

September 1 - October 31, 2025 | 8 Elul 5785 — 9 Cheshvan 5786

World Jewish Report — Pages 13-15 High Holiday Schedule — Page 19 Rabbi and Cantor's Messages — Pages 22-27



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders Italicized names are Oneg sponsors	1 SEPT	2	3	4	Richard Knowles & Jane Friedman Sisterhood	6
7 KJCC Sisterhood Meeting 10 am Hebrew Learning 12 pm	8	9	10	11	Joyce Peckman & Shari Carlquist Sisterhood	Slichot Service, Pizza & Movie 6 pm
KJCC Board meets on Zoom 10 am Hebrew Learning 12:30 pm	15	16	17	18	19 Rivka & Max Trent Shari Carlquist	20
Reverse Tashlich 10 am Hebrew Learning 12 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 pm	23 Rosh Hashanah Service, Followed by Lunch 9:30 am Tashlich Service 4 pm	Rosh Hashanah Service, Followed by Lunch 9:30 am	25 Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom 12:30 pm	Joe Shabathai Rachael & Molly Bloom	27
Hebrew Learning 12 pm	29	30	1 OCT	2 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 am Yizkor 11:30 am Neilah 5:30 am Havdalah & Break-the-Fast 7 pm	Michael & Sean Kaufman & Joyce Peckman Sisterhood	4
KJCC Sisterhood Meeting 10 am Hebrew Class & Sukkah Set-up 12 pm	6	<b>7</b> Sukkot	Sukkot Kol Nidre Service 7:30 pm	9	10 Ken Salomon & Gloria Avner Joyce Peckman	11
KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 am	13	Shemini Atzeret	Simchat Torah	16	17 Erica Lieberman Garrett Sisterhood	18
19	20	21	22	Cooking Class at KJCC 4 pm	24  Rosemary Ciotti & Randy Klein-Gross Sisterhood	25
26	27	28	29	30	Gloria Avner & Donna Bolton Sisterhood	

#### 2025 - 2026 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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> Editor Gloria Avner

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

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



t has been a long summer, and we have missed all of our members who've been away. In addition to our snowbirds, many other members have taken wonderful trips.

Though we've had less members in town, we've always had enough people to have minyans every Friday. As always, we are grateful to all of those that have attended either in person or on 700m.

I personally did not go anywhere, but did take a few breaks so to speak. And having one less board meeting over this summer was, well, bittersweet.

We celebrated another great Barbecue this time literally on the Fourth of July, as well as a 100th birthday. But that wasn't it for Mickey, as a county commissioner came to a Friday

night service to present her with a nice plague and appreciative talk.

As September approaches, we will certainly be cranking into full gear. Late September and early October will be our High Holiday services. And for the first time in forever, we will have a new Rabbi. Our old one will be eternally missed, but I welcome the new opportunity here as well.

Many thanks to all of you who made a special effort to send in your Dues Package contributions before the New Year. KICC/Congregation Ohr HaYam is off to a good start. L'Shanah Tova. ♦

#### Shabbat Service Leaders

September 5	Richard Knowles & Jane Friedman
September 12	Shari Carlquist & Joyce Peckman
September 19	Rivka Rizzo-Trent & Max Trent
September 26	Joe Shabathai (Shabbat Shuvah)
October 3	Michael Kaufman & Joyce Peckman
October 10	Ken Salomon, Gloria Avner & Art Itkin
October 17	Erica Lieberman Garrett
October 24	Randy Klein-Gross & Rosemary Ciotti
October 31	Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner

### WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Friday, Sept. 5	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Richard Knowles & Jane Friedman
Sunday, Sept. 7	10 a.m. KJCC Sisterhood Meeting 12 p.m. Hebrew Learning
Friday, Sept. 12	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman & Shari Carlquist
Saturday, Sept. 13	6 p.m. Slichot Service, Pizza & Movie
Sunday, Sept. 14	10 a.m. KJCC Board meets on Zoom 12:30 p.m. Hebrew Learning
Friday, Sept. 19	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka & Max Trent
Sunday, Sept. 21	10 a.m. Reverse Tashlich – Home of Donna Bolton 12 p.m. Hebrew Learning
Monday, Sept. 22	6 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 7:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
Tuesday, Sept. 23	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service, Followed by Lunch 4:00 p.m. Tashlich Service at Kaufman Home
Wednesday, Sept. 24	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service, Followed by Lunch
Thursday, Sept. 25	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 26	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday, Sept. 28	12 p.m. Hebrew Learning
Wednesday, Oct. 1	7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre Service
Thursday, Oct. 2	9:30 a.m. Yom Kippur Service • 11:30 a.m. Yizkor 5:30 p.m. Neilah • 7 p.m. Havdalah and Break-the-Fast
Friday, Oct. 3	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Michael & Sean Kaufman & Joyce Peckman
Sunday, October 5	10 a.m. KJCC Sisterhood Meeting 12 p.m. Hebrew Class and Sukkah Set-up
Friday, Oct. 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat, Sukkot & Yizkor Service led by Ken Salomon & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Oct. 12	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Oct. 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service & Simchat Torah led by Erica Lieberman Garrett
Thursday, Oct. 23	4 p.m. Cooking Class at KJCC
Friday, Oct. 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rosemary Ciotti & Randy Klein-Gross
Friday, Oct. 31	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Gloria Avner & Donna Bolton

#### **NOSH**

#### **Hebrew Class resumes**

Hebrew class resumes at KJCC on Sunday, September 7th at noon. (Held at noon Sundays except for 12:30 on the second Sunday of each month due to board meeting). We will be learning vocabulary for the High Holy Days as well as reviewing our reading. We is a possibility of another beginning reading class for those who are unfamiliar with the letters. Contact Joyce at 732-447-5225.

#### Sisterhood Book Club

We meet the final Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. to discuss a book which has been recommended by one of our members. We are always on Zoom, but often have a hybrid meeting at someone's home, where we serve lunch and conversation. The choice of book is sometimes Jewish-related, sometimes just for fun. The book club is open to all members and friends. On September 25th we will discuss "The Spectacular" by Fiona Davis. Or more information, see the flyer on page 17 or contact Linda Pollack at 305–587–7429.

#### Reverse Tashlich

Since ancient times, Jews have performed the ceremony of Tashlich. On Rosh Hashanah or any time before Yom Kippur, we gather near bodys of water, preferably one that contains fish, to symbolically cast our sins into the water. We will get together for a festive Tashlich after services on Rosh Hashanah. Reverse Tashlich turns symbolism into action by removing human "sin" from the water. We come together with hundreds of Jewish organizations around the world to remove plastic and other debris from our oceans and streams. Volunteers from KJCC will meet on September 21st at 10 a.m. to clean the tidal area and mangroves. Contact Randy Klein-Gross at 310-702-7276 for details.

#### Oneg Shabbat

What could be more Jewish than feeding your community? For only \$72 you can celebrate a joyous event or commemorate a loved one by hosting an Oneg Shabbat. We will provide challah, wine and other delicacies, and publicize the sponsorship in Chailights and weekly emails, along with a lovely sign at the oneg table. Sponsoring a scheduled festive dinner costs only \$360, which pays for the kitchen help and paper goods, etc. Contact Joyce Peckman at 732-447-5225.

#### **Big Splash**

Wesley House Family Services has long been a valuable resource to children and families of the Upper Keys. It has been a recipient of *Tikun Olam* funds from the Women's Seder for many years. This year we are a major sponsor of their "Big Splash" fundraiser, which will feature water slides, a foam pit and bounce house. The event will be on Saturday, September 6th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 5 Homestead Avenue, in Key Largo. (between First Horizon Bank and the Civic Club). To volunteer, contact Randy Klein-Gross at 310-702-7276.

#### S'lichot, Pizza and a Movie

Saturday September 13th at 6 p.m. we meet for a short s'lichot prayer service, reading poems of penitence and asking forgiveness before the old year ends. This will be followed by pizza and a movie: "The Tollbooth", a coming-of-age comedy featuring Marla Sokoloff, Adina Menzel, Tovah Feldshuh and Ron Guttman. RSVP to Shari Carlquist at 305-962-0000. Thank you, Linda Pollack for sponsoring this evening.

#### Fast Food

While we celebrate, others go hungry. One reason for fasting on Yom Kippur is to experience that hunger. Beginning September 19th through Yom Kippur, please bring non-perishable food items to KJCC, for donation to Burton Memorial Food Bank.

#### **Succah Decoration**

Join the Hebrew class on Sunday, October 5th at noon, right after Sisterhood, to help decorate our succah. We will have an etrog and lulav available beginning October 7th for anyone who wants to bring lunch or snacks to eat in our succah and make the blessings. On Friday, October 10th we will meet just before services to say the blessings on the lulav, and begin our oneg Shabbat with kiddush in the succah.

#### Death as Homecoming: Life is the Answer - Upcoming Class in February

Join us for a 4-week class to explore how we can savor the preciousness of life even more fully by recognizing our mortality. Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman are certified Sage-in Mentors and are trained to help individuals and groups with this type of inquiry. Through sharing stories, discussion, meditation, lecture, dyads, we will take the time to consider important end-of-life issues.  $\diamond$ 

#### ONGOING PROJECTS AND MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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

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

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

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

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Contact Shari Carlquist, 305–962–0000 or *shari@directflowers.biz* to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plague for posterity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Garden Bricks and Benches:** \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. Purchase a beautifully engraved Garden Bench for \$1,000, as your ultimate tribute.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

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

#### **JULY & AUGUST 2025**

Yahrzeit In Honor/Memory of
Claire TallentRalph L. Tallent
Bonni & Richard Cohen Shirley Cohen
Pam Friedman Sheila Steinberg
Myra & Marshall Kaplan Leonard Roberts
Jeff & Cheryl MarguliesJosephine Margulies
Patricia IsenbergMargaret Isenberg
Elaine SchulbergHarvey Kelman,
Beth Schulberg & Alan Schulberg
Rabbi Richard & Mindy AglerJack Steinberg
Beth Horowitz Sheldon Horowitz
James BrushJacob Ephraim Brush
Medina Roy Leon Kirschenbaum
Marmar Family Dorothy Marmar
Mary Lee Singer Jon R. Singer & Morton I. Singer
Barnet ColtmanEvelyn O. Coltman
Arthur PlutzerAnn Plutzer
Judy & Adam StarrIrving Kopecky & Roger Starr
Sylvia Berman Stephen Berman & Goldie Berman
Richard & Mimi BentolilaLeon Bentolila

#### Security

Donna & Bill Bolton

Susan Gordon

Jon & Terry Willner Tainow

Steve & Jan Hartz Murray & Bev Blitzer

Sherrie Willner

Linda Pollack Claire Tallent

Barnet Coltman

Dr. Harry & Rita Rzepka

Linda Perloff Iohanna Willner

Joyce Peckman

Charles & Sandy Traugott

James Brush Medina Roy Joan Wohl

Rabbi Richard & Mindy Agler

Linda Pincus

Joel & Mary Roth

Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Judy & Adam Starr

Micheal & Lorena Kaufman

Kathy & Joe Shabathai

Dr. Iamie & Laura Goodman

Mark Avner

Elaine Schulberg

Shari Carlquist

Gloria Avner

Richard & Mimi Bentolila

Jan Price

Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Steven & Joan Jacobs

#### Chai~Light Greetings

Susan Gordon

Jon & Terry Willner Tainow

Arthur Plutzer

Dr. Harry & Rita Rzepka

Joyce Peckman

**Charles & Sandy Traugott** 

Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Thomas & Renee Brodie

Joan Wohl

Rabbi Richard & Mindy Agler

Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Judy & Adam Starr

Michael a& Lorena Kaufman

Kathy & Joe Shabathai

Elaine Schulberg

Shari Carlouist

Gloria Avner

Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

#### CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED...

#### High Holidays/ Cantor/ Rabbi

Donna & Bill Bolton

Susan Gordon

Linda Pollack

Joyce Peckman

Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Frank (Skip) Rose

Stuart & Geri Smith

Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver

Judy & Adam Starr

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Kathy & Joe Shabathai

Dr. Iamie & Laura Goodman

Mark Avner

Shari Carlquist

Gloria Avner

Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Steven & Joan Jacobs

#### **Yizkor Book**

Donna & Bill Bolton

Susan Gordon

Jon & Terry Willner Tainow

Murray & Bev Blitzer

Sherrie Willner

Dr. Bernie Ginsberg

Linda Pollack

Claire Tallent

Mary Lee Singer

**Barnet Coltman** 

Arthur Plutzer

Iohanna Willner

Dr. Frica Lieberman-Garrett

Art Itkin

Medina Roy

**Andrew Tobin** 

Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Joan Wohl

Rabbi Richard & Mindy Agler

Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Linda Pincus

Frank (Skip) Rose

Joel & Mary Roth

Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver

Judy & Adam Starr

Kathy & Joe Shabathai

Roos Mary Benowitz

Dr. Jamie & Laura Goodman

Barry Neuman & Ellen Ecker

Shari Carlquist

Gloria Avner

Lei Cohen Steinberg

Barbara & Richard Knowles

Richard & Mimi Bentolila

lan Price

Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Marshall & Myra Kaplan

#### **Holocaust Education**

Marsha Garrettson

Claire Tallent

#### Meditation Garden

Shari Carlquist

Medina Roy

Rabbi Richard & Mindy Agler

Linda Pincus

#### Tzedakah

Linda Pincus

#### Scholarship

Claire Tallent

Elaine Schulberg

#### Chai~Lights

Susan Gordon

Linda Pollack

Claire Tallent

Linda Pincus

Muriel Swartz

......

Joel & Mary Roth

Judy & Adam Starr

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Kathy & Joe Shabathai

Mark Avner

#### CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED...

#### Library

Claire Tallent

#### Tikkun Olam

Linda Pollack

Rabbi Richard & Mindy Agler

Judy & Adam Starr

Shari Carlquist

Linda Pincus

Susand Horn & Dot Brooking

#### General/Unrestricted

Linda Pollack

Elaine Schulberg

Joyce Peckman

Ken & Tonya Salomon

Joe & Kathy Shabathai

Gloria Avner

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Jon & Terry Willner Tainow

Judy & Adam Starr

Joel & Mary Roth

Stuart & Geri Smith

Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver

Tina & Arnold Klein

**James Brush** 

Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Steve & Jan Hartz

**Barnet Coltman** 

Robert & Michelle Diener

David & Pat VanArtsdalen

Richard & Mimi Bentolila

Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Steven & Joan Jacobs

#### SISTERHOOD DONATIONS —

#### Onegs

Rivka Rizzo TrentHer Birthday
Barb & Richard Knowles26th Wedding
Anniversary
Loni Padden Her Birthday & Spencer's Birthday
Nadine Thompson Mickey's 100th Birthday
& Her Father's 101st Heavenly Birthday
Jane Friedman Steve's Birthday
& 29th Anniversary
Judy & Adam StarrGrandson's Birthday
Jan & Steve Hartz Steve's Birthda
& 49th Anniversary
Shari CarlquistHer Birthday

#### General Donation:

Michael & Lorena Kaufman Steven & Joan Jacobs



#### **ONEG SPONSORS**

	Sisterhood Sisterhood
	Shari Carlquist • Celebrating Her Birthday
September 26	Rachael & Molly Bloom • Marc Bloom's Yartzeit
October 3	Sisterhood
October 10	Joyce Peckman • Honoring Service Leaders
October 17	Sisterhood
October 24	Sisterhood
October 31	Sisterhood



### In Memoriam – September 2025

#### Leon Bentolila

by Richard Bentolila & Mimi Bentolila

#### **Goldie Berman**

by Sylvia Berman

#### Sam Roazen

by Sylvia Berman

#### Mae U. Stark

by Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

#### **Evelyn O. Coltman**

by Barnet O. Coltman

#### **Ida Hitzig**

by Wes Conklin & Rita Conklin

#### H. Melvin Berkon

by Jamie Goodman & Laura Goodman

#### **Leonard Roberts**

by Marshall Kaplan & Myra Kaplan

#### Sadie Klimpl

by Michael Klimpl

#### David J. Levine

by Steve Levine & Luzviminda Levine

#### **Anne Hendin Margulies**

by Stanley Margulies & Jenny Margulies

#### **Beverly Harvey**

by Linda Perloff

#### **Toby Mitchell**

by Linda Pollack

#### Hy Beitscher

by Carol Rose

#### **Lorraine Martell**

by Frank Rose

#### Leo Rosenberg

by Joni Sages & Robert Dandrea

#### **David Gulkis**

by Elaine Schulberg

#### **Irving Kopecky**

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

#### **Roger Starr**

by Adam Starr & Judy Starr

#### Milton Willner

by Jon S. Tainow &

Terry Willner-Tainow

#### **Charlie Temkin**

by Robert Temkin





### In Memoriam – October 2025

**Perren Gerber** by Gloria Avner

**Stephen Berman** by Sylvia Berman

**Fanny Grossman Bernard** by Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

**Gertrude Widlan** by Norbert Birnbaum

**Douglas Edward Carlquist** by Shari Carlquist

**Abraham Kanowsky** by Wes Conklin & Rita Conklin

**Harriet Feder** by David Feder & Suzi-Sara Feder

> **Muriel Catanase** by Jane Friedman

**Sandra Ellen Schultz** by Jane Friedman

**Stanley J. Goodman** by Jamie Goodman & Laura Goodman

**Pearl Goodman** by Jamie Goodman & Laura Goodman **Simon Skolnick** by Susan Gordon

**Tomar Gross** by Randy Klein Gross

Henry Walter Isenberg by Patricia Isenberg

Michal Kamely Levy by Yardena Kamely

**Leah Kamely** by Yardena Kamely

**Rebekah Levy** by Yardena Kamely

**Ron Levy** by Beth Kaminstein

**Esther M. Klein** by Harvey Klein & Judith Klein

**Eliza Christensen** by Nancy Kluger

**Neel Christensen** by Nancy Kluger

Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf by Stanley Margulies & Jenny Margulies

**David Frank** by Linda Pollack

**Rosalyn Rose** by Frank Rose

**Jon R. Singer** by Mary Lee Singer

**Morton I. Singer** by Mary Lee Singer

**Solomon Felder** by Stuart Smith & Geri Smith

**Mr. Harry Stein** by Shirley Stein

**Mrs. Freda Shipman** by Shirley Stein

**Joel S. Cohen** by Lei Steinberg

Saunders G. Cohen by Lei Steinberg

**Carol Steinbock** by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

**George Swartz** by Muriel Swartz

**Phillip Fine** by Larry Wolfe & Dorothy Wolfe



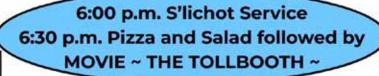


### KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Congregation Ohr HaYam

# S'LICHOT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025





Screenings the further year stry; the doner year ow to brow,

rsvp to Shari Carlquist
shari@directflowers.biz
so we know how much
pizza to get

Before High Holidays comes Elul, a month of t'shuvah, returning, atonement, and asking for Divine mercy. S'lichot prayers for forgiveness on the Saturday before Rosh Hashanah are the culmination of Elul's spiritual self-examination.

Sponsored by Linda Pollack – no charge

# Happy Birthday!

September	
4th	Chase Barrett
6th	Bryce Hesterman
7th	Mindy Agler
7th	Stellar Levy
8th	Susan Horn
9th	Jacob Klimpl
10th	Gerri Emkey
12th	Joan Jacobs
13th	Andy Tobin
17th	Ellen Ecker
19th	Barbara Bernstein
24th	Noah Bitton
24th	Orlando Quesada
25th	Michel Bitton
25th	Shari Carlquist
27th	Blake Rose
October	
1st	Binyamin Cartagena
1st	Harry Rzepka
	Michael Gilson
4th	Michael Kanarek
4th	Michael Krissel

5th	Mathew Tainow
5th	Shayne Robinson
6th	Joel Bernard
7th	Jordan Feig
	Olivia Landes
12th	Benay Krissel
13th	Richard Kaufman
14th	Paul Friedman
15th	Marcia Kreitman
15th	Michael Tallent
17th	Beth Lindenbaum
17th	Jay Hershoff
17th	Maria Navarro
20th	Barbara Knowles
21st	Sammy Knowles
21st	Susan White
22nd	Daniel Tainow
22nd	Joseph Shabathai
22nd	Susan Roberts
23rd	Joe Levi
24th	Stacy Temkin
25th	Landon Strasser
25th	Richard Wolfe
30th	Mark Hitzig



# KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER SISTERHOOD

# **COOKING CLASSES**

### SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, October 23, 2025 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 11, 2025 4:00 pm

Thursday, January 15, 2026 4:00 pm

Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:00 pm

Instructors and dishes are still in the works - keep an eye out for announcements







# WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



#### "Nazi Creek" Renamed

There is a little-known creek in the Aleutian Islandsin Alaska which has been officially named "Nazi Creek" for 80 years. In mid-July, following a campaign by a local advocate, the creek was given a new name - Kaxchim Chiganna, meaning "gizzard creek" (or "creek or river belonging to gizzard island,") in the language of the local indigenous people, the Unangax. The language is known as Unangam Tunuu. The move was supported by an Anchorage synagogue.

The one-mile-long creek is located on a large-ly uninhabited island. It had been given its name during World War II after the Americans recaptured Kiska Island from the Japanese military following an occupation that lasted just a little over a year. According to an entry in the Dictionary of Alaska Place Names, the name "Nazi Creek" was given by the United States Army Air Forces, and it appeared on an Army map in 1953. The name was chosen to correspond with the "N" square in a grid the United States military had imposed on the area.

The campaign to change the name of the creek began almost two years ago when Michael Livingston, a former police captain and member of the QawalanginTribe of Unalaska, discovered it. "My dad served in the US Army during World War II and there was so many losses to the Nazis – particularly for Jewish people but also the Unangax people," Livingston said. "I knew this shouldn't be there, that something needed to be done."

Until that day in mid-July when it was officially renamed by the Domestic Names Committee of the United States Board on Geographic Names, "Nazi Creek" was the only geographic feature in the United States that contained the word "Nazi" in its name. The vote to change the name was 17-0. During the vote, the board also voted to change the name of nearby "Nip Hill," a disparaging Japanese slur, to a phrase that means "gizzard hill." The changes were endorsed by local native tribes and organizations as well as Congregation

Beth Sholom of Anchorage, a synagogue with some 140 member families located in Alaska's largest city, and which is just under 1,200 miles from the former "Nazi Creek."

There has been a string of other World War II-inspired place names that have received requests for renaming. In 2017, residents of a town in Canada decided not to change the name of a street called "Swastika Trail" after B'nai Brith Canada, a Jewish advocacy group created an online petition campaigning for it to be changed. In 2023, an Oregon mountain named "Swastika Mountain" was renamed "Mount Halo" in honor of an historical tribal leader following pressure from a local resident. (<a href="https://www.jta.org">www.jta.org</a>, 7-14-25)

#### Independent Investigations Needed

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) is calling for independent investigations after 44 Jewish children and their chaperones were removed from a Vueling Airlines flight in Spain in July, because they were singing songs in Hebrew. An alarming video surfaced of a 21-year-old Jewish camp counselor who was seen violently pinned to the ground and ejected from the flight along with the children and the other chaperones.

According to a statement from Vueling Airlines, "The decision was taken solely and exclusively to guarantee the safety of all passengers." So far, Vueling has provided no evidence showing children posing any real threat. One eyewitness claims the children werenot in any way disruptive.

There have been unverified reports intimating crewmembers (or one crew member) may have made inflammatory remarks about Israel. "If Jewish children singing in Hebrew now triggers law enforcement and handcuffs, then something is broken, not just in the airlines policy but in society," said Jim Berk, CEO of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "We're calling for an independent investigation

staffed by investigators from outside of International Airlines Group and Vueling with full transparency on the events leading to the expulsion of these Jewish campers and the violent arrest of their counselor. If this wasn't antisemitism, then there should be no hesitation in launching an independent investigation that solicits eyewitness testimony from other passengers and crew."

"It is our hope that International Airlines Group will not tolerate any displays of antisemitism amongst its subsidiaries or employees," Berk added. (www.wiesenthal.com, 7/25/25)

#### Update

In an earlier issue of Chai-Lights, we reported that Argentinian President Javier Milei was awarded this year's Genesis Prize - also known as the "Jewish Nobel" - in January. The one-million-dollar award is given annually since 2012 from an endowment from five Russian Jewish businessmen whose mission is to "celebrate Jewish talent and achievement, honoring individuals for their accomplishments and commitment to Jewish values, inspiring Jews to connect to their heritage and to Israel."

Milei - the first non-Jew and first head of state to receive the award - created "American Friends of the Isaac Accords," (AFOIA) taking the name from the Abraham Accords, the series of normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab countries. Milei stated that he will use the funds "to support a new initiative aimed at deepening ties between Israel and Latin America."

Milei was selected for the prize for his "staunch support for Israel and efforts to improve Argentine Israeli relations." "I hold deep admiration for Israel –its history, its people, and its unwavering spirit," Milei said during his acceptance speech for the Genesis Prize: "I am honored that the Genesis Prize Foundation has chosen to recognize our country's strong relationship with Israel."

The "Isaac Accords" aim to "improve diplomatic, economic and cultural cooperation" between Israel and Latin American countries. Some Latin American countries, including Colombia, Bolivia and Chile, have downgraded their diplomatic ties with Israel over the ongoing war in Gaza. Milei's support for Israel puts him in a valuable position to act as a bridge on a continent with little diplomatic backing for Israel. Stan Polovets, co-founder and chairman of the Genesis Prize Foundation, said "AFOIA is a vehicle to promote Milei's bold vision and encourage other Latin American leaders to stand with Israel, confront antisemitism, and reject

the ideologies of terror that threaten our shared values and freedoms."

Milei was raised Catholic, but he said he is drawn to Judaism and at one point said he intends to convert once he leaves office. AFOIA is also aiming to strengthen Israel's standing within the United Nations, where some European countries have announced plans to recognize Palestinian statehood this fall. (www.timesofisrael.com, 8/14/25)

#### Elie Wiesel Honored

The United States Postal Service (USPS) recently announced a new series of stamps honoring Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wieselwho died in 2016 at the age of 87. He is the 18th person to be honored in the USPS' "Distinguished Americans" stamp series.

The USPS website reads, "The 18th stamp in the "Distinguished American" series honors humanitarian Eli Wiesel (1928 to 2016), a survivor of Nazi concentration camps whose dozens of works bore witness to the Holocaust and whose resilience and compassion continue to be a source of inspiration."

When he was a teenager, Wiesel was sent with his father to the Buna Werke labor camp in the Auschwitz complex. He went on to become an international human rights advocate, publishing numerous books, essays and educational projects including "Night," his iconic1960 memoir about his experience during the Holocaust.

Wiesel is amongst several other notable Jews featured in the "Distinguished American" series, including Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first influenza and polio vaccines, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and playwright Edna Ferber and Dr. Albert Sabin, who developed the oral polio vaccine. Jewish author and illustrator Shel Silverstein and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg have also been featured on stamps.

Wiesel was awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, the National Humanities Medal and the Medal of Liberty in the United States. The Wiesel stamp is set to be released on September 17th. (www.theforward.com, 8/19/25)

#### In Memoriam

-Brig General (res.) Giora Even Epstein, Israeli Air Force's most decorated fighter jet pilot, has died at the age of 87. Nicknamed "Hawkeye," Even Epstein is credited with seventeen aerial shoot downs - sixteen Egyptian fighter jets and one Egyptian helicopter - making him a global aviation legend. With an unmatched combat record, he served in the Israeli Air Force from 1961 until 1997 and later flew commercially for El Al.

Even Epstein was born in Kibbutz Negba in British Mandatory Palestine. He fell in love with flying from a very young age as he watched Air Force planes fly above his community. He was drafted into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in 1956 but was initially rejected from the Air Force's flight school due to medical reasons and so he enlisted as a paratrooper.

After his mandatory service, he reapplied for flight school and was accepted, graduating with honors in 1963. Four years later, during the Six Day War, Evan Epstein scored his first kill shooting down an Egyptian fighter jet over Sinai. During the subsequent War of Attrition (between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organization and their allies from 1967 to 1970), he shot down another four Egyptian jets, earning him the honor of "flying ace," a title given to pilots who have five or more confirmed aerial kills.

When Israel was attacked again in 1973 which began the nineteen-day Yom Kippur War, he downed another twelve Egyptian aircraft - one helicopter and eleven fighter jets, making him the "ace of aces," the most successful fighter pilot of the supersonic jet era. He was given the Medal of Distinguished Service, one of Israel's highest military honors.

Even Epstein retired from regular service in 1977and over the next several decades, he served in the reserves, flying thousands of hours until he fully retired in 1997, then becoming a commercial pilot for El Al. (www.timesofisrael.com, 7/19/25)

-Marthe Cohn, Holocaust survivor and nurse who went behind German enemy lines on behalf of French intelligence, died in June at the age of 105. She helped undermine the German military in the last days of World War II.

Born Marthe Huffnug in Metz, France, she was arrested in June 1942 and was sent to the Route de Limoges camp for "foreign" Jews in occupied France. Marthe and her family escaped occupied France (her sister was eventually deported to and killed in Auschwitz) and arrived in Marseille where she finished her nursing studies, joining the French Army as a nurse in 1944. Shortly afterwards, she was transferred to the army's intelligence service. Eventually, she crossed into German territory as the war was winding down. She managed to report that the Siegfried Line, a German stronghold

northwest of Freiburg, had been evacuated and she was able to pinpoint the location of German troops lying in ambush in the Black Forest.

Marthe was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Army in 1945. Germany later awarded her The Cross of the Order of Merit, Germany's highest honor. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into," she said in an interview in 2000. "I'm not a liar or an actor, but when your survival depends upon it..., I did it for what Germans had done to us."

Cohn lived in the United States beginning in 1956. She worked as a nurse anesthetist at Magee-Women's Hospital at the University of Pittsburgh. It was only in 1999 that her children and grandchildren first learned about her heroic acts during the war. In 2002, she co-wrote a memoir, "Behind Enemy Lines," and was awarded the title of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, the highest French order for military and civil merits.Her story was also told in a documentary, "The Accidental Spy."

Later, Cohn worked as a research assistant in her husband's neuroscience lab at UCLA/ Drew Medical Center. (www.jpost.com, 6/30)

#### Did You Know...

-According to France's transportation minister, French Aviation authorities have suspended an air traffic controller until further notice over allegations that he yelled "Free Palestine" while communicating with the pilots of an inbound El Al flight approaching Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. El Al reported the incident and analysis of the recording confirmed the facts.

Using air traffic control communications for unrelated purposes is forbidden under the International Air Traffic Control protocol, which is based on the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization. (<a href="https://www.thejc.com">www.thejc.com</a>, 8/14/25) \$





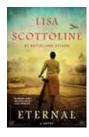
# **KJCC Sisterhood BOOK CLUB**

Last Thursday of Each Month Live at 12:15 p.m. • Zoom at 12:30 p.m.



September 25 The Spectacular by Fiona Davis

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



October 30 Eternal by Lisa Scottoline

Eternal is a tale of loyalty and loss, family and food, love and war--all set in one of the world's most beautiful cities at its darkest moment.



November 20 Shanda by Letty Cottin Pogrebin

An intimate memoir of growing up in a Jewish immigrant family mired in secrets, haunted by dread of shame and stigma, determined to hide every imperfection.



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

For questions or to join, contact Linda at Lindap4000@ymail.com. Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book! New year of bright dreams, Apples dance in golden light, Hope drips like honey - Rosh Hashana haiku

#### SISTERHOOD REPORT Loni Padden



he High Holy days are upon us! There is buzzing excitement around the shul for our first holidays with our new rabbi, Efrat Zarren-Zohar. She is the executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami, where she heads the department of Adult Learning and Growth. Sounds exactly like the sort of energizing our congregation needs! She will be leading us for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur along with Cantor Michael Dzubin who has been gracing us with his beautiful voice for many years.

To get our high holiday season started off right, on Sunday September 21st, we will be reversing the tradition of Tashlich in a collaborative environmental cleanup. Come out to Donna Bolton's home at 140 Canal Street with your muck boots, gloves and trash grabbers, sunscreen and mosguito spray! As Jews and residents of the Keys, we have a responsibility to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper sense of interconnectedness with our natural world. Last year, more than 4000 lews in 23 countries collaborated by cleaning up waterfront locations and combating plastic pollution. Let's get out there and clean up the beautiful rock we are all proud to call home! Low tide is around 10am. Please let Randi Klein-Gross (310) 702-7276 razzklein@gmail.com if you are interested.

Shanah tovah!!! We will be celebrating the new year 5786 at the KJCC with our Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner on Monday, September 22 at 6pm, followed by 7:30 services. The cost for dinner is \$18, with children under 12 free, and as always donations are welcome. Payment can be made by check or through our KJCC website. Please contact Joyce Peckman (732) 447–5225 *joycepeckman@gmail.com* by September 15th to coordinate your meat dish for our potluck extravaganza. We will be noshing on apples & honey for a sweet and prosperous new year!

The Sisterhood has luncheons planned for both days of Rosh Hashanah on September 23rd & 24th after services. Join us at the shul for New Year

celebration & contemplation, and then bagels & lox, egg salad and many other culinary delights prepared by our mishpocha.

The Sisterhood is sponsoring the Yom Kippur break fast on Thursday, October 2nd after services at Yom Kippur's ending, approximately 7pm. Please RSVP to Erica Lieberman Garrett at (305) 570–9310 or <a href="mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com">hippiejap@hotmail.com</a> by September 25th to reserve your spot & coordinate your vegetarian, fish or dairy dish for our beautiful spread. As usual, no charge, but we are always grateful for donations!

The Sisterhood Book Club coordinated by Linda Pollack meets every final Thursday of the month, always on zoom and usually in person to nosh & discuss the latest book. The September selection is The Spectacular by Fiona Davis, a thrilling story of love, sacrifice, and the pursuit of dreams, set amidst the glamour and glitz of mid-century Radio City Music Hall. Any new members who wish to be added to the book club announcement mailing list, please contact Linda at (305)587-7429 Lindap4000@ymail.com.

Many thanks to our summer oneg sponsorships. With much of our congregation in other locales to escape the heat, the summer oneg sponsorships can suffer. Now we need sponsors for the fall. To honor a loved one or celebrate a milestone or just because, contact Joyce at *joycepeckman@gmail.com* or 732-447-5225. Oneg sponsorship is \$72 and dinner sponsorship is \$360. Jane Friedman & Rivka Rizzo-Trent always put together a yummy spread with love for our congregants after Friday services. We are grateful for everyone's continued support in funding challah, wine, coffee, soda, cake, and paper goods.

The Sisterhood is on meeting on Sunday, September 7th at 10am in person at the KJCC for more high holiday planning! Bring some noshes and your best ideas for our lively round-table discussions.



invites you to our

### EREV ROSH HASHANAH DINNER

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a haimische potluck dinner followed by 7:30 pm Services led by Rabbi Zarren-Zohar and Cantor Dzubin

Meat Dinner with Vegetarian Options Available

We invite you to bring a favorite dish

to share with your KJCC Mishpacha

Rosh Hashanah Oneg following Services

Please RSVP to Joyce Peckman
joycepeckman@gmail.com (732) 447-5225 by September 15<sup>th</sup>
to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.

Donation \$18
Children 12 and under No Charge

### High Holiday Service Schedule 5786

Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar & Cantor Michael Dzubin

Saturday, September 13
S'lichot - Pizza, Service and a Movie 6 p.m.

Monday, September 22 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner (RSVP) 6 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service 9:30 a.m. Tashlich 4 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service 9:30 a.m.

> Wednesday, October 1 Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 2 Yom Kippur service 9:30 a.m. Yizkor service 11:30 a.m. Neilah Service 5:30 p.m. Havdalah 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 10
Yizkor & Sukkot celebration 7:30 p.m.

Note: Afternoon times are approximate. There will be light lunch served after Rosh Hashanah services and a break-the-fast at Yom Kippur's end.





Plaintive wail of the shofar Vibrates through bodies reverberates through tissues trembles tender arteries awakens buried memories lodged deep in bones.

Sturdy femurs carried us across mountains, deserts lugging tents, goat skins precious water to slake thirst. Shofar call from mountain top heralded new moon, year, battle.

In this new moon of Elul, after centuries of expulsions, trekking across plains, oceans, the shofar calls "tekia" waking us to awareness testing our courage.

May our journey through time and space release old wounds allow us to love, forgive witness sparks of the Divine in each upturned face.



Shanah Tovah To Our Kjcc Mishpocha Mindy & Richard Agler



Shanah Tovah To My KJCC Family. Health, Peace & Love To All Shari Carlquist



Shana Tova To My KJCC Mishpocha Healthy 5786 Erica Lieberman-Garrett



The Kaufman's Send Our Love And Best Wishes For A Happy New Year To All



Wishing You A Happy, Healthy And Peaceful New Year Joyce Peckman

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Elaine Schulberg May You Have A Healthy Happy New Year New Year's Greetings

Wishing Everyone A Happy And Healthy 5786 Sandy & Chuck Traugott



Arthur Plutzer Of Nyc Sends Best Wishes



Shana Tova U' Metuka Wishing All A Good & Sweet Year Joseph & Kathy Shabathai

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Jon & Terry Willner Tainow Wish Our Family & Friends A Peaceful Year

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Wishing Everyone A Happy And Healthy 5786 Adam And Judy Starr L'shana Tova To All My Dear Fríends At KJCC Joan Wohl

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The Rzepka's Wish You Happy New Year

**3** 

Be Well And Happy, My Dear KJCC Mishpocha A Sweet New Year To You. Love, Gloría

**3** 

Wishing All
Health & Peace
Thompson/ Frankel Family

 $\omega$ 

Happy & Healthy New Year 5786 With Love To My Mishpocha At The KJCC Susan Gordon

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Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Wish All Our Friends A Healthy New Year



### Welcome to the High Holidays

by Cantor Michael Dzubin

halom Haverim!
During the High Holidays when I was a teenager, I remember the thematic reading in the *Machzor* (High Holiday prayerbook) beginning with "First they came for..."
The author was Martin Niemöller, a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany. In the 1920's and early 1930's, he sympathized with many Nazi ideas and supported radically right-wing political movements. But after Hitler came to power in 1933, he became an outspoken critic of Hitler's interference in the Protestant Church. He spent the last 8 years of Nazi rule (1937–45) in Nazi prisons and concentration camps.

In the aftermath of World War II, the German pastor reflected on his own silence during the Nazi rise to power.

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me." —Martin Niemöller

Niemöller publicly confessed his own inaction and indifference to the fate of many of the Nazis' victims. He used phrases such as "I did not speak out..." or "we preferred to keep quiet." He explained that in the first years of the Nazi regime he had remained silent as the Nazis persecuted other Germans, especially members of leftist political movements with whom he disagreed.

Niemöller considered his fellow Germans



as the primary audience for his confession. In his lectures, he lamented that individual Germans failed to accept responsibility for Nazism, German atrocities in German-occupied countries, and the Holocaust. According to him, individual Germans were passing the blame onto their neighbors, superiors, or Nazi organizations like the Gestapo.

His now-famous words echo through history: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist... Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

This haunting reminder of complicity through silence was not only about Germany's past—it was a warning to every generation. Today, in the United States, his words feel chillingly relevant. As I pointed out to my Hebrew School and Confirmation students many years ago, despite the Jews being very prominent and affluent members of German society for well over 1,000 years (dating as far back as 321 CE), it all came to a very abrupt

and horrifying end, and there are no guarantees that everything will continue to be fine here, in the New World.

America has long called itself "the land of the free," and the governor of Florida proudly replaced our State of Florida signs that greet travellers as they cross interstate lines to boldly (and ironically) proclaim "WELCOME TO THE FREE STATE OF FLORIDA". Yet in Florida and across the nation, freedoms once taken for granted are under pressure.

Not only are labor laws that were enacted to protect the safety of workers being rolled back, but laws have been forced on local cities and counties prohibiting them from enacting their own protections (such as for those who work outside in the hottest weather). Restrictions on reproductive rights have stripped millions of women and families of personal choice. Laws seeking to ban books in classrooms and libraries aim to silence voices and erase diverse perspectives. Efforts to roll back voting rights disproportionately affect communities of color, undermining one

of the most fundamental democratic freedoms. Now, the president is pushing forward plans to get rid of mail-in ballots, and even to somehow take control of voting machines across the country in an effort to take away the voices of voters who disagree with him! Each of these actions may seem isolated, but together they reveal a pattern that follows very closely to the gameplan of post-World War I Germany (setting up the Holocaust and WWII): the narrowing of rights, the silencing of dissent, and the rewriting of what it means to be free.

Niemöller began his poem with "the socialists," but in today's America, immigrants are often the first target. Policies that demonize asylum seekers, detain children, and close doors to those fleeing violence do not just affect newcomers—they chip away at the nation's moral foundation.

Minorities face parallel threats. Rising hate crimes against Jewish, Muslim, Asian, and LGBTQ+ communities are often met with political rhetoric that fuels division instead of fostering unity. Silence in the face of such

prejudice sends a dangerous message: that some lives are worth less than others.

The progress of the Civil Rights era is being tested in new ways. From the suppression of peaceful protest to attempts to restrict teaching about systemic racism, forces are working to roll back decades of hard-fought gains. Laws targeting transgender youth, stripping away access to healthcare, and criminalizing their very existence undermine the basic principle of human dignity. History shows that when any group is dehumanized, the door opens for others to follow. Niemöller's warning teaches us that

injustice rarely stops with its first victims—it spreads until resistance is impossible.

It is tempting to believe that these issues affect "other people" and that silence will keep us safe. But Niemöller's words remind us that silence is never neutral—it is a form of consent. When we fail to speak out for immigrants, minorities, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, or any group under attack, we create the conditions for freedoms to erode until none are left.

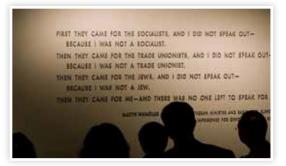
One of the most insidious dangers of the present moment is the attempt to rewrite history itself. Some state governments (like Florida) are limiting how slavery, segrega-



tion, and racial injustice can be taught in schools. The Smithsonian Institution and all its museums, as well as our National Parks. have received orders to remove references to slavery in America as being bad! The goal is not education, but erasure. Combined with the defunding of PBS, the far-right propaganda machine known as PragerU is now being adopted to push this dangerous ideology to mold the minds of public school students in Louisiana, Florida, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Montana, Arizona, South Carolina, and Idaho. When history is whitewashed, citizens lose the tools to recognize oppression in their own time. Democracy depends on truth, and truth is under assault.

The point of all of this is CRUELTY! It's even gotten to the point that evangelical "Christian" Trump supporters are claiming that 'empathy is a sin' and a 'fundamental weakness'! And it's not just the Christians, as I have had discussions with (and read online writings from) members of the Orthodox and Chassidim communities who continue to support, or are at least willing to accept the right-wing extremists' takeover of our government, including the stripping of our Constitution and the separation of church and state, ignoring the re-introduction of force-feeding Christianity into our public schools, despite those schools including a lot of Jewish kids (like I was). They do this because of the right wing Christians' professed support of Israel, again ignoring that it is only to get all the lews to return to Israel so their idea of the Messiah will come





The quote from German Lutheran pastor, Martin Niemoller, on display in the US Holocaust Museum.

(and Christians take over the world!). They are literally trying to bring about the prophecy of the times leading to the arrival of the Moshiach, as quoted in Sotah 9:15:

"In the footsteps of the Messiah, Chutz-pah (arrogance) will increase; prices will rise, grapes will be abundant, but wine will be costly; the government will turn into heresy; and there will be no reproach. The meeting place of scholars will become a bordello;... the border people will wander from city to city and none will show them compassion; the wisdom of authors will stink; sin-fearing people will be detested; truth will be missing..." Sound familiar?

Every Shabbat and holiday, we read "A Prayer for Our Country", which says: "We ask Your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leader and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights of Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst." It continues: "bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. Then citizens of all races and creeds will forge a common bond in true brotherhood, to banish all hatred

and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are our country's pride and glory."

America is at a crossroads. Will we choose the path of silence and complicity, or the path of courage and solidarity? Niemöller's warning was not written to paralyze us with guilt it was written to awaken us to our responsibility. The strength of a democracy lies not only in its institutions but in its people. Each voice raised against injustice is a brick laid in the defense of freedom. Each act of solidarity is a step toward a nation that lives up to its ideals. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." To remain silent in the face of injustice is to accept it. To speak out is to honor the promise of America-not just for ourselves, but for all who call this nation home.

Speaking out does not always mean grand gestures. It can mean correcting misinformation in a conversation, attending a local meeting, protecting a neighbor, voting with conscience, or supporting organizations that defend civil rights. Small acts of courage multiply, and together, they form resistance.

Hillel taught "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And when I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, then when?" This is a foundational concept in Jewish thought, encouraging people to act with courage and urgency when addressing personal issues, community problems, or the pursuit of justice. JTS is advertising a 2-day seminar in November entitled "Upholding Human Dignity in Turbulent Times: An Interreligious Convening" to address how to deal with our current state of affairs. Niemöller's reflection, born of one of history's darkest chapters, is a timeless challenge: If we do not speak out when others are targeted, who will be left to speak when our own freedoms are gone?

When will the Messianic Era come? Some rabbis have taught it will come when we need it most (due to widespread sin); others taught that it will be when we have demonstrated we have deserved it (widespread righteousness). Man makes the world worthy of redemption; God redeems the world and history. What kind of people do we want to be? What kind of society do we want our children and grandchildren to grow up in? What can we do? We can work for redemption by increasing good in the world, by acts of lovingkindness and justice. And we can pray for God's help in developing the strength and courage to stand up for justice for all. "I place before you good and evil, life and death; CHOOSE LIFE!" (Deuteronomy 30:19)

I am honored that you have invited me back to share these High Holidays with you for, amazingly, my ELEVENTH High Holyday season as your *Shaliakh Tsibbur*, and I look forward to Davening (praying) with you all, both in-person, as well as virtually!

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu! (May you all be inscribed for a Good (and HEALTHY) Year!) ♦



### THE SHOFAR IS CALLING YOU

by Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar

he sound of the shofar is primal & ancient. It produces a strange sense of awe and reverence. Think back to that moment before the first blast is sounded; a hushed expectancy fills the synagogue.

At the moment we hear the first piercing note, we are struck with an almost child-like wonderment. And for most of us, it is one of our earliest childhood memories.

The notes of the shofar are not beautiful by any musical standard, but somehow, we find in their thin piercing blasts something that calls to us.

We feel connected to the shepherds and kings, the prophets and prophetesses, who first heard these same notes in the land of Israel more than 3000 ago.

But what is the call of the shofar? You'll notice that we hear basically 4 types of blasts (with different combinations): *Tekiah, Shevarim, Truah, Tekiah Gedolah.* 

And you might recall that the number 4 appears in many secular and Jewish settings.

There are four directions (east, west, north, south), four seasons, (summer, winter, spring, fall) and four basic compounds (fire, water, earth, air).

And Jewishly, in addition to the four types of shofar blasts, there are 4 letters in the personal name of G!D (Yud, Hey, Vav, Hey), as well as four cups of wine and four questions at the Pesach seder.

Tziporah Heller Gottlieb, the American-born educator, author, and speaker based in Jerusalem, has written: "The number four is the number more than any other that encapsulates the message of exile and redemption... From a Judaic perspective, exile means far more than physical expulsion from one's natural home. The deepest level of exile is estrangement. We were (and to a degree are still) expelled not only from our land, but also from ourselves."

Four = Exile leading to Redemption, Brokenness leading to Wholeness, \_\_\_\_ leading to \_\_\_\_\_.

You fill in the blanks for yourself.

The first call of the shofar, *tekiah*, is, as Maimonides interpreted, a call to wake up to who we have become.

What do we need to recognize and change in our lives to become our best selves?

The second call of the shofar, *shevarim*, 3 broken blasts, is the sound of sadness, sobbing, regret.

What do we need to do to heal ourselves and others we have hurt?

The third call of the shofar, *truah*, 9 piercing blasts, was how the ancient Israelites summoned the people to war.

What actions do we need to take to conquer our base inclinations and reinforce our highest aspirations?

The final call of the shofar, *tekiah gedolah*, teaches us patience and hope — to stand quietly through this long blast, to dream of a better "you," to dream of a world redeemed, to remember HaTikvah/ The Hope, the Jewish national anthem even before it was the State of Israel's anthem.

As my colleague and the Director of



Mishkan Miami at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Rabbi Fred Klein, wrote several years ago: "On Rosh Hashanah, we are not only praying for physical life, but a life that is worth living. We do not want to just exist and persist; we want to thrive and grow."

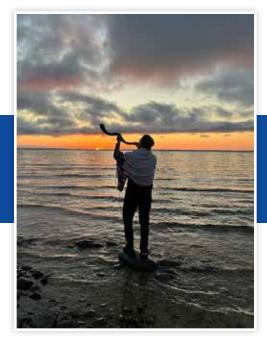
I'm so looking forward to joining KJCC this year for the *Yamim Nora'im*/ High Holy Days and spending these essential days together.

My prayer is that our gathering together will serve as an opportunity for each one of us to take stock of our lives, our souls, our paths as Jews and human beings in the world. (We don't often get an opportunity to do that!)

May this new year 5786 be a year of

personal and communal growth, health, learning and peace, for you, your loved ones, the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the world!  $\diamond$ 

Rabbi Efrat Zarren-Zohar is the Executive Director of CAJE: The Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami. She grew up in a more Conservative congregation and summer camp environment, was ordained as a Reform Rabbi and her partner is modern Orthodox; needless to say, she loves scrambling the boundaries and lines of denominational Judaism and is looking forward to joining the uniquely blended KJCC community this year for the High Holy Days.



May you be inscribed in the book of life for a good and healthy year.



### **HEAL THE SEAS:**

### REVERSE TASHLICH

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Home of Donna and Bill Bolton

140 Canal Street, Tavernier, FL

We are continuing our tradition of taking sins OUT of the water with REVERSE TASHLICH, a program begun and expanded by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. As part of Tikkun Hayam (Repair the Sea), we will do our best to preserve our planet by taking debris out of the sea. We are proud to be a part of this effort along with hundreds of other synagogues in 18 different countries.

### HOW TO:

Wear closed shoes or boots for walking along the shoreline and among mangrove roots. Garden gloves, long handled nets or grabbers will be useful. A hat, sunscreen, and bug repellent will be helpful.

Contact Randy Klein-Gross for more information: 310-702-7276 razzklein@gmail.com



### A New Tisha B'Av

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

isha B'Av, the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av, is the traditional day of mourning of the Jewish People. On this day, throughout our history, calamities have befallen our people. The Mishna tells us of five tragedies that occurred on this day:

- 1: The people accept the negative report of the Spies that Moses sent into the Land of Israel to see if it was a good land. The spies were afraid and said the land was band, it was inhabited by giants and there was no way the Jews could live there. The people were scared by the report and refused to enter. As punishment, our ancestors were forced to wander in the desert for 40 years.
- 2: The Destruction of the First Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Built by King Solomon, the Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, which led to the Babylonian exile from the Land of Israel.
- 3: The Destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in the year 70 CF
  - 4: The Fall of Betar, which was the

final battle of the Bar Kochba Revolt against the Romans. According the Talmud (Ta'anit 4:5), the blood ran so high in the streets of Betar that it was up to the muzzle of a horse. According to the Roman historian, Cassius Dio, during the entire Bar Kochba Revolt from 132–135 CE, 580,000 Jews were killed, 985 villages and 50 fortified cities were destroyed.

5: The following year, the Romans plowed over the Temple Mount and sowed it with salt to represent the final destruction of Judaism.

There have been other tragedies that occurred on Tisha B'Av as well:

- In 1290, the Jews were expelled from England on Tisha B'Av.
- In 1492, we were expelled from Spain on Tisha B'Av.
- In 1914, the First World War broke out on Tisha B'Av, paving the way for the Holocaust.
- In 1941, the Nazi Leadership approved the plan for the "Final Solution" on Tisha B'Av.

 And in 1942, the order was issued to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto on Tisha B'Av.

On this Tisha B'Av, I can't help that my brain takes me to Oct. 7th and the rampant antisemitism that has spread in its wake across the globe like a fungus. I say specifically a fungus and not a cancer, because cancer can kill. A fungus is ugly and uncomfortable, but it's not fatal, and that's what we are experiencing today.

The Jewish People have experienced unimaginable suffering in the past. Yet,



there is a clear distinction between past events on Tisha B'Av and the situation for Jews around the world today. The distinction is that no matter what happens, we are not the same Jews as our ancestors. We are no longer the oppressed people under the thumb of those who hate us. We no longer cower in fear.

So, how should we commemorate Tisha B'Av this year? Be strong! Be Proud! Many have tried to kill and destroy us, and they have ALL FAILED. We're still here. And for all those who wish to repeat today, the Tisha B'Av of the past...They too, will fail.

So, despite the fact that antisemitism is at its worst since the end of WWII, I am still hopeful. We have endured the past, we will survive the present, and we will thrive in the future. I wish I could say the same for the Ocean and the Planet.

While the world's attention is focused on Gaza, we continue in our willful ignorance about the destruction of the aquatic environment. Human suffering is taking place around the world, but I do not believe humans are the only beings that suffer. I am not anthropocentric. I believe humans are a part of nature, not a part from it. Should I only work to alleviate suffering if the one suffering is my own? Should I only feel the suffering of someone who is like me: a Jew? An American? A Human?

Jeremy Bentham, an 18th-century British philosopher, famously said:



"The question is not, can they reason? nor can they talk? but can they suffer?" Selective morality and virtue-signaling are rampant in the world today. Currently, Gaza is the focal point of that selective morality. According to Jeremy Bentham, moral consideration should not be granted because of politics, or race, or even species. Moral consideration should be granted based on a being's capacity to suffer. It has been scientifically proven that fish feel pain and actively flee to avoid it. It's a fact that some fish mate for life and know love in their fishy kind of way. The bond experienced by marine mammals is real, and the pain they suffer when members

of their pod are killed is no less than the pain humans experience when a loved one of ours dies. There can be no question: The fish that are crushed beneath thousands of others as they're hauled from the depths in trawler nets suffer. The shark whose fins are cut from its body while it's still alive and thrown back into the sea to drown suffers. To be insensitive to the suffering of any living being diminishes us.

So, on this Tisha B'Av, I recall the suffering of our People throughout the ages, but I must also be mindful to the suffering of others, whether they are in Gaza, in Israel, in Africa, in Europe, in the United States...or in the Sea.  $\diamond$ 



## YOM KIPPUR BREAK FAST

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Dinner

at Yom Kippur's end

(approximately 7 pm)

We welcome your home cooked vegetarian, fish, or dairy dish, prepared with love, to share with your KJCC Mishpacha

Please RSVP to Erica Lieberman Garrett at 305-570-9310 or hippiejap@hotmail.com to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.

No charge for dinner - Donations always welcome

#### PHOTO GALLERY





Susan Gordon enjoying a 'fun-filled' Summer Vacation with her sweet Grandsons, Hank & Rhett!

The four Lieberman sisters together in Canada, to celebrate their Mom, Maxine's birthday!









in Aruba.



Gloria had two grand adventures this summer--walking the mile long breakwater to Rockland (mid coast Maine) Lighthouse, and spending a day of adventure touring Acadia National Park with Rosemary Ciotti and Dennis Miller.





Joyce Peckman's older grandchildren meet up in Jerusalem. From left, Yosef and Michal are moving to Jerusalem, while cousin Libby and sister Eliana are visiting, before returning to US for school.

Yosef Peckman is entering the K'FIR branch of Israel Defense Force , which protects central Israel.



First day of basic training.

The Hesterman family gathering at their lake house.







Ma sw Bir ha vis Su

Maria and her sweet son, Binyamin, having a nice visit with Susan.





Randy Klein-Gross spending time with her dad, Arnie, at his Birthday party.





Erica celebrates her Mom's birthday in Toronto!







Spencer Padden turned 16!

UPPER KEYS WEEKLY / AUGUST 28, 2025

# 100-YEAR-OLD MICKEY FRANKEL GETS HONORARY CONCH STATUS



ed Miriam "Mickey" Frankel — who just turned 100 — with an Honorary Conch certificate during a ceremony at the Keys. Jewish Community Center Congregation Ohr HaYam (Light of the Sea) (KICC). Frankel is a distinguished porcelain, watercolor and pastel artist who is still active in the Art Guild of the Purple Isles as well as the KJCC. The certificates are given by Monroe County to those who have made major contributions to the community, but were not born in the Keys. 9JSAN GORDON/Contributed



Commissioner **Holly Raschein** attended our Shabbat service to present Mickey with the esteemed Honorary Conch Award from the Mayor of Monroe County.









### From the Committee for Israel

### Coming in September: The Menorah Index

By Judy Starr

#### Good news from the higher education front.

s many of us can attest, based on so many - too many - reported accounts, the higher education experience today is vastly different from that which students may have encountered two or even one generation ago. Western Civilization and its philosophy and arts no longer figure prominently in the curricula of many major universities. Expression of divergent opinion or points of disagreement today can result in friends turning on you or your social group ostracizing or doxxing you; "back in the day" there was no such conforming or nonconforming orthodoxy. Today apparently everything in academia is wrapped in a blanket of politics. As in too much of the public arena, disagreement is grounds for personal disparagement: intellectual intolerance abounds. Whatever happened to open inquiry, to the exchange of honest opinion, to letting the facts lead to the conclusion instead of letting the desired conclusion reshape the facts? Have people forgotten that, as we face different issues and challenges, today's opponent on one issue might well be tomorrow's ally on another? And, last but not least, what happened to the definition of truth, and how did "true" become the servant of perception?

Bad as this is, we have heard and seen and read how it is even worse for lewish students and anyone sympathetic to Israel and what it stands for.

So it was encouraging, early in August, to receive an email from Tikvah's Jonathan Silver (Chief Programming Officer), entitled "Introducing the Menorah Index: A New Way to Evaluate American Universities". Finally, a ray of hope on the higher education front! Education, not anger-laden indoctrination! To be launched this September, the Menorah Index (MenorahIndex.org) will provide a ranking of universities based not simply on factors such as reputation or graduation rates. Instead, this index will highlight institutions whose curriculum and environment are free of the infestation of anti-Semitism and hold respect, not contempt, for the traditions of Western Civilization upon which our freedoms are based. At last, a guide to breaking free of the spell of the Ivies and other historically acclaimed places feeding anti-Western, anti-American, and anti-Semitic doctrine along with intimidation of anyone daring to disagree.

The Menorah Index survey will focus, to quote directly from Tikvah's email, on four key factors:

- Western Civilization & Jewish Ideas: Has the institution made the study of Western civilization central to undergraduate education, with the Hebrew Bible, Jewish thought, and the history of ancient and modern Israel properly integrated as foundational sources of our culture.
- Jewish Life & Culture: Can Jewish stu-

dents live fully committed Jewish lives on campus, with wise rabbinic leadership and the infrastructure they need for kosher dining, prayer, and Shabbat observance? Does the campus culture support students and professors with strong Jewish identities and Zionist conviction?

- Civil Discourse & Free Inquiry: Does the university uphold genuine intellectual freedom, protect civil discourse, maintain the rule of law, and base admissions on merit rather than identity politics?
- University Leadership: Do the president, provost, and board possess the vision and moral courage to defend and advance the university's highest aspirations?

Our goal is not merely to help families make better choices, but to challenge universities themselves to rediscover their highest calling. Some institutions are already doing this work—creating new centers, programs, and schools where rigorous thinking and honest debate can flourish. The Menorah Index will shine a light on these beacons of renewal.

At too many institutions, higher education has forsaken its mission of searching for truth, connecting with the intellectual traditions that have formative to our way of life, conducting honest debate, and the acceptance of thoughtful but respectful disagreement. At last, we can anticipate from Tikvah – a "think tank" for Jewish-related issues – a guide to truly saner and safer places at which to pursue what earlier generations expected of true teaching and learning.

The importance of such a survey is at least threefold: For one thing, Israel and America

are allies, and the former depends on the latter at least as much as the latter depends on the former. For another, the higher education system generates both leaders and voters. Israel needs America to understand and support its rightful claim to existence, its importance as an ally, and what it offers the world in terms of both values and scientific progress. Finally, Jewish students and ALL students who seek an environment without biased and bigoted programming, deserve a place to study and learn in safety and freedom.

*Menorahlndex.com* is expected to be up and running this fall, in time for the high school classes of 2026 and future years to find schools that honor the original and fundamental mission of higher education in this country. Perhaps in the future colleges and universities who have diverged from their original mission may yet return to what they had once pledged, a "teshuvah" of a very fine sort, and be included in this survey. That is to be wished for, even if we should not hold our breath until it happens. We can look forward to welcoming the Menorah Index, to the benefit not only of students, but also to the ultimate benefit of everyone who values the freedoms of this country and the cornerstones of Western Civilization, of which the Jewish faith and the story and nation of Israel are forever an integral part.

#### Suggested references:

Menorahlndex.com (expected this fall)
Mosaic, the monthly journal of Tikvah, "A
College Guide for the Perplexed," by Eric
Cohen and Samuel Helyar, August 6, 2025
Email from Jonathan Silver, August 7, 2025
(available on request until the next issue of
C'hai Lights, from this article's author). \$



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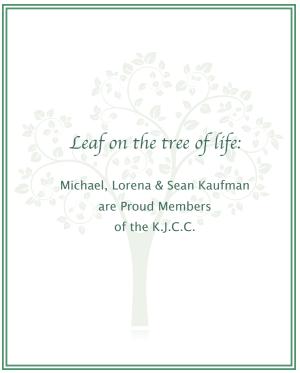
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G'mar Chatímah Tovah!! May you be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a very good year!

