

Chai~Lights



May 1 - June 30, 2024

23 Nissan - 24 Sivan 5784

A Look Back at Purim — Pages 14 - 17

Pesach in Pictures, Poetry, and Thank Yous! — Pages 18 - 29

Why Count the Omer? — Page 35



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i>			1 MAY	2	3 Yom HaShoah Commemoration Steve Jacobs <i>Cheryl Margulies</i>	4
5 Sisterhood Meeting 10am Beginners Hebrew Group 12pm Crochet 1pm	6 Yom Hashoah	7	8 Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	9	10 Joe Shabathai <i>Sisterhood</i>	11 Havdalah at Shabathai's Home 7pm
12 KJCC Board Meeting Zoom 10am	13	14 Yom HaAtzmaut	15	16	17 Randy Klein-Gross <i>Alan & Chely Markowitz</i>	18
19 Beginners Hebrew Group 12pm Sisterhood Luncheon 1:30pm	20	21	22	23	24 Jane Friedman & Donna Bolton <i>Sisterhood</i>	25
26 Lag B'Omer	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30pm	31 Erica Lieberman Garrett <i>Roy & Mary Pollack</i>	1 JUN
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9 KJCC Board Meeting Zoom 10am Beginners Hebrew Group 12pm (last class)	10	11	12	13	14 Shavuot Dinner 6pm Ken Atlas <i>Gloria Avner</i>	15
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2024 - 2025 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



Spring is in the air. For some of our members, it means a return up north until it gets cold again. You will be missed as always. For the rest of us, it's only in Spirit.

For me, this time of year is marked by many matters of ritual importance. First, and foremost is Purim. Although there's nothing I love more than a good pastrami sandwich, this day is really more the story of Esther. We all dressed up, and as president, I got to wear a crown. I'll admit it is pretty fun. So is all the noise we make when anyone says that name we've come to love to hate.

But what could be more

important than Purim? Well I'm not going to pass over Pesach. The story of how we got out of bondage and made our way back to Israel, is worth eating matzah and bitter herbs.

Our community Seder continues to be a great event. Thanks to Joe Shabathai for presiding over it. Thanks also to Susan for organizing a guide for us to follow, and to Loni, Erica, Jane, and the many others who help us with the food.

I'll end on this: I'm so pleased with all the new people recently helping lead services. We couldn't do it without you. ◇

Anniversaries

May		Years
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz	23
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan	52
June		
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	38
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg	65
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman	28
12th	William & Donna Bolton	31
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz	48
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler	48
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake	37
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax	50
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin	54
29th	Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz	
29th	Jerry & Betty Small	55

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

MAY & JUNE 2024

Friday, May 3 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service & Yom HaShoah Memorial led by Steve Jacobs

Sunday May 5 10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC & on Zoom
12 p.m. Beginners Hebrew Learning Group
1 p.m. Crochet with Nadine

Friday, May 10 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai

Saturday, May 11 7:00 p.m. Havdalah at the home of Joe & Kathy Shabathai

Sunday, May 12 10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom

Friday, May 17 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Randy Klein-Gross

Sunday, May 19 12 p.m. Beginners Hebrew Learning Group
1:30 p.m. Sisterhood Luncheon

Friday, May 24 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Jane Friedman & Donna Bolton

Thursday, May 30 12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club at the home of Joyce Peckman

Friday, May 31 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Sunday, June 2 10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC & on Zoom
12 p.m. Beginners Hebrew Learning Group

Friday, June 7 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman and Michael & Sean Kaufman

Sunday, June 9 10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
12 p.m. Beginners Hebrew Learning Group (Last Class)

Friday, June 14 6 p.m. Shavuot Dinner
7:30 p.m. Shabbat & Shavuot Yizkor Service led by Ken Atlas

Friday, June 21 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent

Friday, June 28 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Judy Star & Steve Hartz

NOSH

May 11th Havdalah

Joe and Kathy Shabathai will host Havdalah at their home on Saturday, May 11th at 7 p.m. There will be a light dinner “Seudah Shlishit” followed by a Havdalah service when three stars appear. Please contact Kathy at Kathy@Shabathai.com to RSVP and coordinate your food offering.

Sisterhood Book Club

Sisterhood Book Club has been a small enjoyable group, including KJCC members and friends. Linda Pollack, Elaine Schulberg, Joyce Peckman and Shirley Stein have hosted in their homes. Thank you! The books range from light to serious, and the free-ranging talk often brings up memories. We meet the final Thursday of each month at 12:30 for lunch, with one person chosen to moderate the discussion, joined on Zoom by anyone who can't make it in person. It is not necessary to have finished the book, although we do talk about the ending. The next book will be “We are the Lucky Ones” by Georgia Hunter. Joyce Peckman will host on May 30th. The summer months will go to Zoom only. To be added to the email list, contact Linda Pollack at Lindap4000@ymail.com. Look for the flyer for more information.

Beginning Hebrew Class

Ten adults and four children are learning the Hebrew letters and some of the words in a Sunday noon group led by Joyce. We work slowly, using the National Jewish Outreach program “Reishit Binah.” Often there is a Thursday 7 p.m. drop-in practice on zoom. Contact Joyce at joycepeck-

man@gmail.com if you are interested. After Pass-over break, we will continue May 5th. Classes will continue every Sunday through June 9

Shavuot Dinner

Shavuot comes late this year – June 12th and 13th. It celebrates the giving of the Torah as well as the end of the count of the Omer, and concludes with Yizkor memorial service. We will celebrate it on Friday June 14th with a 6 p.m. dairy dinner before Shabbat and Yizkor services. At this time we do not have a sponsor for the dinner. Contact Loni Padden – dr.padden@yahoo.com if you want to take this honor upon yourself.

KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam Annual ‘Shabbabaque’

Prepare to celebrate the Birthday of the USA, KJCC style! Please mark your calendar in Red, White & Blue to save the date of Friday, July 5, 2024, to attend our Annual Shabbabaque. The festivities will begin at 6:00pm, followed by Shabbat Services at 7:30pm. This celebration will be a ‘good old-fashioned’ Independence Day cookout, complete with grilled hamburgers, kosher hot dogs, corn on the cob, cole slaw, potato salad, etc. Desert will feature the 4th of July mainstays such as ‘All-American Apple Pie’, watermelon and peach cobbler. Please RSVP to Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585 or email susangordon424@yahoo.com. Be sure to wear your favorite Patriotic outfit. We look forward to seeing you at the ‘Shabbabaque’ on Friday, July 5th at 6:00pm. Many thanks to Michael and Lorena Kaufman for sponsoring our Independence Day Shabbabeque. ◇

Shabbat Service Leaders

May 3	Steve Jacobs
May 10	Joe Shabathai
May 17	Randy Klein-Gross
May 24	Jane Friedman & Donna Bolton
May 31	Erica Lieberman Garrett
June 7	Joyce Peckman and Michael & Sean Kaufman
June 14	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
June 21	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
June 28	Judy Starr & Steve Hartz

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 grandchildren: 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.

MARCH & APRIL 2024

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of
Michael Krissel.....	Shirley Krissel
Linda Pollack.....	Joel Pollack
Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	Gertrude F Kaplan
Maria Cartagena.....	Carlos Cartagena
Joan Wohl	Dr. Milton A Wohl
Robert Temkin	Phillip Temkin

Meditation Garden

Stuart & Lauren Sax	Joan Boruszak
Rich & Mindy Agler	Sylvia Agler

Other

Aaron & Ellen Krumbein	KJCC
Cary Nation.....	Jeffrey Schocket
Linda Pollack.....	Nona Abrams
Rita & Harry Rzepka	Purim

— SISTERHOOD DONATIONS —

Oneg

Roy & Elizabeth Pollack	Celebrating Madelyn's Birthday
Roy & Elizabeth Pollack	Celebrating Elizabeth's Birthday
Roy & Elizabeth Pollack	Celebrating Will's Birthday
Nettie & Jules Seder	Celebrating 58th Wedding Anniversary
Kaufman Family	In Memory of Jack Kaufman
Barney Coltman	In Memory of Ellen
Jane Friedman...	Celebrating Her & Harry's Birthday
Nadine Thompson	Celebrating Her Birthday
Ken Atlas	Honoring His Bar Mitzvah & Art Itkin
Gloria Avner	Honoring Her Brother Mark
Barbara & Richard Knowles	Honoring Richard & Eve's Birthday

Dinners

Kaufman Family	Shabbabaque
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ONEG SPONSORS

May

May 3	Cheryl Margulies Celebrating Her Birthday
May 10	Sisterhood
May 17	Alan & Chely Markowitz Celebrating Their Anniversary
May 24	Sisterhood
May 31	Roy & Mary Pollack Celebrating Elizabeth Giddens Pollack's Birthday

June

June 7	Donna Bolton Celebrating Her Birthday
June 14	Gloria Avner Celebrating Mark & Rhona's Birthdays and Remembering our Brother Barry
June 21	Stuart & Lauren Sax Celebrating Their 50th Anniversary
June 28	Sisterhood



In Memoriam – May 2024

Sylvia Agler

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Carmel Catanese

by Jane Friedman

Robert Schur

by Lee Schur

Carol Steinberg

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Belle Kirschenbaum

by Marilyn Greenbaum

Sally Shabathai

by Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Roos Boudewijns

by Roos-Mary Benowitz

Stella Hartz

by Steven & Jan Hartz

Robert W. Singer

by Mary Lee Singer

Helen Berman

by Sylvia Berman

Fred Klimpl

by Michael Klimpl

Claire Smith

by Stuart & Geri Smith

Carlos Cartagena

by Maria Cartagena

Marilyn Janet Barr

by Michael Klimpl

Cantor Alex Chapin

by Steven & Barbara Smith

Ellen Coltman

by Barnet O. Coltman

David Dale Regent

by M'Liss Regent-Cunha & Tim Cunha

Rose Wainer

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Becky Kanowsky

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

by Paul & Susan Roberts

Susan Cimkowski

by Stephen Steinbock
& Rosemary Barefoot

Alex Perl

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Rene Rose

by Frank Rose

Ida S. Reider

by Muriel Swartz

Gertrude Weisberg

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Maryann Sandusky

by Frank Rose

Phillip Temkin

by Robert Temkin

Barbara Linda Hayes

by Jane Friedman

Mrs. Trudy Roth

by Joel & Mary Roth

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

by Joan P. Wohl

Lilyan Sax

by Stuart & Lauren Sax





In Memoriam – June 2024

David Gitin

by Gloria Avner

Celestina Bravo-Mendez

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Bernard Plutzer

by Arthur Plutzer

Rose Roazen

by Sylvia Berman

Emilia Mendez

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Irving Plutzer

by Arthur Plutzer

Leo Blitzer

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Lucy Kaufman

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Morris Rose

by Frank Rose

Louis R. Coltman

by Barnet O. Coltman

Ruth Rosen

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Milton Lang

by Frank Rose

Sam Hitzig

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Arthur Klimpl

by Michael Klimpl

Jean Shaw

by Frank Rose

Bea Ginsberg

by Bernard Ginsberg

Jacob Maxwell Klimpl

by Michael Klimpl

Carl Roy

by Medina Roy

Irwin Grossinger

by Gary & Laurie Grossinger

Morris Kornbloom

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Jan Finer

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

Andrew Hutchison

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Leo Wolynetz

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

Sam Wainer

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Samuel Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Max Margulies

by Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Candi Steinbock

by Stephen Steinbock
& Rosemary Barefoot

Max Tuchman

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Leslie Peckman

by Joyce Peckman

Leonard Tobin

by Andrew M. Tobin



Happy Birthday!

May

1st.....Cheryl Margulies
2nd..... Barney Coltman
4th Laura Leigh Tallent
5th Richard Palacino
7th Murray Rapoport
7thSkylar Bella Strasser
9th Reid Schur
11thRichard Agler
11thSheila R. Steinberg
12th Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th Nyan Feder
13thRose Marie Casey
14th Bernie Ginsberg
14thJohn Temkin
14thMedina Roy
15th Paul R. Schur
19thJonathon Hodgson
23rdJenny Margulies
23rd Jules Seder
23rdNettie Seder
23rdRita Williams
25thMatthew Birnbaum
27thAlan Beth
27thJeffrey Pollack
28th Laura Duman
28thMary Roth
29thRobin Forman
31st.....Robert Sherman
31st..... Wes Conklin

June

2nd..... Barbara Osder
2nd..... Myra Kaplan
3rd Abraham Rakov
3rd Elanor Forbes
3rd Shanti Cope
5th Sam Weis
5thTonya Salomon
6th Donna Bolton
6th Nancy Kluger
6thSuzanne Gilson
7th Carrie Smith
7th Joan P. Wohl
9th Renee Brodie
9th Zoe Moshe-Berk
12thMark Avner
13thJeff Miller
13thJustin Greenbaum
14thRochelle Hollander
15th William Bolton
20th Harvey Klein
21st.....Aaron Quesada
21st..... Nancy Hershoff
23rd Steve Levine
24th Delaney Rohde
25thJake Benjamin Markowitz
26thArthur Plutzer
27th Frank Emkey
30th Amber Brody
30th Bob Friedman
30thMilo Tainow
30th Tyler Cope

Yahrzeit Plaque

Joan Boruszak

Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



And the Award Goes to...

Professor Haim Sompolinsky of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been awarded the Brain Prize for 2024, the largest and most prestigious international prize for brain research. Also affiliated with Harvard University, Dr. Sompolinsky is a physicist and pioneer in the field of theoretical and computational neuroscience, particularly in the study of neural circuit dynamics in the brain (and on a personal note, he is also the husband of my first cousin, Elisheva!) His research has significantly contributed to understanding how neural circuits process and encode information, map the external world, and participate in learning and memory.

Sompolinsky shares the annual prize totaling \$1.4 million with Prof. Larry Abbott of Columbia University and Prof. Terrence Sejnowski of the Salk Institute, who are also widely recognized for their groundbreaking work in computational and theoretical neuroscience. Haim Sompolinsky is the first Israeli to earn the award.

The Brain Prize is awarded annually by the Lundbeck Foundation of Denmark. In one of history's more appealing repetitions, Sompolinsky will receive the medal on May 30th in Copenhagen, where he was born in 1949, the son of Danish and Hungarian Holocaust survivors who met in Sweden after the war. He is the third of 10 children, and the last to be born in Denmark before his family immigrated to Israel. During the war, his father David worked with the Danish Resistance to save 700 Jews from extermination by the Nazis, by arranging their escape to Sweden in October 1943. The medal will be presented in person by Frederik, Denmark's king.

When asked whether his father's work as a microbiologist inspired him to become a scientist, Sompolinsky said, "My father's big library in our living room was a complete chaotic mix of

Talmud, Torah and books of Jewish law. In the middle of this were books about mathematics, microbiology and physics. To me, it was a place where I could just pick up a book and read." The elder Sompolinsky modeled how a person could combine Orthodox Jewish observance with a deep love of science. "There was no conflict between religious observance and a professional life in the sciences. I think I inherited from him the idea of leading a coherent lifestyle. I think that being a scientist enriches my religious experiences and insights and vice versa," he said. "Most of us know about the king of Denmark's empathy and public expression of support for the Jewish community [during World War II]. My going to Copenhagen in a couple of months to receive the prize from the present king, who is a descendant of the wartime one, is going to be very moving." (www.timesofisrael.com, 3-8-24)

An Amazing Opportunity

Ninety-three-year-old Jewish philanthropist Dr. Ruth Gottesman has recently given \$1 billion to the Bronx's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, waiving all future student tuition for the indefinite future. The massive gift from Dr. Gottesman, an emerita faculty member, will be "transformational in drawing students to the medical school in the city's poorest borough." The donation aims to make Einstein accessible to a broader range of candidates by eliminating up to hundreds of thousands in student debt. "This donation radically revolutionizes our ability to continue attracting students who are committed to our mission, not just those who can afford it," Dr. Yaron Tomer, Einstein's dean, said. "Additionally, it will free up and lift our students, enabling them to pursue projects and ideas that might otherwise be

prohibitive.”

The college was founded by Yeshiva University (YU) in 1955, a time when Jews faced discriminatory quotas in university admissions, especially into professional schools. In 2015, Yeshiva University transferred ownership of the medical college to New York City’s Montefiore Medical Center, though the two institutions still remain affiliated. (Long-time readers of WJR will also recall the vital contributions Sir Moses Montefiore made to Jewish education and life in pre-Israel Palestine.) Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, the president of YU, called Gottesman’s donation to the medical college monumental. “We congratulate the Gottesman family for their visionary leadership in significantly advancing Einstein’s founding mission to expand access for all students to top tier medical education,” Berman said.

It is said to be the largest donation made to any medical school in the country. Gottesman announced that tuition will be free starting in August. She said the donation will help students attain expertise “to find new ways to prevent diseases and provide the finest health care to communities here in the Bronx and all over the world...I feel blessed to be given the great privilege of making this gift to such a worthy cause.” A former professor at the college, she has a long history with the institution. In 1968, she joined the college’s Children’s Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, where she developed screening and treatment methods for children. In 1992, she launched the college’s Adult Literacy Program. She serves as the chair of the college’s board of trustees.

Gottesman is the widow of wealthy financier David Gottesman, a prominent Jewish philanthropist who died in 2022. He connected with billionaire investor Warren Buffett when the two attended Harvard Business School. He became an early backer of Buffett’s firm, Berkshire Hathaway, earning massive returns on his investment. In 2022, Forbes estimated Gottesman’s wealth at \$3 billion. The Gottesmans launched a family philanthropic foundation, the Gottesman Fund, in 1965, continuing a long tradition of Jewish philanthropy in the family. In 2021 (the most recent year for which tax documents are available) the Gottesman Fund disbursed more than \$24 million to dozens of groups and institutions, many of them Jewish, including multiple Jewish day schools. The largest

grant — more than \$8.4 million — went to the P.E.F. Israel Endowment Fund, a New York-based nonprofit that allocates funding to charities in Israel. The Gottesman Fund also donated in 2021 to non-Jewish causes, including mental health treatment, aid for the homeless and the New York Public Library. When he died, David Gottesman left his wife a portfolio of Berkshire Hathaway stock to disburse at her discretion. She decided to direct the funds to the medical college, where tuition currently costs more than \$59,000 per year, leaving many students with large debts upon graduation.

Dr. Ruth Gottesman stipulated that the college not change its name despite the massive donation. The only other medical school in the city to offer tuition-free admission to all students is New York University’s. Einstein has 737 medical students enrolled for this academic year, in addition to hundreds of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. According to US News and World Report, it ranks 42nd in best medical schools for research. (www.timesofisrael.com, 2-27-24)

Update

According to a recent report published by Israel’s Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, organizations and individuals around the world have donated at least \$1.4 billion toward Israel’s recovery from the horrific attack by Hamas on October 7th. The donations, along with the arrival of tens of thousands of volunteers, represent “an unprecedented effort by Jewish communities around the world to support Israel,” the ministry said in the report. The report represents the most complete published tally of wartime donations. The committee distributing the money is so flush with donations that it has not had to turn down any requests from Israeli charities as long as they meet certain criteria.

Some 58,000 individuals flew to Israel to volunteer for military service, agricultural work and with organizations supporting October 7th victims and evacuees from the communities surrounding Gaza. The rate of donations has slowed down significantly over the six months since October 7th but the money available for Israeli charities has not run out; about a third, or more, of the \$1.4 billion raised has not yet been allocated. (www.jta.org, 4-8-24)

In Memoriam

Martin Greenfield, Auschwitz survivor who became a master tailor and dressed some U.S. presidents, died in March. He was 95. Born Maximilian Grünfeld in Pavlovo (a village in what was then Czechoslovakia and is now Ukraine), he was rounded up at age 14 and shipped to Auschwitz with his parents and three siblings. He was the only one to survive. As a prisoner in the camp, he was working in the laundry and accidentally tore an SS soldier's shirt. After being flogged by the soldier, Greenfield learned how to sew a simple stitch; once he had fixed the soldier's shirt, he slipped it on under his striped prisoner uniform and discovered that wearing a Nazi's discarded shirt gave him new status among his fellow prisoners. (He managed to get his hands on a second shirt as well.) "The day I first wore that shirt was the day I learned clothes possess power," he wrote in a 2014 memoir. "Clothes don't just 'make a man,' they can save the man. They did for me." He immigrated to the United States in 1947 (he was 19), and became a master tailor who dressed some U.S. presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to Barak Obama. His Brooklyn-based company created private-label suits for everyone from Donna Karan to Brooks Brothers and others. Working out of his East Williamsburg factory, he became one of the best-known men's tailors in the U.S. His suits were profiled in *Vanity Fair* magazine in 2014.

Less well known was his story as a survivor, a story he kept secret for years. He was liberated at Buchenwald by the U.S. Army in 1945 and got to shake hands with a future client: Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. He spent two years searching for family in Europe to no avail. Once in the U.S., on the recommendation of a fellow Czech immigrant, he got his first job at the GGG clothing factory in East Williamsburg. He took over the company in 1977 and renamed it Martin Greenfield Clothiers. It grew from six employees to 117 by 2010. Eisenhower became a client when he was preparing to run for the presidency. Greenfield would slip notes into his suits offering foreign policy advice.

Stories about those notes became widely known and another client, President Bill Clinton, reportedly told him, "Don't send me notes; you can fax them." (Some of Greenfield's other clients included Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Gerald

Ford, and George H.W. Bush; General Colin Powell, Frank Sinatra, Paul Newman and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.) He also created the suits for HBO's 1920s set show "Boardwalk Empire."

"...receiving your first tailoring lesson inside a Nazi concentration camp was hardly the ideal apprenticeship," Greenwald said. "I would have much preferred to hone my craft on Savile Row or in the mills of Milan. Looking back, though, that moment in the camps marked the beginning of the rest of my life. Strangely enough, two ripped Nazi shirts helped this Jew build America's most famous and successful custom suit company. God has a wonderful sense of humor." (www.time-sofisrael.com, 3-22-24)

-Ken Holtzman, the winningest Jewish pitcher in Major League Baseball history, died in mid-April at the age of 78. He threw two no-hitters, won four World Series rings and beat the great Sandy Koufax head-to-head once across 15 seasons in the 1960s and 1970s. He later worked at his local St. Louis JCC, running the gymnasium and coaching the JCC's Maccabi baseball teams plus as a manager of the Petach Tikva Pioneers, Israel's short-lived professional baseball league.

Holtzman was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the first-ever MLB draft in 1965. He also played for the Oakland Athletics, Baltimore Orioles and the New York Yankees. He was a two-time All-Star. The Cubs claimed he was "one of the best left-handed pitchers in Cubs history."

As a young Jewish southpaw breaking into the big leagues in 1965, he was often compared to the Los Angeles Dodgers' Sandy Koufax. In September 1966, the two lefties faced off in what the Jewish Baseball Museum considers to be the first-ever matchup between two Jewish starting pitchers - it has only happened five times and Holtzman was involved in three of them. Holtzman would end his career with 174 wins, nine more than Koufax (who only played 12 years, retiring at 30 because of chronic arthritis in his left arm). He also earned 1,601 strikeouts, second to Koufax's 2,396 among Jewish pitchers and a 3.49 ERA.

Holtzman retired after the 1979 season. He is a member of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and the Chicago Cubs Hall of Fame. (www.jns.org, 4-16-24) ◇



Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, May 30, 2024 ~ *We Were the Lucky Ones*, home of Joyce Peckman
Thursday, June 27, 2024 ~ *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*, home of Linda Pollack



The incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive—and to reunite—We Were the Lucky Ones is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds.
Author: Georgia Hunter



The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter is a sweeping historical novel that explores how our past shapes our present, and what it truly means to be courageous.
Author: Hazel Gaynor

We will always Zoom and sometimes meet in person as well. 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.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT Loni Padden



Welcome to the spring Sisterhood report! The sisterhood went on a carpool road trip to the Morikami Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach. The weather was perfect for an afternoon stroll through the beautifully manicured gardens after our tasty Asian lunch. We took a moment to honor our own Mickey Frankel who was a docent and volunteer at the gardens for over 25 years. The sisterhood is looking forward to planning more garden walk outings after the heat wave of summer subsides.

PURIM & PASSOVER UPDATE

To kick off the joyous Purim season properly, Jane Friedman held her wildly popular Hamantaschen Baking Workshop! As always, it was well attended, and we left with tasty treats and new ideas for creative hamantaschen. The few we didn't eat ended up on the bountiful buffet table at the 2nd annual Purim & Pastrami Megillah reading. Thank you to our President, Ken Atlas for sponsoring the dinner and bringing 9 pounds of perfectly cooked pastrami! Shari Carlquist's corned beef was falling apart delicious, and all the side dishes really made for a festive and yummy night. If you weren't in attendance, we are making it an annual tradition. With more pastrami next year!

At the 19th Annual Women's Seder, we celebrated our WOMAN OF THE YEAR: Donna Bolton. Donna has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors and a fountain of strength for the KJCC over the years. We are delighted to add her name to our tapestry of past honorees. A large portion of our women in attendance were new to the KJCC women's seder, so we have many more individual names to sew into our commemorative tapestry wall of the past 19 years. Randy Klein-Gross, with the help of Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman, took the time to rewrite our Haggadah with some timely current updates that address the issues we face as women today. Thank you, Randy!

Our Congregational Community Seder was filled to capacity and catered by chef Ana Ellis. We have emerged stronger than ever from our pandemic days with energetic new members to gather and celebrate our freedom from Egypt. Before sitting down to our scrumptious meal, Judy Starr & Medina Roy organized a letter writing table to thank our soldiers in Israel, which Media will hand deliver! A place at the table was set for the hostages to remind us that if our fellow Jews are captive, none of us are free. We prayed that next year each of them can celebrate Pesach with family & friends in Jerusalem and not in captivity.

The Book Club led by Linda Pollack is going strong with an always lively combination of zoom and in-person discussions. To be added to the mailing list contact Linda Pollack at Lindap4000@ymail.com.

Counting of the Omer is ending...Let's celebrate the giving of the Torah! Join us at the KJCC for a Shavuot Dairy Potluck Dinner Celebration. Friday June 14th, 2024 at 6pm, Shabbat and Yizkor service to follow at 7:30pm Contact Joyce at joycepeckman@gmail.com or 732-447-5225 to RSVP and coordinate your dairy or veggie dish.

We have another upcoming opportunity for togetherness...The Shabbabaque Dinner sponsored by the Kaufman family on Friday July 5th. Contact Susan Gordon for RSVP 305-766-3585 susan-gordon424@yahoo.com Grill, Chill, Shabbat! Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to everyone who has been sponsoring onegs! 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.

Calling all Ladies...Join us for our next sisterhood meeting at the KJCC on May 5th at 10am. We always have good noshes! ◇



HAPPY Purim Day

Gloria introduces the reading, showing an actual megilla Esther gifted to our Congregation by Rabbi and Mindy Agler.



Kathy and Joe Shabathai are ready for the reading to begin.

Susan Gordon wears her traditional Vashti costume, but doesn't seem upset by being kicked out as Queen of Persia.



Ken Atlas, our President in the guise of King Ahashuerosh, welcomes us to the Annual reading of Megillat Esther. We are ready to drown out the hated name of our would be annihilator, Haman.





Jakob shares a look at his antique scroll of Esther.



Purim is such a fun holiday for the kids.



Michael Kaufman, straight from Egypt.



What a good looking group. Hi Luigi.



Medina Roy, could there be a cuter bizzzy bee?

Loni Padden and Erica Lieberman Garrett, party planners extraordinaire, get into the spirit.



Thanks to the efforts of Jane Friedman and Luz Levine, as teachers as well as bakers, we have an amazing abundance of hamantashen.



What a cute table full of revelers.



Good to see you Joan and Joel and Tim and M'liss.



Lovely Lorena Kaufman makes an outstanding Queen.

Nettie and Jules look ready for a parade.



Jane Friedman, you are always the master maker of hamantaschen. Thank you so much!



Happily awaiting reading and pastrami. So good to see so many friends and members.



WOMEN'S SEDER CELEBRATES 19 YEARS OF "DOING SOMETHING"

by Joyce Peckman

Thirty-eight women attended the 19th annual KJCC Women's Seder, held April 14th. As they entered, after being checked in by our police officer at the gate, the ladies brought their delicious plentiful food offerings to the kitchen, where Mary and Stella placed them on the buffet table. Erica Lieberman Garrett, organizer-in-chief, worked with Sisterhood president Loni Padden to make sure everything ran smoothly. Meanwhile, Marcia Kreitman, Gloria Avner and Myra Brahms set up eighteen first-timers with markers and a patch of colorful cloth to add their names and designs to our growing tapestry. In the hallway, Joyce Peckman collected money and gave out name tags while Lily Padden expertly sold raffle tickets.

The Women's seder has three goals: to celebrate the often-unheralded women in Jewish history, to honor a contemporary woman from our congregation, and to exemplify Tikkun Olam by raising money for organizations that help women and children. This seder featured a new, streamlined Haggadah that was put together in record time by Randy Klein-Gross, Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman. Randy led the leaders and round-robin readers through the stories and blessings of our Haggadah. Randy also told us about our historical honoree, Gertrude



**Woman of the Year
—Donna Bolton**

Elion, a 20th Century Jewish woman who fought gender discrimination to become a Nobel Prize-winning biochemist, helping to create the life-saving drugs that treat leukemia and prevent organ transplant rejection.

Donna Bolton, our contemporary honoree, was introduced by Gloria Avner. We learned about her family heritage of significant contribution to the Jewish community in Orlando, her early live-aboard

life in the Keys, and the contributions of time and effort she has made to the FLKCA Concert Series, Islamorada Friends of the Library, and to the KJCC.

Three charities were chosen to benefit from the Women's Seder this year. Wesley House Family Services helps families and foster children across Monroe County. Women's Amutot, an initiative of Miami-Dade Jewish Federation, helps women in Israel. Talia Agler Girls' Shelter in Kenya provides a supportive home and quality education for neglected, abused and trafficked girls and young women and their children.

This wonderful, meaningful event was the most successful fundraiser we have had. The entry fee, raffle and additional donations brought in over \$2600. Because all expenses were covered by donations, each charity will receive a check for \$880. The world needs a lot of fixing, but our Tikkun Olam project is doing its part to help. ◇





The crew that set up the rooms for our favorite celebration —Myra Brahms, Marcia Kreitman, Medina Roy, Loni Padden, Gloria Avner, Donna Bolton, and Erica Leiberman Garrett. Great job!!



Our new Haggadah, completely free of wine-stains, updated by Randy Klein-Gross, Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman.



Hand made and designed by Marcia Kreitman, Donna Bolton's Banner marks the occasion forever.



The magnificent ceremonial tablecloth added to every year since 2010 with the names of new attendees. Thank you Marcia Kreitman for continuing this remarkable artwork/record.



Lucinda Kurtz reads her Poem after opening the door for Elijah.





Women's Seder Continued...

M'liss Regent-Cunha, Roberta McNew and Cheryl Margulies enjoying the Women's Seder Banner

First-timers getting ready to add their names to our ceremonial tablecloth.



This year we'll be adding a record number of new names to participants tablecloth.



Old friends making appearances is one of our favorite parts.





Meet our newest member, Rosemary Ciotti. Jan's Luigi, always the perfect gentleman, was the only masculine presence.





COMMUNITY SEDER

Passover/Pesach is the one important Jewish holiday that is not observed in a Synagogue or Sanctuary. It happens in a home around a table, centered in the family and including guests and friends. Our family table was huge this year. It filled the social hall nearly to overflowing. Thank you Joe Shabathai for shepherding us through a meaningful Seder and Loni Padden and Erica Lieberman Garrett for organizing such a high quality meal. Thank you Judy Starr and Medina Roy for coordinating a wonderful mitzvah project of writing thank you notes to IDF soldiers. Medina will bring them with her to Israel next week.



We are family by choice as well as blood. Stan and Jenny Margulies with Linda Pollack.



The Seder Plate is ready with the ceremonial foods and Joe Shabathai is ready to lead. We thank Kathy for her wonderful chopped liver.



Ah, how lovely: the dancing begins. Thanks for your enthusiasm, Rivka Rizzo Trent, Judy Starr, Jane Friedman and Maria Cartagena.



Susan Gordon gets a special birthday treat. Two flourless delicious chocolate "sin cakes" homemade by Luz Levine.



Thank you Loni Padden for the delicious chicken soup and matzo balls. And thank you Gloria for the calligraphied place names.

Community Seder Continued...

Writing our thank you notes to the IDF soldiers for Medina to take to Israel.



Susan Gordon and Gloria Avner, ready to take their parts in co-leading the Seder. We are the village.



Our five children Rachael Levine, Lily Padden, Lily Salomon, Binyamin Cartagena and Sean Kaufman did an excellent job of chanting and then reading the "Four Questions" so we can begin to retell our story.



We left a seat open for welcoming the hostages home, at both our Seders. We think of them every day and want them back now!



Wonderful to see Barbara and Richard Knowles, with Lorena Kaufman

Barney Coltman and Rosemary look so full of holiday spirit.



Nice to have brother and sister at our big family Seder, Steve Steinbock and Rosemary Barefoot.

Mmmmmocha mousse deliciousness and matzoh bark for dessert along with singing and dancing. A beautiful night!



Steve Levine is a lucky man, married to Luz the magnificent baker and cook.



Good to see you, Klimpls!



APRIL—A NATIONWIDE MONTH OF POETRY

A Month of Seders and Tribal Tales.

April is, and will be forevermore, National Poetry month. Chai-Lights is happy to offer you the creativity of four of our very own member poets, in celebration. We encourage you to read them slowly and twice—the best way to taste a poem. And if you find yourself wishing your words were on this page (I know we have more than four talented writers in this congregation) please send what you would like to share. Every month is a good month for poetry offerings. We are saving future space for you.



Prayers Are Made

By Sam Weis

Prayers are made with rocking and swaying
With dancing or palms upraised and open
Rituals to attract the energy of
The Light
The Mysterious Light
Only fully understood with its equal partner
Darkness
Universal duality
The creator of the Light also made the Darkness
Set aside your inclination toward contrariness
And understand this
Our work here is to
Create
Kindness and beauty and justice
Even while surrounded by blind animus and nescience
And what of the Darkness
What does it hold that draws us in
What dwells there
Chaos, submission and
Fear, that immortal tenant in the realm of Darkness
Get a boot on its neck
Keep it there
This work is not gentle
And here is the paradox
To protect without vengeance
To slay monsters
Without becoming one

Across the Narrow Straits

by Lucinda Kurtz

In this new moon of Nisan
the time of retelling our Exodus
from Egypt,
the Israelites are once again
surrounded
constrained
confined,
in a different way
when our ancestors
stood at the edge of the sea
searching for a path to safety.

What is required of us
In this day
to follow
a righteous path
across the narrow straits
of ego and fear
to a place of greater freedom?

In this critical moment
a vital crossing looms.
This threshold requires courage
Trust in what is emerging
Protection from profound danger,
A leader of integrity
like Moses
who hears
the voice of God.

Where is the waiting Nachshon
Prince of the tribe of Judah
who jumps into the swirling sea
braves the barrage of bullets and badgering
splits the churning waters
finds a way forward on holy land
accompanied by Miriam and the women
singing their sacred songs?

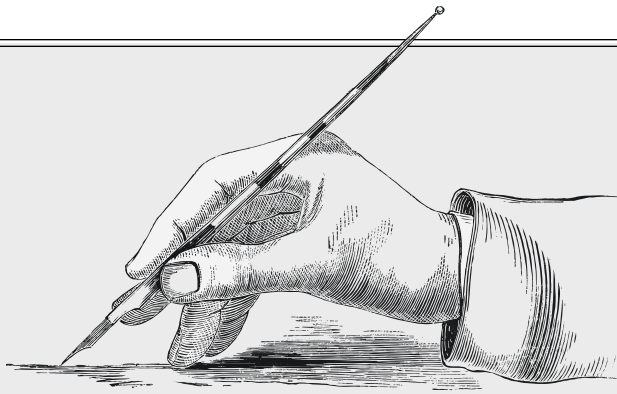
If everything in creation is
Divine communication,
what does this unfolding tragedy
in the heart of our world
Scream to us from across the seas
when we dare to listen?

We exist between what was
and
what will be.

In Nisan, it is the power of speech
that can heal or enslave us.
May our words of wisdom
create a new reality
where all people are respected and honored
Graced by compassion that
flows from the One
Inspiring us finally to find the
promise of peace.



**Original art by
Israeli artist
Beni Kulbersh**



Numbers in a Row

by Judy Starr

First, there was a question about difference:
How come Susie has grandparents,
and Linda, John, and Joe?
How come them, not me?

Or perhaps they heard a question about absence.

Then, there's a question about numbers:
the child presses lightly on the underside
of an arm
where a rigid row of digits
marches mutely, inked in green
like the shade of uniforms of soldiers.
Why do you have numbers there?

Most likely they heard a question
about family history.

Later, there's one clearly about content:
a book with a cover
showing people holding bundles, looking sad,
that my mother grabbed off the table
when she saw I was starting to look.
Placing it high on a shelf
she said, "When you're older."
Why do I always have to wait?

What don't they want me to know?
What secrets do they have that they won't share?

It took me years to begin to understand
about the pain of the unbearable they carried
and the burden of care for their child's innocence.

Leaving Egypt

By Gloria Avner

I

what was it like to look that lamb
in the face for four days and know
you would go when the eating
was done
only smoky bones left
behind and his blood
on the doorposts
a sign

II

Miriam beats the timbrel 'til her palms bleed,
sees the giant split sea waves
close once more over galloping soldiers
in hot then cold pursuit.
Don't gloat because we're safe.
There is no way back now,
even if we wanted one.
But sing for your supper,
for everything you want.
Sing eons of fear
and joy and thanks.
Sing to remember
all parts of the story
of narrow escape
you'll retell each year
around dinner tables
for millennia.
Four questions,
four children,
four glasses of wine,
two midwives.
Remember unfreedom,
feed strangers with gladness,
free women from fear
and dependence and lack
of self-confidence.
Moses is her creation, and the well
we know as Miriam's Cup
appears each evening by her tent
to slake our thirst.

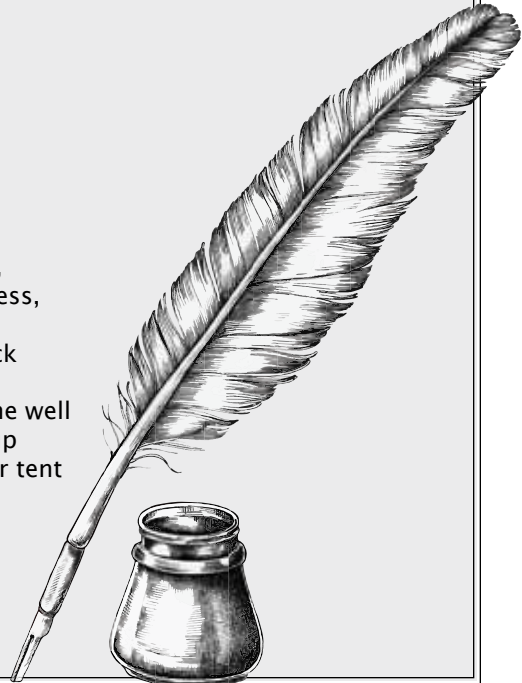


PHOTO GALLERY



Susan Gordon's Birthday gets celebrated in many venues. A painting of Pemaquid Point lighthouse, by Gloria will add to Susan's collection.

Loni Padden, Sisterhood President, about to create beautiful centerpiece decor.



What a treat to have service leaders Steve Jacobs and Linda Pollack add Ukelele accompaniment to our Shabbat melodies.



A truly novel service held with this trio of women: Judy Starr, Joyce Peckman and Jan Price. It was the first time as service leader for Judy, first time offering a mini pre-service classical piano concert on our Steinway by Jan, as well as a sweet spiritual interlude during the Amidah.



Always a pleasure to see Maria and Binyamin at Erev Shabbat services. And what a magnificent professional baker she is!

Lily Salomon, one of our star Hebrew reading students, enjoys a Shabbat oneg with her Mom and Dad.



Adam and Judy Starr are so happy at the oneg after Judy's first service leading experience. Well done!



Happy Birthday, Jane Friedman! We celebrate your extraordinary generous nature and many talents.



Welcome back from California, Jonah Gross. We want to hear more about your adventures in the movie making industry.

Happy Anniversary Jeff and Cheryl. Loni Padden invites everyone to honor or memorialize a special person, people, achievement or event by sponsoring an oneg. Write or call.





KJCC does a lot more than celebrate holidays, eat and observe Shabbat with services. We go to plays and concerts too. Here we are, at "Escape to Margaritaville." Fins up.



We go to intimate concerts too where Dave Feder, our favorite guitarist is playing at a beautiful gallery where John David Hawver paintings are on display (not this one).

KJCC visits Rabbi Shur and wife Leah to hear the gansa megillah reading in Hebrew and to bring gifts to their baby Esther.



A friend of a friend commissioned a painting from KJCC artist Gloria Avner. The painting vibrated with life as four old world klezmer musicians played what must have been lively klezmer music. Only when the painting was finished did the purchaser say that she wanted it not for herself but for the Congregation of KJCC, for whom she had a special feeling. She wishes to remain anonymous. Now we will find a place for this quartet and send her our gratitude and blessings.





**Birthday Girls
Susan Gordon
and Linda Pollack**



**A pesachdikke
cheesecake with a
matzahmeal crust.
Happy Birthday!!**



**We especially enjoy when our
friends, Linda Perloff, Sam and other
members who no longer live in the
Keys come to visit on Erev Shabbat.**

It's not often we get a Shabbat service with an educational theme, but on this night, led by Randy Klein Gross and our good friend Josh, leader of the Scubi Jews, we learned about Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean.





KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam
Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood



SHAVUOT

Counting of the Omer is ending.

We celebrate the giving of the Torah.

JOIN US at the KJCC on

Friday, June 14, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

for a Shavuot Dairy Potluck Dinner Celebration.

Contact Joyce at
joycepeckman@gmail.com or
732-447-5225 to RSVP
and coordinate your veggie or dairy dish.

Shabbat and Yizkor Service

will follow at 7:30 P.M.



Counting the Omer between Passover and Shavuot

by Lucinda Kurtz

What is “Counting the Omer?” In biblical times, when the Israelites were an agricultural society, the people were commanded to bring an offering of their first harvest (Leviticus 23) and then to count 50 days and bring an offering from the second harvest. The 50th day coincided with the festival of Shavuot. The amount of the offering was a measure of grain known as the omer, and the period of 50 days of counting became over time to be known as Counting the Omer.

Why does this matter to our non-agricultural modern society, when most of us do not grow our own grain of any kind and have no idea how much grain is in an omer? Over time, the first offering came to be identified with Passover, the commemoration of our leaving slavery, and Shavuot, the time of the second offering, came to be identified with the giving of the Torah. The period of counting became a reenactment, on a spiritual plane, of the journey from Egypt to Sinai.

Still later, the Kabbalists associated various attributes of divine energy (sephiroth) with each week and each day of the week during this period, and this informs our practice today. The Tree of Life, the underlying foundational structure of Kabbalah, has become central to the practice of counting the Omer. It gives us a way of understanding and exploring the flow of Divine

Energy through us as human beings as we make this spiritual journey. The attributes are a suite of qualities and are difficult to name in one word, but can be understood as: lovingkindness, strength, balance, endurance, humility, creativity, and indwelling presence.

This time of special counting ushers in a period of introspection and spiritual preparation for receiving the Torah; it’s a time of leaving “mitzrayim,” a place of limitation, boundaries, and restraint and moving into a place of greater freedom and expansiveness. Each day offers a specific combination of attributes and challenges for us as we explore the simultaneous tension and cohesion between two aspects of the Divine, the energy of the week and the energy of the day, that move within us.

As Susan Windle eloquently states in *Through the Gates*, “Counting the Omer the mystic’s way is more than a mental exercise. We set our intention, our kavannah, to the possibilities of waking up to the presence of the Divine in our ordinary lives.”

Through the process of counting, we are invited to deepen our awareness of the passage of time and our purpose for being present in each moment. After this time of self-examination, we are ready and worthy of receiving a gift from the Divine Presence, the gift of Torah, the pathway to becoming holy sparks of Light. ◇



KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam



Shabbabaque

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 6:00 P.M. HAMBURGERS,
HOT DOGS AND SIDES
7:30 P.M. SERVICES



COME, EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY



Contact Susan to reserve your
spot.

susangordon424@yahoo.com

305-766-3585

Sponsored by
Michael and Lorena Kaufman



UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL

by Judy Starr

Knowing that every single gift carries not only its material support, but also the implicit gift of moral support, the Committee for Israel continues to look for and share with you ways in which we can support Israel at this challenging time.

We are learning of a number of groups, large and small, that work to help Israel. Major groups such as Friends of the IDF and American Friends of Magen David Adam continue their important work. As well, closer to home there is the Jewish Federation of Greater Miami which funds a great many programs in Israel (as well as locally). A program funded in part through the Federation and in part through the Israel Emergency Fund called By Your Side was formed by Israeli midwives after 10/7. It aims to provide support for women who are expecting a child but whose husbands cannot be present for the birth. Leket is an organization in Israel with an active and effective track record going back 20 years. Since 10/7, it has helped keep the flow of food going to those who might otherwise not have access to their usual sources, particularly to those who have had to leave their homes. Leket is also working to coordinate volunteers to help with the harvesting of food.

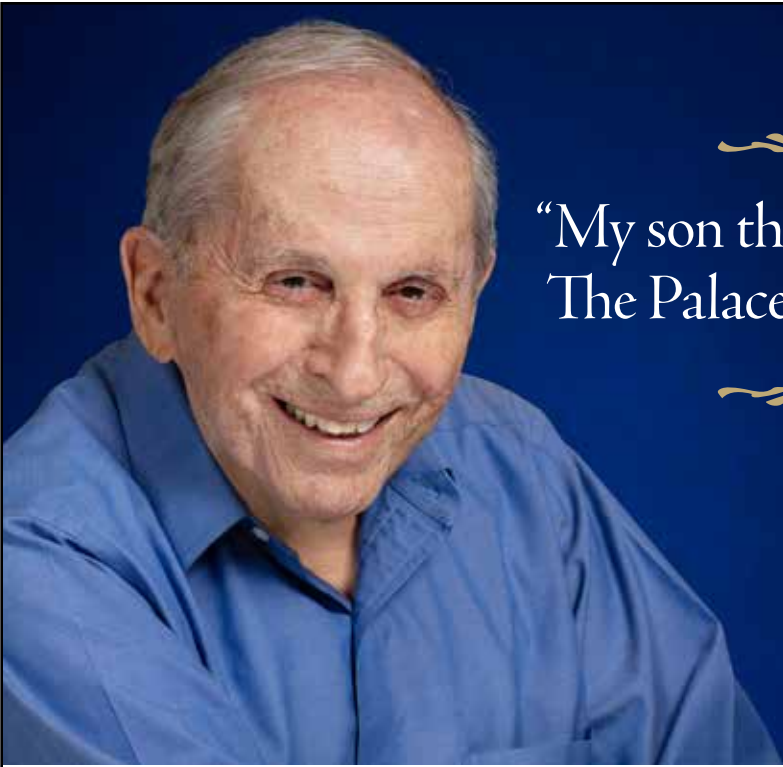
This year Sisterhood, through its annual Women's Seder, will be presenting a gift to an Israeli organization called Women's Amutot Initiative. This organization seeks to improve Israeli society by improving the condition and status of women through economically and socially through a number of programs through which it channels grants. It also seeks to develop leadership qualities among women, and to enhance their political status. Amutot began in 2003 as part of the

Israel Emergency Fund Campaign. More recently it became a standing sub-committee of the Miami Federation's "Israel and Overseas" programs. It provides grants to not-for-profits (amutot) whose missions are in keeping with its goals. Specific goals are varied and include: assisting women struggling for a religious divorce; operating a legal advocacy hotline; a 24-hour hotline for women in southern Israel who are victims of violence; a legal aid clinic for matters such as child custody, support, property distribution; assistance for single mothers; and, vocational training for former prostitutes. There are two programs teaching business skills to Haredi women. Amutot also seeks to reach underserved women among the Druze, Bedouin, and immigrant populations. At this time Amutot provides grants to at least 12 non-profits that reach women across a broad spectrum of Israeli society.

These are a few of the worthy organizations that seek to alleviate the pressures on the people of Israel and its defenders, especially at this time. We encourage you to visit their websites to learn more, and if you are so inclined, choose to support.

On a final note, Medina Roy is planning a visit to Israel in May. We are hoping to hear from her either while she is there or after her return, perhaps even to set up a zoom call to share her first-hand experience during her visit. Incidentally, she will be sharing her birthday on Israel Independence Day this year, a once-in-19-year co-incidence. We wish her, along with Israel, a very happy birthday and a wonderful celebration. We look forward to hearing all about it!

Your Committee for Israel continues to meet regularly by zoom. Please join us in helping to "make a difference" for the land of Israel and the people who live in the homeland of the Jewish people. Thank you. ◇



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The Palace is under-priced.”

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- 4. We go online remotely at YOUR convenience, including Sunday appointments at no extra charge.**
- 5. You don’t physically share your screen with me. You have your monitor and I have mine and we both work together.**
- 6. You remain safe in your home and dress as you like, without the intrusion of a technician in your home.**
- 7. While I am working you can often leave and do other things like attending to your other appointments, make phone calls, wash dishes, walk your dog and even have lunch.**

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Linda Perloff

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