at 12:30 p.m.

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



herever you are spending your season, toughing it out on the rock or enjoying cooler climes... Welcome to the dog days of summer!

We devoured our dairy on Shavuot with a well-attended dinner at the KJCC. Our talented home chefs put together a bountiful buffet of potluck yumminess! The Sisterhood was delighted to give our annual donation check to the KJCC, this was a direct result of the love, dedication and hard work of all our ladies. Our President, Ken Atlas was the honored recipient of the Joel Cohen award and was regaled with poetry written by the ever-lovely Gloria Avner. The Sisterhood wholeheartedly applauds Ken Atlas for his leadership, hard work & dedication to making the KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam a community we can all be proud to be a part of.

Mark your calendar in red, white & blue...come out & help us celebrate the birth our great nation! The Shabbabaque Dinner is sponsored by the Kaufman family on Friday July 5th, 6pm at the KJCC, followed by Shabbat services at 7:30. We will be grilling hot dogs & hamburgers, eating, drinking & being merry. This is our last hoorah of the season before summer really gets blazing. Contact Susan Gordon for RSVP 305–766–3585 <u>susangordon424@yahoo.com</u> Grill, Chill, Shabbat!

Break out your bobby socks & pedal pushers! The Senior class of 1959 is ready to hot rod & hip shake their way into our hearts. We are planning a theatre outing to see GREASE, The Musical on Sunday July 21, at 3pm at the Seminole Theatre in Homestead. Tickets are \$25. Contact Susan Gordon for RSVP 305-766-3585 susangordon424@yahoo.com

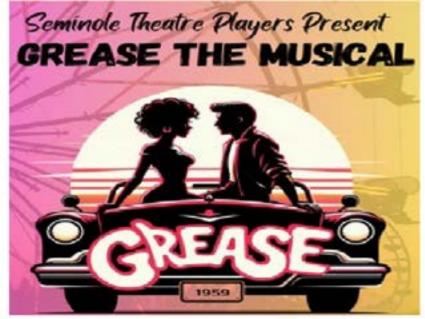
The Book Club led by Linda Pollack had an intellectual gathering at Linda's house to discuss & nosh. The next month's selection is Ordained to be a Jew, by John Scalamoni. To be added to the mailing list contact Linda Pollack at <u>Lindap4000@ymail.com</u>

A big thank you to everyone who has continued to sponsor onegs over the summer months! Super Jane Friedman puts together generous onegs for all who come to Friday services. Our annual letter requesting sponsors will be arriving in your mailbox soon, please respond generously. If you would like to have an oneg date to commemorate something special in your life or a loved one, please call or email Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 dr. padden@vahoo.com

Calling all Ladies...Join us for our next sisterhood meeting at the KJCC on May 4th at 10am. We meet in person & zoom. \diamond



Keys Jewish Community Center Congregation Ohr HaYam



Sunday Matinee, July 21, 2024 Seminole Theatre

> 18 North Krome Avenue Homestead, FL

RSVP to Susan Gordon,
susangordon424@yahoo.com/305-766-3585, to participate
in this KJCC organized activity and enjoy an entertaining
musical show together!
The show begins at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 and should be ordered through Susan
- no later than June 21 if you want to be seated with our group.

Make your check payable to the KJCC.

Tickets can also be ordered individually on line or at the box office.

Revelation

June 2024 Tevet 5784 by Lucinda Kurtz

I awaken to the rush of waves upon the rocky shore in my new northern home on this new moon of Sivan.

In this month, the Torah was received at Sinai as the Israelites stood at the foot of the mountain
One people
Hearing the word of God.

We are invited, all of us, to listen with care this month Revelation can guide us In this moment from shadow into the light.

Let us pause from our labor, our distractions
Take a deep breath
Allow the flow of energy to move through us
Surrender, let go
Empty from old notions that fetter and bind.

In this state of receptivity,
we can find common ground with people
of wildly different perspectives
Accord them the respect
another face of God is due
Find a chord to bind us together
Discover new possibilities for
connection and love.

I hear this wisdom on the whispering wind and in our holy books

How we can create balance and harmony in our troubled world

Heal divisions

Open our vessels of holiness to hold the bounty of blessings that infuse each moment with the preciousness of creation.

Jewish on Campus

by Maddy Pollack

At the time that I am writing this, I graduated from the University of Texas just about a month ago. Out of the many deeply impactful experiences that I had during my time as an undergraduate, my involvement with UT's Jewish community was one of the most meaningful. I became involved a couple of years ago after meeting my first Jewish friend in college in an English class. The story goes like this: I spotted a girl with lots of curly hair and a Star of David necklace, so I went right up to her and said, "Are you Jewish?" She gave me a bewildered look and said, "Why?" to which I quickly added, "I'm lewish!" Long story short, she is one of my closest friends today.

What a blessing that I was able to connect with her after seeing her Star of David. I grew up, for about half of my life, in a small, very Christian town in Texas. With our family being the only Jews in the entire town, I never felt comfortable wearing my Star of David, given the barrage of nosy questions that came with it. When I moved to Austin, our capital city of over a million residents, the social climate was much different, and diverse identities were readily accepted.

During my final year of college, the Israel-Hamas war broke out. Now wearing the Star of David, once again, came with a barrage of questions. The Star of David necklace that I regularly wear belonged to my Grandpa Joe. It is a beautiful gold piece with a carving of Moses and the Ten Commandments on its underside. It is my hope that wearing his Star will always serve as a connection between us, both physically and spiritually. This spring, my

rabbi, upon seeing me wear the necklace, asked, "Are you wearing that because of October 7th?" While I understood his sentiment, my answer was no. In that moment, and in many moments over the past year, I wished that I could experience my Jewish identity without it being tied to a political context. I didn't want my Star to be a political statement, because it's not. It is rather a statement of my Jewish pride and to honor my Grandpa Joe.

In a similar and quite different vein, UT Austin was at the center of the nationally discussed campus protests this spring. I was in an uncomfortable position. On one side were many of my lewish friends waving Israeli flags and on the other were several of my dear friends waving Palestinian flags. On my walks to class, I went and said hi to both of them! I didn't want to be alienated from either side because so many people that I love and care about believe different things. I know that that may be a divisive opinion to some, but I also believe that at the heart of a college campus is difficult discourse. During Spring Break, I took a much gloomier trip than that of the typical college student. It was a Holocaust education trip across Poland with a group called Olami, and we spent the week visiting graveyards, concentration camps, and the old Jewish quarters in various Polish towns. A few days into the trip, my curly-haired friend and I entered a restaurant together and a waitress immediately said, "Are you Jewish?" Of course, this happened because there are essentially no lews left in Poland and now any Jewish features are easily identifiable as, well, not Polish.

There were many wonderful moments in Poland: our group prayed with the Torah at the concentration camps, sang together in several Polish synagogues, celebrated Shabbat in Kraków, and ate plenty of challah and chicken soup. But these were offset by the infinite amount of dark moments. At Auschwitz, we observed a memorial with every name of the currently known Holocaust victims. I couldn't tell vou how many Pollacks there were, just pages and pages and pages of people that shared my family name. At the beginning of the trip, our tour guide told us that even though the Holocaust doesn't make sense, it will make even less sense after seeing the things that we would see. She was right: it was impossible to wrap my head around why so many of my people had died, just for being Jewish. I cannot understand it then or now.

One of the most personally affecting moments of the trip occurred in a synagoque when our rabbi gave a short sermon. Our group was composed of people from all sorts of Jewish backgrounds: some Orthodox, some Reform, some who didn't grow up Jewish at all but wanted to become more religious. There was certainly a divide between the observant and non-observant Jews. At one point, a boy who is converting to Orthodoxy told me that Reform Jews aren't really Jewish. This has long been a sore spot for me- I have always felt intimately connected to my ludaism, but it has never felt good enough. Our amazing rabbi, who was in tune with all of the complex group dynamics, began to speak. "We all want to divide ourselves into labels," he said, "She's Reform, he's Orthodox, etc. The fact is, Hitler saw all of us as one! If it's so easy for him to see all of us as one group, why is it so hard for us?"

This sermon represented the core of

my experience as a Jew this year. We vary in our religious observance, our values, and our political beliefs. This was apparent to me as a college student where I saw Jews protesting for both causes, and it felt apparent to me as I observed vast generational differences in worldview between Jews my age and older Jews, but the most important thing is that we remain one large family through these challenges and perform the mitzvah of caring for other Jews.

I know that being a college student has come with polarizing experiences for decades, and my experience was no exception. I wish that the Jewish identity didn't have to mean that I felt a certain way about anything. For 80 years, our community has toiled in order to be freely Jewish, so what a privilege it would be for wearing my Star of David, on and off campus, to just mean that I love being a Jew. I just want to wear my Star in peace, and so that someday, a nice Jewish girl comes up to me in class and asks, "Are you Jewish?" \diamond



Maddy Pollack and her father, Roy, at her graduation ceremony from University of Texas.

PHOTO GALLERY



KJCC Sisterhood caps a super successful season with a lovely and loving luncheon at Skipper's in Key Largo. Thank you for your excellent leadership, Loni Padden. Nice to be visited by Sylvie Coeurjoly.

Oneg Maker Nadine and Service leader Rivka Rizzo Trent enjoy Shabbat Sweetness.



Three generations of Pollocks celebrate Maddy's graduation from the University of Texas in Austin. Congratulations to Dad Roy Pollack and Grandma Linda. Make sure to read Maddy's article on pages 16-17.

We are all so proud of her.

Let's welcome our newest addition to the KJCC House Committee, Max Trent. He's already working on several jobs. Welcome Max!
Longtime House Chair Susan and our whole congregation so appreciate your help and expertise.





That is Miriam, who Joyce went to Africa with. She has a house in the Berkshires. On Monday she will meet up with the Aglers and Edith Murogo. KJCC people get around!

On May 15, Keith and 15 year old Libby Peckman joined 1000 others from across the country in Washington DC, lobbying their elected officials to support Israel and fight antisemitism.





Josh, Susan Gordon and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal meet at KICC to welcome students from Rutgers University for a week of learning and volunteer work "Repairing the Sea." (Tikkun HaYam). See article on pages 26-27.





Randy's Klein-Gross family knows how to have fun, cruising West Coast Mexico. You all look great. Can't wait to hear stories.



Jane Friedman and son, Naval Officer Harry Friedman, looking wonderfully happy and proud at the completion of 5 years of study and hard work. Harry, all of KJCC applauds you.





Shavuot Dinner

Our Shavuot dinner was both delicious and bountiful.





Susan Gordon and Jane Friedman start off our Shavuot dinner with and hamotzi blessing and two of Jane's fresh baked challahs.





Yes Ken, you stepped up to serve as President for a third year and do so much for our security and services, we treasure you.

Max Trent and Linda Pollack managed to save room for dessert.



Gloria Avner reads the thoughtful (and appropriately entertaining inscription on the surprise presentation of KJCC's highest honor, the Joel Cohen Fellowship award, presented annually to the person that the previous recipients think has worked the longest and hardest to make our Shul the best functioning and friendliest it can be.

Medina brought these happy Shavuot napkins back with her all the way from Israel. Thanks, Medi.

Loni Padden, President of Sisterhood, presents KJCC President Ken Atlas with a substantial donation check.
Ken couldn't be happier. Bravo, hardworking Sisterhood.



President Ken Atlas with his Executive Vice President after receiving his award.



SHABBABEQUE

We celebrated the Birthday of the USA, KJCC style with our annual "Shabbabaque"! On Friday evening, July 5th, the festivities began with a full house. We had 53 members, family & friends all decked out in their finest Patriotic outfits to match the 'over the top' red, white & blue, stars & stripes decor of the social hall and buffet room! It was wonderful to see so many friends together in one place, joyously socializing while enjoying a 'good old-fashioned' Independence Day cookout. I thank everyone who prepared their amazing side dish creations & scrumptious desserts for this event. Everything was delicious. This year was the first time that we hand pressed and seasoned our own fresh burgers, rather than using pre-frozen boxed burgers. What a difference! We also used Nathan's 'colossal' all beef kosher I/4lb hot dogs, which are considered to be the 'best of the best' in the world of hot dogs. After much research about who makes the best Vegetarian patties, we purchased the 'Beyond Meat Plant-Based Burgers'. This choice made our vegetarian members quite happy! The KJCC is a very special place for us. Planning and implementing these gatherings for our congregation brings me so much joy, and I feel truly



We thank the Kaufmans for sponsoring the Shabbabaque!









Chai-Lights • July I - August 31, 2024 25



From your Committee for Israel The Difference They Make: Friends of the Israel Defense Forces

o paraphrase their slogan: The FIDF has said that the Israel Defense Force's job is to defend Israel, and the job of FIDF is to take care of those defenders.

Scrolling through the website of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) reveals that it was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors. Headquartered in New York City, FIDF has over 24 chapters nation-wide. It is the only organization in the United States that the IDF has authorized to work directly with it. An organization with an important mission and a track record running over 40 years, for eleven consecutive years it has held the highest rating (#4) that Charity Navigator can bestow and a "Top Rated" designation from Charity Watch.

What are some of the things this organization does that that makes its work so valuable? There is the FIDF Emergency Fund that helps to meet emergency needs that soldiers may face. FIDF provides mental health services, educational programs, support for the approximately 7,000 Lone Soldiers, and sponsors Missions to Israel. Some of these programs are sponsored by them alone, and in partnership with other organizations such as Sheba Hospital's mental health center, or Nefesh B'Nefesh (see below). As of this writing, the FIDF website also offers an archive of updates about the situation in Israel between October 2023 and lune of this year.

What needs does the FIDF Emergency Fund aim to meet? Approximately 50% of their funds have been dedicated to medical equipment and supplies. This includes field hospitals, armored ambulances, portable x-ray machines, and more. Over 40% goes for "emergency well-being". This includes clothing, thermal clothing, underwear, personal hygiene supplies, and towels. There is also funding provided for religious needs such as tsitsit. The Emergency Fund also provides financial aid to families of soldiers, care packages to wounded soldiers, and financial help to bereaved families. In addition, it provides funds for search and rescue equipment.

Support for Lone Soldiers.

A lone soldier is defined as an IDF soldier who has no immediate family in Israel to provide them with support. There are approximately 7,000 lone soldiers serving in the IDF. According to the FIDF website, about half are actually from Israel; that is, they may be orphaned or come from broken homes. The rest come from abroad, and many have come from our country. FIDF helps these soldiers by providing social activities, a 24-hour call center, help dealing with any government agencies as may be necessary, free housing, and free flights home to visit family. Some of the programs are in conjunction with "Nefesh B'Nefesh", an organization which facilitates Alivah.

Mental Health Services.

This type of support is always needed, and is

especially vital now. The FIDF seeks to provide services to soldiers and veterans in conjunction not only with the IDF, but also the medical and academic communities and the Ministry of Defense. In a pro-active program, commanders are trained to recognize and intervene in cases of impending or occurring cases of PTSD. Through the Soldier Recharge program, entire units can be screened and supported in order to counter PTSD. This program provides soldiers with access to a retreat where they can unwind from the stresses of combat, as well as group therapy where they can share and help "process" their experiences. It can also build a sense of bonding among members of a combat unit. A mental health center is being started in Netanya. Finally, a program to aid combat veterans has been initiated in conjunction with Sheba Medical Center's mental health division; this hospital, located in Ramat Gan (near Tel Aviv), is well-known for its mental health services. Satellite centers for this program are planned for Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, Ashdod, Haifa, Naharia, among other locations.

Educational programs.

FIDF offers a 4-year scholarship to veterans, based on financial need. It offers teenagers an intensive five-month program for a high school diploma. There is a cyber and tech training program offered to teenage girls. There is a "Momentum" program to help

active duty soldiers to re-enter civilian life following their required service. There is an intensive 24-hours "recharge" program for soldiers showing signs of PTSD. Finally, there is also a six-week training program for individuals on the autistic spectrum who work with mentors who stay with them through their IDF service.

Missions to Israel.

This program takes visitors from other countries "behind the scenes" where they can tour bases and meet with soldiers or ranking officials. Related, there is also a "Bike Mission". This is a six-day ride across the country, where participants from abroad are joined by wounded veterans. These kinds of program must surely boost not only an awareness of Israel and the duties of its soldiers, but also the morale of all Israelis who are in any way involved. It can't help having the effect of saying to Israelis, "I care."

These are some of the programs through which the FIDF works towards its goal of fulfilling the needs of Israel's defenders. They are explained in more detail, and some other services are described, on the organization's website. FIDF has been highly regarded by charity raters and has a long and successful track record through more than 40 years. It provides not only a array of programs and services, but also, through its Missions, helps connect those of us in the diaspora with our lewish homeland. \diamond



HAVDALAH

Many thanks to Joe and Kathy Shabathai for hosting us at their beautiful home for our favorite of short sweet services—Havdalah. Just as we welcome in the Shabbat, our day of rest, with ceremony, prayers and wine, so too we say special blessings at the end of Shabbat, marking the return to "the ordinary" after a day of special holiness. We eat (so delicious thanks to all attendee offerings and especially Kathy's amazing eggplant parmigiana) and once we can see three medium sized stars in the sky, we chant blessings honoring "the difference," smell sweet spices, light a many braided wick candle, sing Eliahu haNavi and finally douse the candle in wine and we are ready for a good week. Thank you Joe and Gloria for leading the service.



So good to see Marcia Kreitman, Stan and Jennie Margulies. Nadine Thompson, Jules Seder and all.



Joe Shabathai begins the service.



Joyce Peckman light the candle symbolic of many paths but one strong people.





By Judy Starr

Bronze, it was, and hefty.
Half again the size of a silver dollar
and half again as thick
it nearly filled my palm
when he gifted it to me

at an age I was too young to understand either the meaning or the timing of this gift. I placed it in a corner of my bureau drawer.

I'd seen my father's photograph post-war, in a fitted-collar uniform and matching two-sided cloth cap that lower-rank soldiers wore.

Only years later would he share how before he ever wore that uniform he'd been plucked from a prisoners' cell that held him and many other captives along with the Hungarians who had overseen their months of forced labor – after a passing Russian soldier overheard overheard them speaking in a Slavic tongue and asked, "What are you doing here, brothers?"

My father spent the last year of the war commissioned as a chauffer in the Czech army. He told me his story three months before I became a mother, pointing to pictures in the family album, most of which I'd never seen before.

I never told him how I lost his medal with the emblem of the soldier with a rifle on bent knee and a series of numbers of seemingly mysterious significance in a square on the obverse. If I try now I can almost feel the elevated portions of the bronze roll beneath my thumb and in the bed of my palm sense the heft of the medal belying the weight of the stories that only time could help me understand.

Rutgers Studies Spirituality of the Sea

by Josh Keller

n the middle of May, we took students from Rutgers University down to the Keys to learn about water torah and spirituality of the sea, and to do service work for the local marine environment. The students all had a great time, learned a lot, and will hopefully bring this experience back to their campus and start a Scubi Jew chapter there to continue their impact!

The week started out with the students arriving at Miami airport. I picked them up and brought them to the KICC where we decided on our meal plan for the week. Being in the KJCC, we make our own meals in a family style set up, where students either cook or clean depending on which night they make the meals. We had an assortment of meals such as pasta night, Taco Tuesday, pizza night, and veggie burgers. We went to the Winn Dixie to pick up the required ingredients, and had our first night together in the synagogue, Rabbi Ed gave a presentation on the ubiquitous and mysterious properties of water, and how it unifies us all and is fundamental to our religion. He then shared a presentation on Blue Carbon and how important the ocean is to all of the natural processes that shape our environment.

The next day we started the morning with a Beach Cleanup at Harry Harris park. We picked up over 1000+ pieces of trash. As we walked around, I told the students different facts about marine science and the organisms that call the Keys their home. We continued the data with snorkeling out of Key Dives, to see more of the local environment first hand. In the evening, we had another "spirituality of the sea" program where students learned more about the importance of water in the scriptures of Judaism. We used this knowledge the next morning as we did our water meditation

at Rowell's Park. The students became one with the sea and recited the sh'ma while floating at the surface. Then in the afternoon, the students got to experience the mangrove ecosystem through a kayak cleanup and excursion in Tavernier Creek. The students got up close and personal with mangrove crabs, Cassiopeia jellyfish, and plenty of birds and fish from the area. The students througoughly enjoyed moving through the mangroves, in the peace and quiet of the forest, and learning about all of the adaptations that mangroves had to evolve in order to survive in the marine environment.

As Wednesday came along, we returned to Key Dives in order to learn about their coral restoration program. The students sat through a presentation learning all about what coral are, how they are in danger from climate change and rising sea temperatures, as well as how Key Dives and iCare do their coral restoration program out on the reef. The students then got a tour of the MOTE facility on site to see the coral nurseries, before going out snorkeling again in the afternoon to see some of the already off planted coral and meet some more fish friends.

Our final activities were on Thursday, as the students went down to Marathon to the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital. They learned about the program and got a tour of the facility, meeting all of the in-patient turtles that call the hospital home. On the way back we stopped at Robbie's Restaurant to hand-feed the tarpon. That afternoon we finished up going to the History of Diving Museum and then watched the sun set at Rowell's Park. On Friday, I drove the students back to the airport and that was the end of the trip! The students were so thankful to both Tikkun HaYam, as well as to the KJCC for housing us and allowing us to do this awesome program! \diamond



"I loved becoming one with the water."

"I throughly enjoyed getting to learn about the different types of coral and how they're being negatively impacted by humans. It was all new information and I can't wait to share the things I learned about replanting them."

"The Torah learning with evidence of water being so important. Very eye opening and interesting."

"The water meditation was most impactful for me, as it allowed me to connect to ideas of spirituality in the outdoors, where I find it most intensely."







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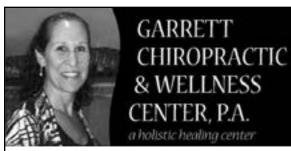
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