

# Chai~Lights



**March 1 - April 30, 2025 | Adar 1 - Iyar 2, 5785**

**Israel: Where the Desert Blooms – Pages 15-17**

**Coming Attractions: Purim and Pesach – Pages 19-20**

**Photo Gallery – Pages 21-27**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>MAR</b> Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. Hebrew Studies 12 p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Age-ing and Sage-ing - "Forgiveness" 3-5 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Erica & Lieberman Ladies <i>Steve &amp; Jan Hartz</i> <i>Erica Lieberman</i> <i>Garrett</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m. Hebrew Studies 12:30 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Age-ing and Sage-ing - "Forgiveness" 3-5 p.m.	<b>12</b> Hamentashen Workshop 3 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Purim and Pastrami 5 p.m. Joyce Peckman <i>Jeff &amp; Cheryl</i> <i>Margulies</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Rivka Rizzo-Trent	<b>22</b> Saturday Night at the Movies "An American Pickle" 7p.m.
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	<b>28</b>  Judy Starr & Gloria Avner <i>Jeff &amp; Cheryl</i> <i>Margulies</i>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>APR</b>  Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle - Nissan 3-5 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Steve Jacobs <i>Nettie &amp;</i> <i>Jules Seder</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Randy Klein-Gross <i>Linda Pollack</i>	<b>12</b>  First Passover Seder 5:30 p.m.
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Yizkor Gloria Avner & Linda Pollack <i>Shari Carlquist</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m. Hebrew Studies 12:30 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Yom Ha Shoah Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	<b>25</b>  Medina Roy <i>Susan Gordon</i>	<b>26</b>  Movie Night 7 p.m.
<b>27</b>  Hebrew Studies 12 p.m.	<b>28</b>  Rosh Chodesh Iyar	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Yom HaZikaron	Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors		

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the  
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Keys Jewish Community Center  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



**H**aving recently learned that Rabbi Agler will no longer be leading our high holiday services in years to come, I wanted to use this column to share some thoughts on him.

I want to first say, I knew many rabbis before him, and the bar was set pretty high. My childhood Rabbi, Rabbi Pohl (who's incidentally a friend of Rabbi Agler), was an amazing man. And I was friendly with Rabbi Young (Temple Judea) whom we previously used.

I first met Rabbi Agler when he became a member. At the time, I was happy we had a rabbi join us, but felt he'd mostly want to enjoy retirement, and not be too involved. And for a short time, that's how it was.

But then he started offering to share his vast knowledge and several programs were formed.

Over the years he did three things for us. 1. "Lunch & Learn" was a series of in-person and virtual events where Rabbi Agler would discuss at length, different Jewish topics. One such topic involved King David. I (we) learned a lot. 2. High Holiday Services. 3. Special events related to his books, dealing with G-d, and loss. I'd be remiss, if I didn't mention the great accomplishment related to those books. And that is what is affection-

ately known as TAGS, the girls school in honor and memory of his daughter.

It's such a worthy cause, that many of our members have traveled to Kenya to visit it, as well as donated support. It was also recognized by our Ambassador, and even Secretary of State.

Thinking back to the High Holidays, the ones he led were the best we've ever had. And though he's helped find a new leader, no one could ever take his place. Every year I looked forward to his wisdom, and his ability bring about many member opinions.

As time went on, although he remained our scholarly Rabbi, he became even more so, friend and family. I felt very comfortable around him, both in offering my thoughts, and in seeking his advice. He would answer in a simple way, that would provide both comfort and confidence.

I do not mind saying, I will miss the Aglers very much on both a religious and personal level. Thank you very much, Rabbi Agler. I wish you peace and happiness in San Diego, and with your many pursuits. Your humility and (teaching) contributions will never be forgotten. I hope you will visit in the future. ♦

# WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

MARCH & APRIL 2025

Saturday, March 1	Havdalah in Key Colony Beach – Home of Lucinda & Oran
Sunday, March 2	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting 12 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Tuesday March 4	3–5 p.m. Age-ing and Sage-ing – “Forgiveness”
Friday, March 7	7:30 Shabbat Service led by Erica & Lieberman Ladies
Sunday, March 9	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 12:30 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Tuesday, March 11	3–5 p.m. Age-ing and Sage-ing – “Forgiveness”
Wednesday, March 12	3 p.m. Hamentashen Workshop
Friday, March 14	5 p.m. Purim and Pastrami – RSVP with Susan Gordon 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman
Friday, March 21	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo–Trent
Saturday, March 22	7p.m. Saturday Night at the Movies “An American Pickle”
Thursday, March 27	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – home of Jan Price
Friday, March 28	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Judy Starr & Gloria Avner
Tuesday, April 1	3–5 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Women’s Circle – Nissan
Friday, April 4	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Steve Jacobs
Sunday, April 6	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting
Friday, April 11	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein–Gross
Saturday, April 12	5:30 p.m. First Passover Seder
Friday, April 18	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Gloria Avner & Linda Pollack, Yizkor
Sunday, April 20	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 12:30 p.m. Hebrew Studies
Thursday, April 24	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – home of Joyce Peckman
Friday, April 25	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy
Saturday, April 26	7 p.m. Movie Night
Sunday, April 27	12 p.m. Hebrew Studies

# NOSH

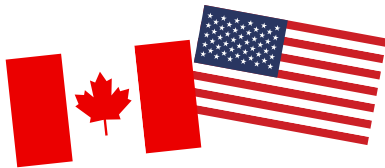
## The Power of Forgiveness

**Tuesdays– March 4 & 11 from 3–5 p.m.**

If you have ever taken a class with Lucinda and Oran, you have come away stronger and happier. In this class, they will use energetic practices as well as meditation to help us explore the practice of forgiveness. You must pre-register for this class. The cost is \$18. For information and registration, contact her at [lucinda@lucindakurtz.com](mailto:lucinda@lucindakurtz.com).

## Purim and Pastrami

Friday March 14 at 5 p.m. We continue the tradition of reading Megillat Esther, the story of Purim, round-robin in English, then celebrating with a festive dinner. Wear costumes and dress for fun! Thank you, Ken Atlas, for sponsoring this deli night. We will have a raffle to raise funds to donate to our Tikkun Olam charities. RSVP to Susan Gordon 305-766-3585 or [susan.gordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.gordon424@yahoo.com), Zoom.



**This year we will celebrate Shabbat across America and Canada with Erica's family from Canada who will be leading the Shabbat service.**

Together with her 87 year mom, Maxine, her 3 sisters Melanie, Andrea, and Risa, who is celebrating her 60th birthday. and her 4 nieces Rachel, Karlie, Anjelica and Danielle, Erica will lead us in a meaningful and peaceful service highlighting the role of unifying our families, our communities, and our countries as well as focusing on peace and gratitude for our lives, for our shul and for our strengths.

We are celebrating our devotion to honoring shabbat and the meaning it has in our lives.

We hope you can join us in person or on zoom, followed by a special oneg celebration.

## Hamentashen Workshop

A hamentashen workshop on Wednesday, March 12th at 3 p.m. will be led by Jan Price for all KJCC members– girls, guys & kids. Sisterhood will provide the flour, oil and eggs. You bring measuring large & small bowl, measuring spoons, two cookie sheets, 2 one gallon ziplock bags, rolling pin, a circular 3" cookie cutter (a juice glass works) and yummy fillings such as fruit preserves, chopped dates or prunes, non-dairy chocolate. You must RSVP to Jan at 646-417-1319 by March 9th

## Saturday Night at the Movies

After a break of several years, we are bringing back a favorite: Movie night at KJCC! Thank you to Shari Carlquist, who is taking on the job. On March 22nd at 7 p.m. we will screen "An American Pickle". The film stars Seth Rogen as an Eastern European Jewish immigrant who gets preserved in a vat of pickles and wakes up a century later in modern-day New York City.

Movie night will continue on April 26th with a movie to be announced, curated by Medina Roy. Evening snacks and conversation will follow the films. ◇

## Women's Seder Update

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our Annual Women's Seder. Traditionally we have celebrated this event 2 weeks before Passover at the KJCC and enjoy honoring our woman of the year, as well as a woman from our past history, making new pieces for our tapestry, and raising money for annual Tikun Olam Women's and Children's charities.

This year we have decided to not have an in person Women's Seder and rest. However we would like to continue the tradition of our annual Tikun Olam fundraising by asking for all our members and friends who would like to contribute to mail in a check to Sisterhood PO Box 116, Tavernier, Florida 33070 or pay through venmo ([kjccsisterhood](https://www.venmo.com/kjccsisterhood)) on the KJCC Website.

The charities we are focusing on this year are: Talia Agler Girls Shelter, Wesley House, and KJCC Tikun Olam.

Any donations are appreciated.

We will meet in person next year and wish everyone a Happy Passover.

– Women's Seder Committee

## ONGOING PROJECTS AND MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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

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

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

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

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Contact Shari Carlquist, 305-962-0000 or [shari@directflowers.biz](mailto:shari@directflowers.biz) to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

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

**CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Loni Padden, 305-772-2584, or email [dr.padden@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.padden@yahoo.com) or Barbara Knowles, 305-772-0503.

**TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com).

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

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

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

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

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



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

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

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

#### Yahrzeit

Elaine Schulberg .....	Paul Kaminsky Joan Kaminsky Bea Gulkis Jerry Lundy
Burton & Ida Friedman .....	Sheila Steinberg
Miriam Frankel .....	Sheldon Paul Frankel & Nadine Thompson
Judy Weber .....	Deborah Eckles
Amy Friedman Lee .....	Sheila Rosalyn Steinberg
Mindy and Rich Agler .....	Talia Agler Sheila Steinberg
Joan Wohl .....	Nona Abrams
Robert Temkin .....	Anne Temkin
Larry and Dorothy Wolfe .....	Maxine Feinberg Morris Feinberg Samuel Wolfe
Medina Roy .....	Mother Bianka Kirschenbaum
David and Pam Marmar .....	Sam Marmar
Micheal and Lorena Kaufman .....	Jack Kaufman
Marilyn Rupp .....	Russ Pollnick Shelby Stream

#### New Memberships

David Epstein

#### In Honor/Memory of

#### General Donations

Mindy and Rich Agler .....	Jane Friedman's garden in memory of her mother
Leo Haviv .....	KJCC fellowship
Harry & Rita Rzepka	
Buffie Marie Sherman	
Susan Horn & Dot Brooking .....	Bob Epstein
Joyce Peckman .....	Piano Tuning

#### - SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

#### Oneg Donations

Beth Horowitz .....	Her birthday
Tina and Arnold Klein .....	Randy's birthday
Rivka and Max Rizzo-Trent .....	Max's Birthday
Steve and Jan Hartz .....	Bentollila's Anniversary

#### Dinner Sponsorships

Epstein Family ....	Advertiser/New Member Dinner
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#### General Donations

Steve & Joan Jacobs ...	In appreciation of sisterhood
Beth Ann Williams(Cohen) .....	In memory of Sheila Steinberg

### ONEG SPONSORS

March 7	Steve & Jan Hartz • Celebrating Mimi & Richard Bentolilla's Anniversary
	Erica Lieberman Garrett • Celebrating Risa's 60th Birthday
March 14	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies • Celebrating Jeff's Birthday
March 21	Sisterhood
March 28	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies • Celebrating Their Anniversary
April 4	Nettie & Jules Seder • Celebrating Their 59th Anniversary
April 11	Linda Pollack • In Memory of Joel Pollack
April 18	Shari Carlquist • In Honor of Hebrew Teacher Joyce Peckman
April 25	Susan Gordon • Celebrating Her Birthday



## *In Memoriam – March 2025*

**Frederick Schuessler**

by Richard & Mimi Bentolila

**Robert Berman**

by Sylvia Berman

**Lorraine Levinson**

by Sylvia Berman

**Dorothy Stanlake**

by Alan L. Beth &  
Candace J. Stanlake

**Mathew Strumor**

by Murray Blitzer &  
Bev Strumor-Blitzer

**Audrey Meddin Pearlman**

by William & Donna Bolton

**Gloria Portnof**

by Shari Carlquist

**Eve Greenstein**

by Barnet O. Coltman

**Robert Kinney**

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

**Leroy Weisberg**

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

**Herbert Frankel**

by Miriam Frankel &  
Nadine Thompson

**Harry Kaplan**

by Marsha Garrettson

**Maxine Kaplan**

by Marsha Garrettson

**Sol Kurtz**

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

**Anna Horn**

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

**Harry Phillips**

by Patricia Isenberg

**Pinchas Kaboli**

by Yardena Kamely

**Luba Tuchman**

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

**Monroe ( Monty) Kaplan**

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

**Jack Kaufman**

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

**Albert Cohen**

by Harvey & Judith Klein

**Marian Rose Klimpl**

by Michael Klimpl

**Joseph Krissel**

by Michael Krissel

**Shirley R. Krissel**

by Michael Krissel

**Samual Lieberman**

by Erica Lieberman Garrett

**Oscar Margulies**

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

**Joseph Kaufman**

by Jeff & Lisa Miller

**Dorothy Ross**

by Joyce Peckman

**David Harvey**

by Linda Perloff

**June Chusid**

by Arthur Plutzer

**Denise Moss**

by Linda Pollack

**Cissie Rose Lang**

by Frank Rose

**Bianka Kirschenbaum**

by Medina Roy

**Sondra Lundy**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Nate Schulberg**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Ida Seder**

by Jules & Nettie Seder

**Isadore Seder**

by Jules & Nettie Seder

**Sarah Felder**

by Stuart & Geri Smith

**Alexandra Louise Starr**

by Adam & Judy Starr

**Lila Mckenzie Henry-Starr**

by Adam & Judy Starr

**Sara J. Cohen**

by Lei Steinberg

**Theresa Steinbock**

by Stephen Steinbock  
& Rosemary Barefoot

**Ann R. Kapulskey**

by Muriel Swartz







## *In Memoriam – March 2025 Continued*

**Abe M. Reider**

by Muriel Swartz

**Gilda Tainow**

by Jon S. Tainow &  
Terry Willner-Tainow

**Anne Temkin**

by Robert Temkin

**David C. Willner**

by Johanna Willner

**Nona Levin Abrams**

by Joan P. Wohl

**Maxine Ruby Feinberg**

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

## *In Memoriam – April 2025*

**Helen Berman**

by Sylvia Berman

**Joe Clark**

by Alan L. Beth &  
Candace J. Stanlake

**Ellen Coltman**

by Barnet O. Coltman

**Mark Hitzig**

by Wes & Rita Conklin

**Larry Ira Frankel**

by Miriam Frankel  
& Nadine Thompson

**Carmel Catanese**

by Jane Friedman

**Frances Wolfe**

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

**Bill Gordon**

by Susan Gordon

**Fred Silverstein**

by Randy Klein Gross

**Elaine Gross**

by Randy Klein Gross

**Stella Hartz**

by Steven & Jan Hartz

**Gertrude F. Kaplan**

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

**Nathan Klein**

by Harvey & Judith Klein

**Marilyn Janet Barr**

by Michael Klimpl

**Joseph Lempel**

by Linda Pincus

**Dr. Joel Pollack**

by Linda Pollack

**Erwin Moss**

by Linda Pollack

**David Dale Regent**

by M'Liss Regent-Cunha & Tim  
Cunha

**Rabbi Milton Greenwald**

by Paul & Susan Roberts

**Sam Sax**

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

**Richard Schulberg**

by Elaine Schulberg

**Sally Shabathai**

by Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

**Louis S. Smith**

by Steven & Barbara Smith

**Morris Smith**

by Stuart & Geri Smith

**Claire Smith**

by Stuart & Geri Smith

**Mrs. Anne Miller**

by Shirley Stein

**Ida S. Reider**

by Muriel Swartz

**Ida Tallent**


by Lillian Tallent

**Buffie Marie Sherman**

by Robert Temkin

**Dr. Milton A. Wohl**

by Joan P. Wohl



# Happy Anniversary

## March

		Years
6th	Richard & Mimi Bentolila .....	43
8th	Ken and Tonya Salomon .....	17
8th	Adam & Judy Starr .....	
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey .....	17
30th	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies .....	57

## April

3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder .....	59
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith .....	60
18th	Susan White .....	21
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder .....	29

# Happy Birthday!

## March

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

## April

4th .....	Lauren Lane
4th .....	Thomas Brodie
5th .....	Jon Tainow
6th .....	Adam Starr
8th .....	Dennis Miller
9th .....	David Feder
10th .....	Steven Jacobs
12th .....	Richard Knowles
13th .....	Moirra Knowles
13th .....	Samantha Kichler
15th .....	Rachel Roth
16th .....	Dave Jacob VanArtsdalen
17th .....	Susan Ellner
18th .....	Jennifer Garrett
18th .....	Lauren Sax
20th .....	Michael Duman
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th .....	Susan Gordon
25th .....	Shirley Stein
28th .....	Joni Sages Dandrea
29th .....	Linda Pollack
30th .....	Joel Roth
30th .....	Rachel Barrett

## Shabbat Service Leaders

March 7 .....	Erica & Lieberman Ladies
March 14 .....	Joyce Peckman
March 21 .....	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
March 28 .....	Judy Starr & Gloria Avner

April 4 .....	Steve Jacobs
April 11 .....	Randy Klein-Gross
April 18 .....	Gloria Avner & Linda Pollack
April 25 .....	Medina Roy

## WORLD JEWISH REPORT

### Medina Roy



#### Another Target for the Censors?

Art Spiegelman, whose graphic novel about the Holocaust won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992, is now working on one about the war in Gaza. (For those of us who were once ten years old, graphic novels are what we called comic books.)

You might remember a previous World Jewish Report entry when Spiegelman's iconic Holocaust novel for young adults, "Maus," was targeted by several conservative groups who worked to pulled it from school libraries, citing the book's eight curse words and a drawing of a naked mouse, with Spiegelman saying the efforts to ban his book is "a real warning sign of a country that's yearning for a return of authoritarianism." (In the book, the Jews are depicted as mice and the Nazis as cats. It recounts the experience of his father, a Polish Jew, in a concentration camp.). Spiegelman, 76, knows his new book on the Gaza war will generate controversy. "I've never had a bigger wrestling match inside my head," he said recently. "My superego says, 'You must do this if you're going to live with yourself,' and my id says, 'Who wants the grief [of] being canceled by everyone on the planet?'"

Spiegelman has not offered details about the new book other than he plans to collaborate with Joe Sacco, a fellow graphic novelist who has previously written about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Maus" is the only graphic novel ever to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize and has been translated into dozens of languages. It's how millions of young people first encounter the horrors of the Holocaust. A copy of the book is in our KJCC library. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 12-30-24)

#### And the 2025 "Jewish Nobel Prize" goes to...

Argentina's President, Javier Milei. The Genesis Prize Foundation (commonly referred to as the "Jewish Nobel Prize") announced in January that Milei— who is not Jewish — will be the recipient of the prize, the first head of state to receive the

prestigious award.

Milei was the unanimous choice of nine judges on the committee. He was awarded the prize because of his "unequivocal support of Israel during one of the most difficult times since the founding of the Jewish State. President Milei recently announced his decision to move the Argentinian Embassy to Jerusalem, deepening Argentina's alliance with Israel. In addition, he has reversed years of anti-Israel votes by Argentina in the United Nations, and has pledged to bring those responsible for the AMIA (1992) and Israeli Embassy bombings (1994) in Argentina to justice. (AMIA, Spanish acronym for Argentine Israelite Mutual Association) was a Jewish Community Centre. A van filled with bombs was driven into the AMIA building and detonated, killing 85 people and injuring over 300. To date, the bombing remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Argentine history. In 1994, Argentina was home to a Jewish community of 200,000, making it the largest in Latin America and the sixth-largest in the world outside of Israel.

"President Milei is a true hero of the Jewish people," said Stan Polovets, co-founder and Chairman of the Genesis Prize Foundation. "Unlike leaders of many other countries, Milei has unconditionally backed the Jewish people and their state. This award expresses appreciation of the State of Israel and the gratitude of the people of Israel toward the president and the people of Argentina."

Upon accepting the honor, Milei said, "I am deeply honored to receive the Genesis Prize. I will give the monetary prize to causes that support freedom and the fight against antisemitism, whether in Argentina or worldwide."

Milei recently learned he has Jewish roots through his grandfather and has become more open about his Jewish identity. He studies Torah, attends prayer services, and has vowed to convert

after he leaves office.

The Genesis Prize is an annual award of \$1 million honoring exceptional individuals for their professional accomplishments, contributions to humanity, and support of Israel. The foundation has given more than \$50 million to philanthropic causes around the world. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-14-25)

### Happy Birthday, Rose!

Rose Gironi celebrated her 113th birthday on January 13th, 2025. According to The Claims Conference, she is believed to be the oldest living Holocaust survivor. Born in Poland, she escaped Nazi Germany with her then-husband and only child, fleeing to Shanghai, China, before moving to the United States in 1947. Shanghai opened its doors to 20,000 Jewish refugees during World War II.

Rose opened two knitting stores in Queens when she and her family arrived in New York. She continued knitting up until her 102nd birthday. ([www.fox5ny.com](http://www.fox5ny.com), 1-23-25)

### Really???

Google Calendar has removed International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27th) and Jewish American Heritage Month (May) from its default display in the United States, part of a wider removal of cultural and ethnic observances from the app. Companies across the U.S. are rolling back a range of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) measures following the Trump administration's directives against DEI. But Google told tech news outlets that the changes to the calendar go back to mid-2024 and are due to workload and not government policy. Google further stated, "Some years ago, the Calendar team started manually adding a broader set of cultural moments in a wide number of countries around the world. We got feedback that some other events and countries were missing – and maintaining hundreds of moments manually and consistently globally wasn't scalable or sustainable." In addition to the two Jewish calendar observances, Black History Month and Pride Month will also no longer be listed. Due to the crackdown on DEI, some official commemorations of International Holocaust Remembrance Day have been cancelled. These changes to Google Calendar came the very same week when Google Maps changed the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-12-25)

### In Memoriam

We continue to mourn the brave Israeli soldiers and members of security forces who have died at 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 7 with the Hamas terror group's onslaught in southern Israel, approximately 891 soldiers (including members of security forces) have been killed. Zichronom l'vracha (May their memories be for a blessing.) We continue to pray for the wounded, both in body and in spirit.

–Marion Wiesel, wife of Nobel Laureate, Holocaust survivor and renowned author Elie Wiesel, died at the beginning of February. She was 94. Her passing was announced by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, founded with the money he received from his 1986 Nobel Prize.

Marion translated fourteen of her husband's books from French to English saying she was most proud of her 2006 translation of "Night," perhaps Elie's most well-known book which came out in 1960 before they were married and according to the New York Times, was translated at that time by Stella Rodway. Marion also wrote and narrated "Children of the Night," a documentary film about children murdered during the Holocaust. She also produced many TV programs.

Born Mary Renate Erster in Vienna, her family escaped when the Nazis took over. They fled to various places in Europe and eventually, thanks to a relative who had Swiss citizenship, they managed to smuggle themselves to Switzerland in 1942. Seven years later, they arrived in New York. Married once before, she married Elie in 1969.

Marion is credited with helping raise her husband's stature. Upon learning of her death, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon said, "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Marion Wiesel. Her presence at the UN's International Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony each year was a testament to her unwavering commitment to memory and truth...May her memory be a blessing." Elie Wiesel passed away in 2016. ([www.thejc.com](http://www.thejc.com), 2-3-25)

–Jacqueline van Maarsen, known to be Anne Frank's best friend, died in mid-February. She was 96. In June of 1942, just a few days after receiving a diary for her 13th birthday, Anne Frank wrote that a classmate she had only recently met "is now my best friend." That friend was Jacqueline van

Maarsen. They had promised to write each other letters of goodbye in the event that they would be forcibly separated which came to pass just weeks later. The Frank family went into hiding in Amsterdam in July. Anne wrote van Maarsen her farewell letter in the diary in September, stating that, “until we see each other again, we will always remain ‘best’ friends.” We know of course, that meeting never occurred. Anne was murdered in 1945.

Van Maarsen was the daughter of a Jewish father and a mother who was raised Christian but converted to Judaism. In 1942, her mother managed to get her and her sister declared as non-Jews, enabling them to survive the war. Most of her father’s family did not survive.

In 1986, van Maarsen began lecturing on the Holocaust and writing about her friendship with Anne. She stayed in touch with Anne’s father Otto, and with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. In 2020, van Maarsen laid the first stone of a Holocaust monument in Amsterdam. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 2-14-25)

–Peter Yarrow, one of the trio 1960s folk music group Peter, Paul and Mary, died in early January at the age of 86. A Cornell graduate, Yarrow was playing in Greenwich Village clubs during the early 60s folk revival when musical impresario Albert Grossman – who also steered Bob Dylan’s career – suggested he team up with singer Mary Travers. Travers in turn proposed they reach out to Paul Stookey. The trio went on to record several hits, some of their own “Lemon Tree” and “500 Miles”) and compositions by others including Pete Seeger (“If I Had a Hammer,” and Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind.” Their debut album, “Peter, Paul and Mary,” reached Billboard magazine’s Top Ten for ten months.

In 1970, Yarrow served three months in prison for taking “improper liberties” with a 14-year-old girl who came to his Washington, D.C., hotel room for an autograph. In 1981, he was granted a presidential pardon by Jimmy Carter on the last day of his presidency. Yarrow apologized for the incident, saying that “it was an era of real indiscretion and mistakes by categorically male performers. I was one of them. I got nailed. I was wrong. I’m sorry for it.”

Occasionally, the conviction led to cancellations of concerts where he was scheduled to appear.

After the folk revival faded, the group continued to perform on a regular basis. In a 1982 concert at Carnegie Hall, they sang “Light One Candle” for

the first time, Yarrow’s song celebrating Chanukah. He said he wrote the song to express his opposition to Israel’s war that year in Lebanon (the trio performed it the following year in Jerusalem to a large and enthusiastic audience.) Yarrow was a supporter of the Israeli left-wing group Peace Now, which advocated for a two-state solution to the Israeli– Palestinian conflict.

Peter Yarrow was born in New York City. His mother was a high school teacher; his father, who emigrated from Ukraine at age 16, was a lawyer who helped create Radio Free Europe, a U.S. propaganda channel launched during the Cold War. His parents divorced when he was five. He had no contact with his father until he hit his mid-30s. He credits his mother with instilling progressive values in him.

Yarrow attended the Interlochen School of Music and Art, part of what is now LaGuardia High School. At Cornell, he majored in physics before switching to psychology. He married Mary Beth McCarthy, the niece of Eugene J. McCarthy, the Minnesota senator who ran for the Democratic nomination in 1968 on a platform opposing the Vietnam War.

Mary Travers died in 2009. Paul Stookey is 87. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 1-7-25)

### Did You Know...

–According to a recent report published by the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and the Jewish Agency for Israel, 2024 was a peak year for anti-Semitism with a 340 percent increase in total anti-Semitic incidents worldwide compared to 2022. The report used 2022 as its benchmark because it was a relatively normal year, unlike 2023, when Hamas launched its horrific assault against Israel on October 7th. The report came a week after a survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that “nearly half of all adults worldwide hold significant anti-Semitic views.” ([www.time-sofisrael.com](http://www.time-sofisrael.com), 1-22-25)

–According to Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), in 2024 the population in Israel grew by 1.1 percent bringing the total population to 10 million. Of these, approximately 76.9 percent of them (7.707 million) are Jewish, 21.0 percent (2.104 million) are Arab and two percent (210,000) identify as “other.” The CBS indicated that the “other” category includes non-Arab Christians and those not classified by religion in the state’s registry. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-1-25) ◇





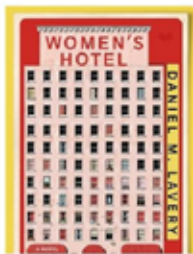
# KJCC SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB



February 27, 2025 *Women's Hotel* by Daniel M. Lavery

March 27, 2025 *The Coat* by April Grunspan

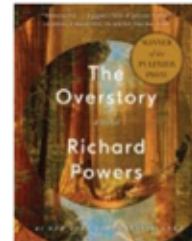
April 24, 2025 *The Overstory* by Richard Powers



Funny novel about  
residents in a  
women's hotel in  
1960s  
New York City



Inheriting a Nazi  
officer's coat  
from his  
Holocaust  
survivor  
grandfather  
motivates Seth



Nine Americans  
with unique life  
experiences with  
trees; re  
consciousness,  
value and  
meaning of life

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

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

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

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



*Seeds of light,  
A Divine spark ignites;  
New life begins!*

## SISTERHOOD REPORT Loni Padden



**T**he Sisterhood celebrated Tu Bishvat by planting a mango tree, along with a variety of herbs and vegetables in our gardens. Thanks to Jane Friedman for keeping our greenness going and deepening our connection to the land. So many beautiful things are blooming in our hearts and gardens right now!

We hosted our first piano concert with virtuoso pianist Jan Price playing the 1901 Steinway grand piano. She put together a superb repertoire of music to celebrate the roots of jazz, from baroque to romantic pieces. The music was truly inspired by love, and we are so grateful she is willing to share her musical journey with us! We are looking forward to hosting more concerts in early 2026.

Once again, Medina Roy was our extraordinary hostess for the New Members and Advertisers Dinner on February 21st. This year's dinner was sponsored by Barbara Epstein in memory of her husband, Bob. Everyone was delighted to have visiting Rabbi Efrat Zarran-Zohar and her lovely husband, Avi Rosenberg with us from Miami. She delivered an inspiring d'var torah, and we look forward to more of her wisdom in the future!

We will once again be participating in the 29th annual Shabbat Across America and Canada on Friday, March 7th at 7:30. Please join us on this special night, when tens of thousands of North American Jews come together in spiritual unison to celebrate what unites Jews of all backgrounds...Shabbat! Services will be led by Erica Leiberman & the Leiberman ladies, who will be in town to represent the Canadians, followed by a lavish oneg to celebrate the joy of Shabbat.

Purim & Pastrami Deli night is back by popular demand! You can make four mitzvot in one night: hear Megillat Ester, enjoy a festive meal, share gifts of food with friends, and give tzedakah! We will start with reading Megillat Esther at 5pm on Friday, March 14th, followed by a pastrami and corned beef deli style dinner, then Shabbat services at 7:30pm. Fun & festive costumes are encouraged! Please contact Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585 or [susanagordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susanagordon424@yahoo.com) to RSVP.

The first two Tuesdays of March will feature an afternoon workshop from 3-5pm at the KJCC on

"Forgiveness - of yourself and others". It will be led by Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman, certified Sage-In mentors, trained to explore intimate and challenging issues...like forgiveness. If you have not taken a workshop with Lucinda and Oran, I encourage you to make time, they do have priceless insights to impart! Please contact Lucinda to reserve your spot 734-635-9441.

Passover is here again! We will be celebrating our freedom with the KJCC Family Passover Seder on April 12th. Please stay in touch with your email for a flyer with more details! As always, we are organizing an exceptional evening dedicated to remembrance, honor, and many blessings. And matzoh ball soup!!! The Women's Seder Committee has decided that we will not have an in-person Women's Seder this year, but rather celebrate and honor all the hard work we have done in the past 20 years by taking a rest from cooking and preparing this seder.

We will celebrate all our women as our "Woman of the Year" and will encourage donations to our annual Tikkun Olam charities: Talia Agler Girls Shelter, Wesley House Family Services and KJCC Tikkun Olam.

The Sisterhood Book Club led by Linda Pollack meets every last Thursday of the month usually live and on zoom to nosh & discuss the latest book. April's selection is "The Overstory" by Richard Powers, a winner of the Pulitzer prize in fiction. March at home of Jan Price, April at home of Joyce Peckman. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at [Lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:Lindap4000@ymail.com)

The Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle is meeting at the KJCC on Tuesday, April 1st from 3-5pm to usher in the month of Nissan. Weather dependent, but this is usually an outdoor event.

We cordially invite all current and new ladies to join us for our next meetings at the KJCC on March 2nd and April 6th at 10:00 AM. Your support, camaraderie, and dedication are vital to the success of our sisterhood. We will convene in person with refreshments and via Zoom to plot and plan our upcoming activities! ◇



# THE PRACTICE OF FORGIVENESS

with

Lucinda Kurtz, M.A. and Oran Hesterman, Ph.D  
Tuesday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In this two-session class, Lucinda and Oran will explore one of the most powerful tools we have to reformat the template of our being – *Forgiveness*.

Using energetic practices, meditation, creative visualization, journaling and other embodied practices, participants will delve into the 3 parts of forgiveness: repairing harm to others, forgiving others, and forgiving ourselves. Forgiveness allows each of us to move forward in our lives in more positive and creative ways.

The two-session class will cost \$18. For more information and to register for the class, email [lucinda@lucindakurtz.com](mailto:lucinda@lucindakurtz.com)





## *From the Committee for Israel* **Where the Desert Blooms**

*by Judy Starr*

**T**u B'Shevat has come again: the New Year of the Trees. Israel honors its trees as part of the divine creation of the Garden of Eden and treasures them as givers of fruit and shade, whose roots hold together the earth over which we walk. Trees also provide for carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen release and, in the dry areas of the south, help prevent re-desertification. In fact, Israel is one of only a few countries which has more trees today than a hundred years ago. For this we may thank at least two visionaries and one vital organization.

### **A Brief History of the Trees.**

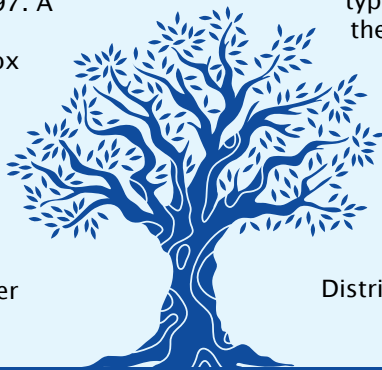
The growth from a few saplings to forty forests took a dream, a plan, an organization, and time. The first known to proclaim this dream, at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, was Dr. Zvi Hermann Schapira, in 1897. A decade earlier, he originated the "Blue Box", a tzedakah box to remind people to share their spare change with the cause of land for trees. Perhaps some of us remember the blue and white rectangular box from Hebrew school days.

Three years later, sadly after

Dr. Schapira's passing, Theodore Herzl promoted that goal at the Fifth Zionist Congress, and Kerem Keyemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) was founded. The first land purchase, 50 acres in Hadera, took place in 1903. In years to come, additional land was purchased for farms, schools, and kibbutzim. By 1921 the organization had 25,000 acres under its care. Recognizing the need for support from Jewish people in other countries, in 1926 the KKL-JNF incorporated in the United States. Today it is responsible for approximately 13% of Israel's land. In each of the 40 forests, the types of trees planted depend upon the local climate and the soil.

### **Where the Trees Grow.**

In a country about the size of New Jersey, where do all these forests grow? The KKL-JNF divides its work among five administrative districts reflecting different types of climates, ranging from the Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters to the dry southern area. As to where the forests are: the Galilee in the north has 17 forests. The Central District has nine. There are eight forests in the Jerusalem District. The Southern District



has three, and the Negev three. As an added bit of information, the coastal area of Israel receives approximately 20" of rainfall a year, while the southern are receives around 10". (Miami has about 55"). And yet, the largest forest, the Yatir, first planted in 1964, is in the Negev. Approximately one million trees grow there on 8,000 acres.

### **Water.**

Different areas require different types of watering. Water management, including collection of run-off, varies by location. For example, a method called liman irrigation is used near the deserts; this depends on creating small dams to collect water and harvesting any run-off. There is a lot of technical information on the subject, and the references at the end of this article may be helpful to anyone wishing to find out more. The amazing fact is that for 122 years, Israeli foresters have found ways to deliver sufficient water to grow so many different trees across the different areas of Israel.

### **Rebuilding Where Needed.**

With the news bringing stories of more forest fires around the world (whatever the causes may be), and the acts of fire terrorism by enemy rockets and incendiary balloons, the need to care for Israel's forests has increased. In addition, KKL-

JNH is working to restore the agricultural areas near the border with Gaza, areas from which a significant amount of Israel's agricultural products come. The residents depend upon the land for their livelihood, and consumers depend upon the residents for the food that they produce.

### **What the Forests Offer the Public.**

Forests are open to the public 24/7 and entry is free of charge. Depending upon each forest, people may enjoy hiking or bike trails, or just a place to relax and alleviate stress. There may be a program for at-risk youth or for young people with physical injuries. One survey reported that nearly 91% of city dwellers have taken advantage of what the forests offer. To maintain the forests and to prevent damaged areas from the possibility of being "repurposed," the KKL-JNF wants to continue to develop recreational and visitor facilities as well as the ongoing reforestation activities that have become urgent in recent years.

### **A Suggested Top Ten.**

If you're planning a trip to Israel and would like to visit one or more of the forests, a list of ten recommendations has been drawn up by Anat Gold, director of KKL-JNF's central region.\* In the article footnoted, you can find photos and sum-



maries of each of their main features:

1. Sataf (Jerusalem Hills, 1980's)
2. Jerusalem Forest (planted in 1956)
3. Hulda Forest (central Israel, first trees were olives, planted in 1904 in honor of Theodore Herzl)
4. Ben Shemen (central area, first planted in 1907)
5. Ilanot Forest (central Israel, dates to 1950's, a botanical garden)
6. Carmel Forest (Haifa; recovering from 2010 fire)
7. Haruvit (coastal)
8. Heruham Park (south)
9. Hatir Forest
10. Be'eri Forest (temporarily closed since 10.7.23)

### **So That We Remember.**

It is our custom to plant trees to remember a person or an event. The planting of trees, the regeneration of forests, both symbolizes and reflects the resilience of the people of Israel. Last year at Tu B'Shevat, and together with families of the 364 victims of the Nova massacre, KKL-JNF planted hundreds of trees at the parking lot there. This is close to the Be'eri Forest and the kibbutz of the same name where brutal attacks took place. This year the planting of 2,000 trees was, as of this writing, planned in the Biriya Forest on the slopes of the northern Galilee two days before Tu B'Shevat. Thousands of people were expected to attend, including representatives of border communities, members and commanders of the IDF, pre-military academy cadets, and schoolchildren.

We speak of the "Tree of Life." The dedication of the people of Israel and the Jewish people to the trees in Israel is strong across many years. The re-dedication of the forests, to nurture the undamaged parts and regenerate those that have been harmed – to make them rise again from the earth like legendary phoenixes – is symbolic of the story of the Jewish people.

We are determined, as Moses urged us, to "choose life". May the trees always bloom, may the gardens always grow. Am Yisrael Chai.

### **Sources and further information:**

- "Afforestation in Israel – reclaiming eco-systems and combating desertification", by David Brand, Yitzhak Moshe, Moshe Shaller, et al, Department of Forestry, KKL-JNF
- National Master Plan for Forests and Afforestation – Keren Kayemeth Lels-rael – Jerish National Fund, 2014, 2024 (executive summaries)
- \*Naama Barak, "10 of the best forests to enjoy in Israel," Israel21c.org, 3.17.24.
- "KKL-JNF: Preserving and Protecting Israel's Forests," Lior Novik, Jerusalem Post, 12.26.24
- "Climate Zones of Israel", earth-site.co.uk
- Ontario Jewish Archives, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, link from Wikipedia article on Dr. Zvi Hermann Schapira
- "Hoping for restoration of Israel's Burned out Forest", Abigail Klein Leichman, Israel 21c.org, 12.7.21 (about the Sataf forest)
- Jerusalem post, informational page on KKL-JNF Nova and Be'eri Tu B'Shevat commemorations, 2.9.25
- "Sataf Forest: The Complete Insider's Guide," by "Susanna", Hiking the Holyland, 9.30.20
- "KKL-JNF leads massive effort to save Israel's southern agricultural heartland from collapse" – Jerusalem Post, staff, 2.3.25
- "Seeing Green Again: KKL-JNF faces a 30-40 year challenge of restoring forests damaged by Hezbollah", Lior Novik, Jerusalem Post, 1.1.25
- "Forests in Israel" – Wikipedia article; also google "Hoping for restoration of Israel's Burned out Forests." ◇



# KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



## SISTERHOOD

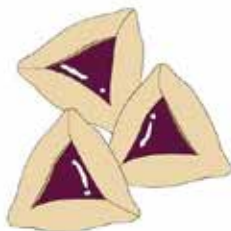
### HAMENTASHEN WORKSHOP

Wednesday March 12, 2025 3:00 p.m.

Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in the making of our favorite Purim dessert: Hamentashen!!!

Bring your own wine and cheese and crackers and we will enjoy a happy hour hamentashen bake.

Jan Price will lead us in the making of these scrumptious morsels. We will publish information prior to the session telling you what supplies you will need to have on hand.



Rsvp to Jan to let her know you  
are coming by 3/9  
Text to (646) 417-1319





# KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER PURIM & PASTRAMI DELI NIGHT



**Friday, March 14, 2025**

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

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

**7:30 p.m. Services**

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

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



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

**Sponsored by Ken Atlas**





Saturday, April 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

## KJCC FAMILY PASSOVER SEDER

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



**For information and reservations contact**  
**Erica Lieberman-Garrett**  
**hippiejap@hotmail.com 305-570-9310**



**Please rsvp and pay by 4/6/25 – limited seating**

**Scan QR code to pay by Venmo or**

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

**Donations - Adults \$45; children 12 and under \$18**





KJCC new Board of Directors and Officers will serve from mid—Feb. 2025-Feb. 2026. Missing from this picture are Donna Bolton, Vice-President, and Board Members Stanley Margulies, Art Itkin and Rivka Rizzo-Trent.

President Loni Padden, VP Jane Friedman, Treasurer Erica Lieberman Garrett, missing Recording Secretaries Jan Price & Rivka Rizzo



Rabbi Richard Agler is no longer able to guide us through the High Holy Days, but he continues to serve from afar as our friend, consultant and occasional teacher. Those of us who attended his seminar about King David can attest to how interesting and even timely they were. He will be offering another seminar on Zoom about King Solomon. This ancient monarch, son of David and Bathsheva, builder of the first Temple in Jerusalem, is credited as being exceedingly wise, the author of the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. What do we actually know? We will set a beginning date for after Passover. Stay tuned.



Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar, Executive Director of Miami's Center for Advancement of Jewish Education, is an extremely busy lady. She and her husband, Avi Rosenberg, came down to join us for our Members and Advertisers' dinner. She then gave an engaging d'var Torah during the Shabbat service. We are pleased to say that she agreed to serve as our High Holy Day Rabbi with Cantor Dzubin. We look forward to working with her.



## Sisterhood Shabbat Service



Oran Hesterman and Lucinda Kurtz lead us in a metaphysical celebration of the Birthday of the Trees.



Randy Gross-Klein and her mom, Tina Klein, made lovely music together at her service and special Oneg.



Cowgirl Linda Pollack flew to Texas to surprise son Roy for his birthday and had a wonderful time



Joyce Peckman is the person to contact if you'd like to honor someone's happy occasion or memorialize someone. It only costs \$72 (4x chai) to sponsor an oneg, or \$360 to sponsor a dinner.





Jan Price gave a beautiful Valentine's Day Concert on Sunday afternoon, combining elements of classical and jazz. More than 70 people from the greater Upper Keys community attended. Thank you Jan, for the donation of a successful fundraiser. And thank you Jakob for turning the pages when needed. The audience loved your performance and introductions, Jan. How delightful that you've already offered a different program for next year.



Beth Hayden's gift to the Synagogue, her much loved Steinway, got a soup to nuts special tuning in preparation for Jan Price's special first public performance.



Jane Friedman's mom, Angelina Castillo, has passed away just two weeks short of her 104th birthday. Loni Padden and Barbara Knowles, our Sunshine committee presented this beautiful collection of orchids to Jane after services. We so appreciate all she does.



Susan puts together a salad bar for our light supper after the Tu Bishvat Seder.



Medina Roy started a lovely new practice here at KJCC/Ohr HaYam! She taught us two classic Hebrew folk dances and coordinated it with a delicious light lunch of Israeli food. We will miss her when she goes off to Israel for a month, but we can always dance. Thank you, Medina.



Our favorite service, the short, sweet and very meaningful Havdalah service, separating the sacred from the secular, was held on March 1st at the lovely Key Colony Home of Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman. Their dear friend, chief Rabbi of the Renewal movement, gave an awesome teaching on resilience in difficult times. We are so grateful that they were able to share the teaching via zoom.







Our two pre-Bar Mitzvah boys, Sean Kaufman and Tyler Cope, went with their Ocean Studies classes to the Holocaust museum in Miami.



We have the best Erev Shabbat Onegs!



Kathy and Joe Shabathai host a small but eager group of us in their beautiful home for a luncheon before a magnificent concert by the worlds best cantors at Temple Bet Shira. Oh, those three Jewish tenors!!!!





There is a beautiful Art Guild (AGPI) Judged Show on now through March at the Museum and Discovery Center in Islamorada. Jan Hartz won 3rd place in Photography with this lovely capture of two Roseate Spoonbill fledglings. A print has already been sold.

Mickey Frankel contributed two beautiful pieces in the category of pastels. Try to find time to visit the show in person.



Gloria Avner won Third place in Acrylics (on gallery wrapped canvas) with this evocative portrait of three women "On the Way."



We loved celebrating Max Trent's birthday, and being joined by our snowbirds Joel & Mary Roth and visitors from around the country.





Our annual New Members and Advertisers dinner, created by Medina Roy and her committee of Sisterhood volunteers, was a great success. The table decor was beautiful and the food was delicious. Meeting Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar and her husband Avi was the icing on the cake.





# *Rosh Chodesh for Adar*

*by Lucinda Kurtz*

On this new moon of Adar  
Henry wakes with the rising sun  
runs out to the waiting warmth  
spies a spider spinning its web  
low down in the banana tree  
peers into the silky center  
delights in his bird's eye view  
watches the master at work  
as a new world slowly unwinds.

Joy written on his face  
he turns and leaps into the pool  
returns to the liquid comfort  
that birthed this blessed boy  
feels the softness of watery waves  
like flying high in the breeze  
floats on his back eyes open  
smiles at the swaying palm trees.

How can we help him  
keep this open amazement  
at the wonders of our precious earth  
express the truth of his essence  
soar upward with shooting stars?

In Adar, we touch again the inner child  
sometimes lost deep within  
coax him out with shining moonlight  
awakened to life once again.



## The Practice of Forgiveness: Two-session Class in March

with Lucinda Kurtz, M.A.  
and Oran Hesterman, Ph.D.,

**L**ucinda Kurtz, M.A. and Oran Hesterman, Ph.D., members of Ohr HaYam and certified Sage-ing Mentors, will be teaching a two-session class in March entitled, "The Practice of Forgiveness." This builds upon the four-week class Lucinda and Oran taught last year at the KJCC entitled, "Age-ing to Sage-ing: Re-envisioning Elderhood."

In his groundbreaking book, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older*, published in 1995, Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi suggests ways to use our life experience to heal ourselves and this world. In their class, Lucinda and Oran will explore one of the most powerful tools we have to reformat the template of our being - Forgiveness. These sessions will provide ways to reach back into the past to repair painful memories-the broken prom-

ises, ruptures and heartaches that come with the territory of intimate relationships and living in the world.

"The Practice of Forgiveness" will be from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 11. Using energetic practices, meditation, creative visualization, journaling and other embodied practices, participants will delve into the 3 parts of forgiveness: repairing the harm to others, forgiving others, and forgiving ourselves. Forgiveness allows each of us to move forward in our lives in more positive and creative ways.

The two-session class will cost \$18. The class last year is not a pre-requisite for this class. For more information and to register for the class, contact [Lucinda-Lucinda@lucindakurtz.com](mailto:Lucinda-Lucinda@lucindakurtz.com). ◇

*Plaque for new knife holder in kitchen:*

In loving memory  
of our dear Sister and Aunt  
**'SHEILINKA' STEINBERG**  
by Bethie and kids

*Yahrzeit plaque*

In Loving Memory of My Mother  
**SHEILA R. STEINBERG**  
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Pamela Friedman, Bob Friedman, and  
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and Zulus Friedman



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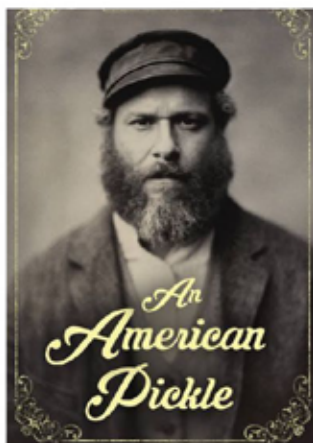
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## SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Saturday, March 22, 2025

7:00 p.m. at the KJCC



Refreshments to follow

The movie is a funny and touching consideration of family, legacy, and the ways tradition evolves. It highlights the importance of honoring family, tradition, and memory.

Seth Rogen plays two roles - well done.

Thank you to Shari Carlquist for sponsoring this series

RSVP to Shari by 3/17 to let her know  
you are coming.

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# Not All Trees Are Created Equal

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

**T**u B'Shevat, known as the "New Year of Trees," is the time in the Jewish tradition to honor the natural world and reflect on our role as caretakers of the Earth. This year, Tu B'Shevat falls on February 13. It's a common practice to plant a tree on Tu B'Shevat. Thanks to the Jewish National Fund, Israel was the only country in the world to enter the 21st century with more trees than it had when it entered the 20th century.

Trees are an essential part of a balanced ecosystem. They absorb carbon and emit oxygen, but not all trees are created equal. Mangroves are trees that grow in salt water, and are found in tropical and sub-tropical climates. Their exposed roots are a wonder to behold. More importantly, mangroves absorb 10 times more carbon than terrestrial trees and 5 times more carbon than the Amazon Rain Forest. They are a foundational component of the Blue Carbon ecosystem. Unfortunately, about 50% of global



mangroves have been lost in the last hundred years due to pollution, development and extreme weather.

To celebrate Tu B'Shevat and to raise awareness about these magnificent trees, Repair the Sea is partnering with WELL/BEINGS to plant mangrove trees. For \$36 you can plant a mangrove, or for \$360 you can plant a whole thicket of mangroves. Every penny you donate for this project will go toward planting and maintaining these incredible trees. Repair the Sea will not take a cent from your contribution. So celebrate Tu B'Shevat, honor someone you love, or remember someone who is gone, by planting a mangrove. You can do your part by supporting the Blue Carbon ecosystem to help Repair the Sea and the planet. ♦



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