

September 1 - October 31, 2024 | 28 Av 5784 - 29 Tishri 5785

High Holydays 5785 • Pages 16-24 Sukkot: Success, Joy, and Fragility • Page 25 Summertime fun in the Keys • Pages 30-31



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SEPT	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	Labor Day	Rosh Chodesh Elul			Rivka Rizzo-Trent & Max Trent Gloria Avner	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.					Ken Atlas & Art Itkin Ken Atlas	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Hebrew Study Begins 12 p.m. Crochet with Nadine 1 p.m					Randy Klein-Gross	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Hebrew Study 12 p.m.				Reverse Tashlich 11 a.m. Book Club 12:30 p.m.	Joe Shabathai	
29	30	1 OCT	2 Erev Rosh	3	4	5
Hebrew Study 12 p.m.			Hashanah Dinner 6 p.m. Rosh Hashanah service with Rabbi & Cantor 7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah service with Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin 9:30 a.m.	Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin 9:30 a.m. Joyce Peckman 7:30 p.m.	
6 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Rabbi Agler &	12 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m. Yizkor 11:15 led by
Hebrew Study 12 p.m. Tashlich 1 p.m.					Cantor Dzubin	Rabbi & Cantor Neilah service & Break-The-Fast 6 p.m.
13 KJCC Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 Joe Shabathai	19
on Zoom 10 a.m. Hebrew Study 12 p.m. Decorate Sukkah	Columbus Day			First day of Sukkot	Joe & Kathy Shabathai Deborah &	
1 p.m.	24	22	22	24	Samuel Clarke	2/
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Shemini Atzeret	Joyce Peckman	
27	28	29	30	31	Friday at	service leaders d names

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



hope everyone has had a good summer. A lot of us have traveled frequently. I hope everyone had a good mix of rest and excitement.

I was out of town myself, but for only a weekend. I went to EPCOT. I've been there many times since I was a kid. It's one of my favorite places, but I have one complaint. In World Showcase, there's no representation of Israel. They have China and Japan, but no Israel. The closest country to Israel they have represented, would be Morocco. But that was shut down. Nevertheless, it was good to get away.

I want to thank the few but dedicated members who have kept us running over the summer. Your dedication did not go unnoticed.

Now it's time to look to September/October. And that means a return to high holidays. I'm pleased to announce we will have the same clergy as we have for the past several years. Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin do a really great job and work well together.

I hope to see as many of you as possible starting October 2nd. ♦

ONEC SPONSORS

	ONEU SPONSOKS
Sept. 6	Gloria Avner In gratitude for summer stalwarts
Sept. 13	Ken Atlas
Sept. 20	TBD
Sept. 27	TBD
Oct. 4	Michael Krissel Celebrating His Birthday
Oct. 11	Sisterhood Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 18	Joe & Kathy Shabathai Celebrating Joe's Birthday
	Deborah & Samuel Clarke Celebrating Their Anniversary
Oct. 25	Joyce Peckman Simchat Torah

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2024

Sunday, Sept. 1	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent & Max Trent
Sunday, Sept. 8	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Sunday, Sept. 15	12 p.m. Hebrew Sudy Begins 1 p.m. Crochet with Nadine
Friday, Sept. 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross
Sunday, Sept. 22	12 p.m. Hebrew Study
Thursday, Sept. 26	11 a.m. Reverse Tashlich - Home of Donna Bolton 12:30 p.m. Book Club
Friday, Sept. 27	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday, Sept. 29	12 p.m. Hebrew Study
Wednesday, Oct. 2	6 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner - RSVP to Loni 7:30 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Thursday, Oct. 3	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Friday, Oct. 4	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman
Sunday, Oct. 6	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting 12 p.m. Hebrew Study 1 p.m. Tashlich - at Kaufman Home
Friday, Oct. 11	7:30 p.m.Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service - Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Saturday, Oct. 12	9:30 a.m. Yom Kippur Service 11:15 a.m. YizkorService led by Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin 6 p.m. Neilah Service Followed by Break-The-Fast
Sunday, Oct.13	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 12 p.m. Hebrew Study 1 p.m. Decorate Sukkah
Friday, Oct. 18	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai
Friday, Oct. 25	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service & Yizkor & Simchat Torah led by Joyce Peckman

NOSH

Sisterhood Book Club

The last Thursday of each month features a group of friendly women discussing an interesting read. In the free-ranging talk, we often bring up personal experiences and the things we have learned through the years. You are invited even if you haven't read it! On September 26th we will discuss Kristen Hannah's "The Women" – a richly drawn story of the brave nurses who served during the Vietnam War. On October 31st we will discuss "Four Women" by Norman Shabel. This crime mystery novel brings us closer to home- to Miami Beach during the building boom of 1968.

We continue to meet on Zoom at 12:30. If you are interested in making our session hybrid by hosting a meeting at 12:15 in your home, contact Linda Pollack at *Lindap4000@ymail.com*. Thank you M'liss Regent-Cunha for hosting the August meeting. Look for the flyer on page 14.

Hebrew Studies Group

Last year we had a terrific group of about ten people ages 8-80. For some it was the first time they had tried to learn the Hebrew letters, and for others it was review. We worked slowly, helping each other, with Joyce as the guide. We are almost finished with National Jewish Outreach Program Book 1, which is the alphabet and some prayers and vocabulary. Some of us are thrilled to be able to read some of the prayers on Friday in the original, not transliteration! Our final June class was held at the Kaufman home, with all due festivities.

We will continue our multi-generational Hebrew learning group on Sundays at noon, begin-

ning September 15th. We will also continue with a once-weekly evening drop-in Zoom practice, at a time to be decided by the group. (With due consideration to soccer and dance class scheduling.) We will continue with the second book, which includes more of the prayers. Our goals are to enable our children to be ready to prepare for bar/bat mitzvah with another teacher, and to enable the class to have an adult b'nai mitzvah in the spring.

If we have any young (or older) people who want to join at this point and need to catch up, contact Joyce at *joycepeckman@gmail.com* to arrange for some individual help. There is no charge, just a commitment of your time.

Invitation to a Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle Please join Lucinda Kurtz and friends on Tuesday. September 3 at 7 PM for our next Rosh Chodesh Circle. We welcome in the new moon of Elul, the month before the New Year and the High Holidays. In Elul, we are invited to look deeply at our actions during this past year and assess if they have been congruent with the highest aspirations for ourselves. It is a time of tesuvah, a time of turning inward and returning to the best of ourselves and to the One. Our tradition tells us that it is through forgiveness, the hallmark of this month, that we can move forward, uniting into a new whole, the seeming opposites that are tearing us and our world apart. Let us join together to embrace the future with hope and joy, walking in the footsteps on our foremothers in this loving Women's Circle. Please register for the Circle by using this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/ meeting/register/tZEvce2hrz4iG92cOu_Mlkz4LcmirTaAm8z5 ♦

Anniversaries

September		Years
7th	Jay & Nancy Hershoff	
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov	40
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith	46
15th	Rita & Harry Rzepka	67
30th	Marsha & Tom Garrettson	34
October		
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein	30
22nd	Steve & Luzviminda Levine	12
28th	Michael & Suzanne Gilson	23
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein	70

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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

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

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

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305–393–1351, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

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

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

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:

Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 305–587–7429 or <code>lindap4000@ymail.com</code>. Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: <code>keysjewishcenter.com</code>. Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai–Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

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

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

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

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

Happy Birthday!

September	
2nd	Camilla Brody
4th	Chase Barrett
6thBr	yce Hesterman-Kutz
6th	Steven Greenbaum
7th	Mindy Agler
7th	Stellar Levy
8th	Laurie Grossinger
8th	Susan Horn
9th	Jacob Klimpl
10th	Gerri Emkey
12th	Joan Jacobs
13th	Andy Tobin
	Larry S. Schur
16th	Samuel Grossinger
17th	Ellen Ecker
19th	Barbara Bernstein
19th	Steven Schur
	Lauren Schur
24th	Noah Bitton
24th	Orlando Quesada
	Michel Bitton
25th	Shari Carlquist
27th	Blake Rose
October	
1st	.Binyamin Cartagena
	Harry Rzepka

2nd......Michael Gilson 4th.....Michael Kanarek

4th	Michael Krissel
5th	Mathew Tainow
5th	
6th	•
7th	Iordan Feig
11th	Olivia Landes
12th	Benay Krissel
13th	-
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
26th	Michael Brody
29th	. Adriana Sherman
30th	
30th	Mark Hitzig
31st	Brittany Schur

- Shabbat Service Leaders -

September 6 • Shoftim	Rivka Rizzo-Trent & Max Trent
September 13 • Ki Tetzei	Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
September 20 • Ki Tavo	Randy Klein-Gross
September 27 • Nitzavim-Vayelech	
October 4 • Ha'Azinu	Joyce Peckman
October 11 • Kol Nidre	Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
October18 • Sukkot	Joe Shabathai
October 25 • Simchat Torah & Yizkor	lovce Peckman

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 2024

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of
Patricia Isenberg	Margaret Isenberg
Donna Forst	Erna Forst
Adam & Judy Starr	Olga Schuman
Medina Roy	Leon Kirshenbaum
Ronald Kaplan	
	Catherine Kaplan
Rich & Mindy Agler	Richard Steinberg
Michael & Laura Duman	Elsie Duman

- SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

Oneg

Max and Rivka Rizzo Tren	t Rivkas Birthday
Jane Friedman	Steve's Birthday
Barb and Richard Knowles	25th Anniversary
Ken Atlas	.Celebrating Fellowship

Dinner Sponsorship

Michael, Lorena and Sean KaufmanShabbabeque

General Sisterhood Donations

Susan Gordon Kaufman family

- D & D Report -

Leaf on the Tree of Life

Michael & Lorena Kaufman Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Yahrzeit Plaque

Randy Klein-Gross Joan Wohl Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Siddur Book Plate

Alan & Chely Markowitz Ronald & Rochelle Hollander

New Year's Greetings

Beth Horowitz Arthur Plutzer Jon Tainow & Terry Wilner-Tainow Joyce Peckman Gloria Avner Adam & Judy Starr
Susan Horn & Dot Brooking
Joan Wohl
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Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson
Susan Gordon
Susan Horn & Dot Brooking
Beth Horowitz
Arthur Plutzer
Harry & Rita Rzepka

Other

_	other
	Robert & Michelle Diener Shavuot
	Charles & Sandra Traugott
	Alan Beth & Candace StanlakeBirthday of
	Lillian TallentYahrzeits 2024-2025
	Adam & Judy StarrBuilding MaintenanceOlga Schuman
	Linda PollackTzedakah-In honor of Arthur Plutzer's 2nd Bar Mitzvah
	Sylvia BermanYahrzeits 2024-2025
	Michael & Lorena Kaufman
	Mary Lee SingerIn memory of Robert W & Jonathon Singer
	Shari Carlquist
	Paul & Susan RobertsSisterhood
	Barnet ColtmanYahrzeits 2024-2025
	Susan Gordon Sisterhood
	Susan Horn & Dot BrookingPray for peace!!!
	Beth Horowitz
	Ken & Tonya Salomon

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Gloria Avner

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Yizkor

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Arthur Plutzer
Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow
Robert Temkin
Lillian Tallent
Arthur Itkin

Hermine Taramona Linda Pollack Joyce Peckman Roos-Mary Benowitz Richard & Barbara Knowles Gloria Avner Frank Rose Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea Adam & Judy Starr Melvin & Joyce Ruthen Larry & Dorothy Wolfe Susan Horn & Dot Brooking Ioel Bernard & Ioan Stark Sherrie Willner Ioan Wohl Karen Zoren Erica Lieberman Garrett Rich & Mindy Agler lames Brush Iamie & Laura Goodman Michael Krissel Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer Thomas & Renee Brodie Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Linda Pincus Medina Roy Elaine Schulberg Joe & Kathy Shabathai Mary Lee Singer Robert Temkin Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson Susan Gordon Marshall & Myra Kaplan Richard & Barbara Knowles Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver **ludith Weber**

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In Memoriam – September 2024

Stephen Berman

Sylvia Berman

Sam Roazen

Sylvia Berman

Goldie Berman

Sylvia Berman

Mae U. Stark

Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Evelyn O. Coltman

Barnet O. Coltman

Leo Rosenberg

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Sandra Ellen Schultz

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Robert Temkin



In Memoriam – October 2024

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Fanny Grossman Bernard Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

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Shirley Leventhal Strumor Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

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Zara White Susan White

Jim WilliamsRita Williams

Esther Gold WillnerJohanna Willner





invites you to our Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a haimische dinner followed by 7:30 pm Services led by Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin Meat Dinner with Vegetarian Options Available

Rosh Hashanah Oneg following services

We invite you to bring a favorite dish to share with your KJCC Mishpacha.

Please RSVP to Loni Padden

dr.padden@yahoo.com (305) 772-2584 by September 25th

to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.

Donation \$18
Children 12 and under No Charge



WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



Foreign Doctors Answer the Call

Since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas War on October 7th, approximately 400 doctors and 30 health professionals from the United States and other countries have arrived in Israel to help treat the injured or fill in for Israeli medical staff recalled to military duty. Israel's Health Ministry received "thousands of inquiries" regarding volunteer opportunities over the past ten months. Shortly after the war began, a website was launched for medical professionals: some 7,000 doctors alone have registered to volunteer, to be contacted if or when the need arises.

Retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Robert Ezenauer, 70, a pediatric ophthalmologist, had never been to Israel, though it was on his bucket list. So when he heard through a friend that Soroka Medical Center in Beersheva was looking for an ophthalmologist to fill in for two weeks to take the place of doctors called up for reserve duty, General Ezenauer volunteered. He had been a battalion surgeon for U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan and Irag. Since he'd been trained as a pediatric surgeion, he also performed operations on children during the wars in both countries. "I just thought, it's a way I can support Israel and help out kids," he said. "They worked me hard" at the hospital where he guided residents in surgeries including strabismus, commonly known as cross-eye surgery, where the eve muscles are not in sync with each other. Dr. Mohamed Wattad, a resident at Soroka said, "We performed many operations in a short time. He taught us new surgical techniques." (www.timesofisrael.com, 8-10-24)

And the 2024 Herzl Prize Goes to...

Tikvah is a think tank and educational institution focused on "the foundational ideas of Jewish civilization, challenging exceptional students to become Jewish leaders and Jewish citizens." (When have Jews not reached for the keys to heaven? Maybe that urge is why we're so strongly repre-

sented among astronomers.) *The Herzl Prize*, the organization's highest honor, is given every year to "a leader who embodies our highest ideals as patriotic Americans, proud Zionists and committed lews."

This year, Tikvah is recognizing Dr. Ben Sasse former U.S. Senator from Nebraska and President of the University of Florida - as the Herzl Prize Laureate. The 2024 Jewish Leadership Conference focused on "The Jewish Fight for America," and in particular, on one of the crucial battlegrounds in this struggle: college campuses. The Jewish Leadership Conference website posted this about Sasse: "No university leader has been as courageous, clearheaded, and visionary in charting a better path forward for higher education as former University of Florida president Ben Sasse. In his time at the helm, he helped that institution blossom into one of the most significant universities in America. He fostered a culture of intellectual seriousness, moral clarity in the face of ant-Semitism, and unapologetic pride in the United States and the West." (www.jewishleadershipconference. *org*, 7-2-24)

A Find at the Great Synagogue of Vilna

A new excavation has uncovered parts of the Great Synagogue of Vilna, once the oldest and most important building for Lithuanian Jews before it was laid waste by the Nazis and subsequently razed by the Soviets. Archeologists found the floor of the synagogue decorated with red, black and white flowers in addition to the remains of a vibrant wall painted in red and blue. Part of the women's gallery, water reservoirs used for the *mikvah* (ritual bath) and a large pillar that once flanked the *bimah* (now collapsed and on its side) were also uncovered. The project is led by the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Association of Lithuanian Archeology, the Goodwill Foundation

and Lithuania's Jewish community. "The magnificent remains we are discovering...bring back moments in the life of a lost vibrant community," said the excavation directors.

The Great Synagogue of Vilna (the Lithuanian capital city is now known as Vilnius), was built in the 17th century in a Renaissance-Baroque style. It was the heart of a thriving lewish community. Before the Holocaust, the synagogue was surrounded by a complex filled with all manner of daily Jewish life, including twelve synagogues, study houses, kosher meat stalls, a bathhouse and the famous *Strashun* Library, one of the most important Jewish cultural institutions in Eastern Europe before it was destroyed in World War II. Lithuania's Jews had a distinct culture. They had their own Yiddish dialect and they played a major role in developing lewish thought. Vilnius attracted many celebrated Yiddish writers and scholars, earning it the nickname as the "Jerusalem of the North." It was also a center of rabbinic training and thought.

The Nazis killed more than 90 percent of Lithuanian Jews. They looted and burned the Great Synagogue. When Lithuania came under Soviet Communist control (whose rule lasted until 1990), the Soviet authorities in 1950 destroyed the synagogue's remnants and built a school on its site. (www.jpost.com, 7-26-24)

In Memoriam

We continue to mourn the deaths of our Israeli brothers and sisters who gave their lives for their country serving in the Israeli military. We offer our prayers for the hostages held in captivity in Gaza, for healing for the injured and a swift end to this devastating war. In that light, the IDF has confirmed the death of Alex Dancyg, age 76. Dancyg was taken hostage on October 7th from Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1948 to parents who survived the Holocaust, Mr. Dancyg immigrated to Israel with his family in 1957, eventually settling in Kibbutz Nir Oz. He returned to Poland for the first time some 30 years later, his passion for Holocaust history and education taking hold and, in 1990, began working with Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum. He partnered with Yad Vashem in creating and leading training courses for guides of Israeli youth trips to Poland and in Holocaust education in Poland for educators and clergy, including many Jewish participants.

"The news of his tragic death strengthens our commitment to ensure that Alex's legacy and the stories he passionately preserved are never forgotten," Dani Dayan, *Yad Vashem* chairman, said. (www.yadvashem.org, 7-22-24)

-Queenie Hallegua, the last of the Paradesi, or "foreign," Jewish women of Kochi, the historic Indian Jewish community, has died at the age of 89. She leaves behind a nephew, now the last Jew in Kochi. Jew Town was once a vibrant community where some 3,000 Jews lived at its peak in the 1950s.

Queenie was the warden and managing trustee of the Paradesi Synagogue, a 450-year-old landmark, from 2012-2018. Until 2011, she was also the managing partner of the *S. Koder House*, a boutique hotel in a house once owned by her grandfather, Shabdai Samuel Koder. Koder was an Iraqi immigrant who settled in Kochi in the early 20th century and later owned the local electric company. She sold the property to the hotel's current owners and it is still a popular spot for tourists.

Queenie and her late husband hosted Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip when they came to the Paradesi Synagogue in October 1977. The queen presented the synagogue with a silver Kiddush cup on behalf of her subjects. "We were overjoyed," Queenie said. "She was impressed by the architecture and the history of the synagogue. When we told her that the tiles inside were 18th century, hand-painted ones imported from Canton [Guangdong Province] in China, she exclaimed it was wicked to walk on them. My husband and I could not hide our smiles."

The first lews to arrive on the Malabar coast of India came as sailors in the first century BCE and, legend has it, they came on King Solomon's boats. (It's a lovely and colorful legend, but Solomon's boats would have been a thousand years old by then. If true, the voyage would be an incredible testament to ancient Hebrew boatbuilding.) Known as Malabari Jews, the families of traders moved south to present day Kochi (previously known as Cochin), where they built the Kochangadi Synagogue, the area's first Jewish house of worship. By the 16th century, Jews fleeing the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions. along with Mizrachi Jews from the Middle East and North Africa, had joined together to form the Paradesi community centered in Jew Town. (One wonders what richness of languages and accents

were spoken there.) According to a 1911 census, there were seven synagogues in the Cochin area and a Jewish population of more than 1,000. The community flourished until the mid-20th century and suffered little persecution. After the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, many from the predominantly Orthodox community emigrated and started a new life in the Jewish state.

Jonathan Goldschmidt, a Jerusalem rabbi who would often visit the Paradesi Synagogue as a scholar-in-residence and kosher supervisor said, "The legacy of the [Paradesi] Synagogue, much like the Hallegua family, is one of permanence. The story of the Jews of India is an important one for our people: it speaks stories of family, tolerance, adaptation, hard work, fidelity to tradition and an unwavering dedication to Torah: such a light cannot ever be snuffed out completely; it retains the ability of igniting itself and others eternally."

Queenie's funeral was held at the *Gan Shalom* Jewish cemetery near the Paradesi Synagogue. Mourners included her son and daughter, both of whom live in the United States; her nephew; Malabari Jews from outside the area, and three Jewish tourists from Israel. (*www.forward.com*, 8-12-24)

Did You Know...

In 1944, Gisella Perl was one of the only female Jewish doctors in the city of Maramarossziget, Hungary (now Sighetu Marmatiei, a city in Romania that borders Ukraine.) She was a well-known gynecologist and was deported to Auschwitz when the Nazis invaded Hungary that year. Dr. Josef Mengele, known as the "Angel of Death," assigned her to the women's camp, treating Jews and other inmates. It didn't take long for Perl to discover Mengele's deadly experiments on the pregnant women in the camp. Using her medical skills, she provided nearly 3,000 abortions surreptitiously, with virtually no medical instruments or drugs at night on a dirty floor with her dirty hands, saving hundreds of lives and risking her own.

Perl's heartrending story was told in a 2003

Showtime movie, "Out of the Ashes." And now, with abortion a major political issue on the 2024 campaign trail, it is again being retold on stage: Perl is the subject of "Mere Waters." an off-Broadway show which premiered at the SheNYC Arts Festival in New York on August 4th. The show was written by Jewish playwright Jillian Blevins when the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. The title of the play refers to the Jewish stance on abortion, a Talmudic source that states that a fetus is "mere water" before five weeks. "This is a situation where abortion was unquestionably a heroic act and an act that was pro-life." said Blevins. "I didn't really have to change anything to make that true, but I really did want that to resonate in the play."

Gisella Perl survived Auschwitz only to learn that her husband, son, parents and extended family had been murdered. She moved to New York City in 1947 and eventually joined the team at Mount Sinai Hospital where she delivered over 3,000 babies until she retired at age 73.

In 1948, the year after arriving in New York, Perl published a memoir, "I was a Doctor in Auschwitz." In a New York Times interview in 1982, Dr. Perl related this chilling story. "Dr. Mengele told me that it was my duty to report every pregnant woman to him. He said that they would go to another camp for better nutrition, even for milk. So, women began to run directly to him, telling him, 'I am pregnant.' I learned that they were all taken to the research block to be used as guinea pigs, and then two lives would be thrown into the crematorium. I decided that never again would there be a pregnant woman in Auschwitz. No one will ever know what it meant to me to destroy those babies, but if I had not done it, both mother and child would have been cruelly murdered."

Dr. Gisella Perl was reunited with her daughter Gabriella in Israel in the late 1970s. Gabriella had been hidden with a non-Jewish family at the start of the war. Gisella Perl, hero in sadness, died in 1988 at age 81. (www.jta.org, 7-24-24) >

~ YAHRZEIT PLAQUE ~ Remembered always with love.

Forever in the hearts of family and friends.
- Randy Klein-Gross

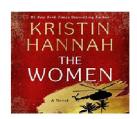
Tomar Gross 2/22/1973-10/14/2023 Fred Silverstein 5/12/1932-4/28/2019 Sonia Silverstein 5/6/1938-8/28/2021 Elaine Gross 9/5/1929-4/13/ 2023 Richard Gross 7/9/1929 - 8/8/2017



Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, September 26, 2024 ~ The Women by Kristin Hannah Thursday, October 31. 2024 ~ Four Women by Norman Shabel



This is the story of one woman gone to war in Vietnam, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.



A saga of four brave women who battle real estate developers and the city of Miami Beach while trying to save their home during the unscrupulous heyday of real estate development in South Beach in 1968. Helen, a survivor of Auschwitz and Rachel, who led 2,500 Jewish children out of Germany during World War II, along with their defender, a 36-year-old alcoholic lawyer, do battle against a prejudicial judge and a defense lawyer who politically controls the judicial system of Miami.

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

All sessions are at 12:30 p.m.

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

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



SISTERHOOD REPORT Loni Padden



he Sisterhood team is excited to welcome cooler weather and our seasonal members back for the High Holy Holiday season!

Looking back, the annual Shabbabaque Dinner, sponsored by the Kaufman family on July 5th at the KJCC was a rousing success! Jonah Gross was gracious enough to man the grill for delicious hamburgers & hotdogs. Our wonderful members filled the buffet table with bountiful sides and patriotic picnic food to celebrate the birth of our nation.

The Book Club led by Linda Pollack will meet Thursday, August 29th at 12:15pm at the home of M'liss Regent-Cunha to discuss Midnight Library by Matt Haig. Contact M'liss at 707-592-7326 if you will attend in person. To be added to the mailing list, contact Linda Pollack at *Lindap4000@ymail.com.*

Rosh HaShanah 5785 is right around the corner! We will be celebrating, contemplating & reflecting.

The Sisterhood is delighted to invite you to our Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner on Wednesday, October 2nd, 6pm for a haimische dinner followed by 7:30 services led by Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin. Please bring a favorite dish to share with your KJCC Mishpacha! RSVP to Loni Padden dr.padden@yahoo.com 305-77-7584 by Septem-

ber 25th to reserve your space and coordinate your dish. Donation is \$18. per person, children 12 and under, always free.

The Sisterhood is sponsoring our Yom Kippur Break Fast on Saturday, October 12th at Yom Kippur's ending. Please bring your favorite dairy dish cooked with love to share! RSVP to Loni Padden by October 5th <u>dr.padden@yahoo.com</u> 305-772-2584 No charge, donations always are welcome.

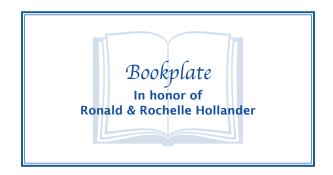
Please join us at the KJCC on Friday, October 25th at 7:30 for a combination Shabbat, Simchat Torah and Yizkor service. We will be remembering and honoring our beloved departed and celebrating our Torah by going back to the beginning. Don't miss the Chocolate Fountian Extravaganza oneg!

If you would like to have an oneg date to commemorate something special in your life or a loved one, please call or email Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 *dr.padden@yahoo.com.*

Ladies...We would love to have you join us for our next sisterhood meeting on Zoom on September 1st at 10am. On October 6th we meet in person & zoom.

Shanah Tova! May we all have a sweet new year with many blessings in 5785! ♦

Leaf on the tree of life: ~KJCC~ We love you all. Michael, Lorena & Sean Kaufman



KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5785/2024

Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin

Services will be held Live and on Zoom.

Wednesday, October 2

Dinner ~ 6:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service ~ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 3

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service ~ 9:30 a.m. Light Lunch after Services

Friday, October 4

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service ~ 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Service ~ 7:30 p.m. (led by Joyce Peckman)

Sunday, October 6

Tashlich ~ 1 p.m. ~ Home of Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Friday, October 11

Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service ~ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 12

Yom Kippur Service ~ 9:30 a.m. Yizkor Service ~ 11:15 a.m. Neilah service followed by Break-the-Fast ~ 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 13

Decorate Sukkah ~ 1 p.m.

Friday, October 18

Shabbat Service ~ 7:30 p.m. (led by Joe Shabathai) Followed by Oneg in Sukkah

Friday, October 25

Shabbat Service and Yizkor Service ~ 7:30 p.m., With Simchat Torah Celebration

From the Rabbi's Study

Keys Jewish Community Center Congregation Ohr Ha-Yam

Tishrei, 5785

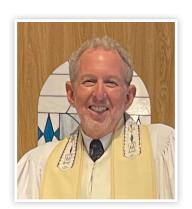
hese High Holydays will be different from any in recent memory. The reason for this, as no one needs reminding, is the war in Israel-Gaza. It began just as last year's Fall Holydays concluded, on October 7, 2023. That is a date that will be remembered in Jewish history—and in Jewish infamy.

The attacks by Hamas, Israel's response to them, and the world's reactions to that

response defined much of the Jewish year. The consequences have been profound. We have witnessed expressions of rejection and hatred on a scale not seen since the Shoah. While the accusations are as baseless, misguided and uninformed now as they were then, they managed to gain traction in many quarters. 5784 is not going down as a happy year for the Jewish people.

Israel herself was wounded, and shaken, as at no time in her previous seventy-six years. And the damage was not confined to Israelis alone. Jews around the world felt the shockwaves. Anti-semitic acts, threats, and public demonstrations took aim at Jews everywhere, whatever our relationship with the State of Israel, or lack thereof, might be.

Parts of the criticism may be justified. Certainly many Israelis seem to think so. By the thousands they took to the streets, protesting one aspect or another of the war or the government, week in and week out. We have a similar right to express ourselves. I suggest, however, that if we are going to



do so, it come from a place of informed depth and broad understanding. We've seen more than enough from those who possess neither.

Traditionally, the High Holydays are a time for self-introspection, and for coming to terms with our personal and communal shortcomings. These themes will be part of our worship, as they always are. At the same time, we will examine how others have looked at

us, as well as how we have looked at ourselves, during this pivotal year.

With an eye on deadline, I'm writing these words approximately seven weeks before Rosh Hashanah. A lot may change between now and then—for better or for worse. The hostages may come home. There may be a ceasefire. New Israeli elections could be scheduled. Or, God forbid, the war might widen. And of course, a consequential American election is underway.

Indeed, these are challenging times—for Jews and for the rest of the world. Whatever happens, as the new year dawns, we will do our best to add perspective, hope, and comfort to all we have experienced in the year gone by.

Mindy joins me in wishing a Shana tovah u'mevorechet—a year of goodness and blessing, to every member of our KJCC—Congregation Ohr Hayam family. ♦

L'shana tovah! Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

New Year's Greetings

Shanah Tovah to my friends at KJCC

Beth Horowitz



Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year The Tainow family



Wishing the KJCC community a great New Year Arthur Plutzer



Wishing us all a year of peace in 5785 Joyce Peckman



We wish you L'shanah Tovah Rita & Harry Rzepka



Children's children are a crown to the aged Proverbs 17:6 Tína & Arníe Kleín



Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy 4785

Adam and Judy Starr



Wishing our KJCC friends a peaceful shanah tovah!
Susan Horn & Dot Brooking



Shanah Tovah to all my dear friends at Ohr HaYam Joan Wohl Happy healthy New Years to my KJCC family and friends

With love, Susan Gordon



Wishing all a happy new year Nadine Thompson/Frankel family



Shana Tova to my KJCC mishpocha Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Shana Tovah to our KJCC family Mindy & Rich Agler



Shana Tova to our KJCC friends Joseph & Katherine Shabathai



Wish all our friends a happy new year Jeff & Cheryl Margulies



Happy and healthy new year to KJCC family5785 The Kaufman family



Happy Healthy New Year, dear mishpocha Gloría Avner



Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year Lucinda Kurtz & Oran Hesterman



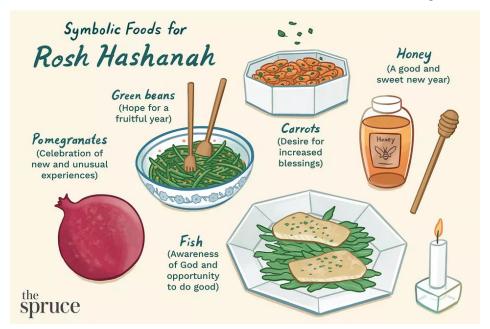
Jewish Woman By Gloria Avner

Briskets in the slowcooker For the New Year feast I like That I am part of a world-wide Confederation Of women humming to ourselves Hands smelling of garlic



Eating Metaphorically for High Holy Days

Almost everything is symbolic in Judaism, from numbers to letters, words, shapes and even foods. Here are some of the special foods associated with RoshHaShanah, meant to insure an auspicious beginning to our New Year. We always have a round challah, symbolizing the continuity of our ceremonial year and the Jewish people—no beginning and no end. A pomegranate is said to contain as many seeds as there are Mitzvot in the Torah (613); a fish head is there because it is better to be the head than to be the tail. You get the idea.



Shalom Haverim!

an you believe that this is about to be our 10th High Holyday Season together?!? I found it hard to believe myself, but I am holding a copy of Chai-Lights from September, 2015, in which is the article introducing me to you all. As they say: "Time flies when you're having fun"! Whether we have been having fun or not, it certainly seems

as if every time I turn around, it's about to be Shabbat again!

Not long before I joined the KJCC Mishpachah (family), I had spent a few summers at the Philmont Scout Ranch, the biggest summer camp in the world, and the biggest high-adventure base in the country. I don't just mean 'biggest' in size (which is pretty big, at over 214 square miles of Northern New Mexico mountain wilderness), but also in attendance. In the years I was there, they were averaging around 23,000 trekkers coming through Philmont each summer! Boy Scouts as well as Venture Scouts (a co-ed, older teenage Scouting group) can choose a trek with anywhere from 54 miles to 105 miles of backpacking, lasting anywhere from seven days up to three weeks!

Unlike a normal summer camp, where everyone comes and stays in camp for a week or two practicing skills and earning badges, Philmont is a different animal, in that every single day, 300 to 500 new trekkers arrived off the busses, and had only that evening as an opportunity to attend services (all four denominations, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and LDS/Mormon offer daily services from 7 - 8 pm), 300 to 500 other Scouts returned to base camp every day at the end of their trek, where they attended one more service before leaving for home the next day. Of course, if I were to conduct a normal weekday evening service, it would only be 10-15 minutes of Hebrew, which would leave most of the attendees confused, as they were there to see what a Jewish service was like. So instead, I ran it like a Learner's Minyan, explaining what things mean (including that a 'minyan' was not one of the "little yellow guys" that were in the



movies at the time!), why we do some of the things we do, and why we wear the things we do. In addition to answering a lot of the questions the non-Jews had, I had been approached many times by Jews who admitted not knowing some of the things I was teaching; an all-around win!

In addition to services each evening, each of the chaplains were assigned a job for the week (Basecamp, Backcountry, Health Lodge, Radio

Room, Training Camp, etc.). When I was assigned to the Health Lodge, I had to attend rounds with the doctors, and sometimes counseled the patients to encourage them to get back on the trail; assuming their injury and/or illness was either not serious enough to be kept off the trail, or seemed to be more psychological or spiritual, rather than physical. I also helped bring patients off the trail to the Health Lodge, as well as returned the now healthy trekkers to their crews out in the backcountry.

Earlier in my time there, I would have said that the hardest part of the job as a Philmont Chaplain had to be when you have to deliver a death-notice to a staffer or a trekker; I had to deliver a few of those myself. However, in our final week of my last summer there, we had two separate adult leaders. in two separate crews tragically lose their lives on the trail in the same week. That hit us all HARD; not only their crews of teenaged boys and their other leaders (ESPECIALLY the sons of the newly deceased that were on the trail with them!), but also the backcountry staffers who tried rendering first aid, comforting the fellow crew members, as well as the other crews in camp, the first responders who had to make it out many miles into the backcountry to retrieve the deceased, as well as all the staffers involved in transporting the survivors back to basecamp, and the staffers coordinating it all on the radio... Our team of chaplains had a couple of ROUGH weeks trying to smooth emotions and stabilize the mental health of everyone before we all got on the road to head back to our respective homes across the country.

More often, we provided guidance to staffers

and trekkers alike, ranging from religious matters, to how to handle personality conflicts or other issues with running a campsite of staffers, such as leadership/management issues. One of these issues was presented to me when a crew advisor (adult leader) brought two of his Scouts to my service (none of them were Jewish). Apparently, after the service they had attended (not mine) on their way out to the trail, the two Scouts had apparently said something not very nice (whether it was ethnic, religious, racial or sexual in nature, I do not know), and apparently a couple of rangers (staffers who guide the trekking crews out on the trail for the first few days of their trek) had overheard these comments. They tried to sit them down and discuss the issue, but the Scoutmaster only became aware of the situation much later. Since they just finished their trek and were about to head home the next day, he wanted them to apologize to me, and for me to somehow get their apology to the rangers involved.

I took the opportunity to teach how repentance works: to gain forgiveness for things you did to offend another person, you must first gain the forgiveness from the person you offended before you can gain forgiveness from God; you can only gain forgiveness directly from God for the things you did to offend God. I also pointed out the difficulty in gaining forgiveness for offenses involving speech, which is why Lashon HaRa (the evil speech or tongue) is one of the more serious offenses. I shared the following illustration:

A man in a community was constantly bad-mouthing the rabbi of the town, until one day, he realized that he had been wrong in his thoughts and actions. The man finally went to the rabbi to try to gain forgiveness from him, and asked what he could do to make up for all the bad things he had said about him. The rabbi instructed him to take a feather pillow up to the top of the hill on the edge of town, and to cut open the pillow and let all the feathers fall out; he was then to return to the rabbi for further instructions. When

the man had completed the rabbi's instructions, he returned to the rabbi and asked what he was to do next. The rabbi then instructed him to return to the hilltop and retrieve all of the feathers!

When we say something bad about someone,

whether it is true or not, the feathers are released to the wind: the person(s) we told, as well as anyone who may have overheard may each tell someone else, who then relay the message to someone else, who then pass on the tale to someone else... It then becomes impossible to correct the message; to catch all of the feathers, so to speak. I told the young men that with the information they gave to me. I would try to track down the two rangers (the first two feathers), but I could not quarantee that I would be able to catch up to the rest of the feathers they released into the wind, and that is why Lashon HaRa is one of the more serious offenses between man and man, as well as between man and God.

In recent years, it has become common-

place for WAY TOO MUCH Lashon HaRa in

our communities, and in our country as a whole, E&PECIALLY in our politics. The sages say that Lashon HaRa hurts not just the person being talked about, but also the person speaking it, and the person/people that hear(s) it! It can severely damage our society, and even our entire nation! In the coming year, let us all try our utmost to control our tongues and do what we can to prevent Lashon HaRa from spreading through, and splitting up our community, for it is nearly impossible to catch up to all those feathers.

I am honored that you have invited me back to share these High Holidays with you for, amazingly, my TENTH High Holyday season as your Shaliakh Tsibbur, and I pray that this year, we will all be able to physically be together, and pray together, in good health!

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



Tashlich

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024 Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Home of Michael and Lorena Kaufman

Once again, we will meet
to pray, sing and metaphorically throw our bad
deeds, the ones that missed their mark, when we
were not our best selves, into the water in the form
of bread (bagel?) crumbs. Tashlich is a short traditional
ceremony in a beautiful place with expansive
ocean view. Let the ocean carry away your bad



behavior, leaving room for new and good.

The Release that Brings Peace

Elul 5784

by Lucinda Kurtz

This new moon of Elul
I paddle toward the radiant light
The sun pointing the way
To a timeless realm of possibility
Where forgiveness unlocks
The trembling troubled world.

This month of Elul
I hear the piercing cry of the shofar
Early each morning
Shake my fragile knowing
Awaken an ancient holding
Jagged edges that yearn for repair.

Elul is our sacred time
To sense our unique place
In the eternal flow of being
To question how we have lived
How we have opened our hearts
To heal and become whole.

I cherish this return to Still quiet within, To hear the voice of my soul.

Invisible fingers
Comb columns of clouds
In the azure sky
Untangling knots
Tied over centuries
Freeing me to breathe more deeply
In this present moment.

Despite the shifting currents
Threading the shallows
With internal navigation
I find my way home.

Stepping on the pebbled beach
I offer a prayer of gratitude
For the journey and return
For the known and unknown
For the release that brings peace.



Lulav and Aromatic Etrog— the Four Species.

Kabbalisric View on Four Species

By Rabbi Shraga Simmons from Aish

The Kabbalists say that the four species of the Lulav represent four different types of Jews:

- 1. The Etrog has a good taste and a good fragrance. It represents a person with both wisdom (Torah learning) and good deeds.
- 2. The Hadas (myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is inedible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks wisdom.
- 3. The Lulav (date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with wisdom, but without good deeds.

 The Aravah (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person with neither good deeds nor Torah learning.

"There may be people we don't like, but we still have to deal with. We cannot simply say that certain people are not part of our world, or that they do not belong to us. On the contrary, humanity is one indivisible unit. This recognition is basic to happiness because when we realize that we are all interconnected, we can be more patient and tolerant of others." \diamond



Sukkot: Success, Joy, and Fragility

By Gloria Avner

ometimes *Sukkot* seems to come too soon. We are wrung out with *Yamim Nora'im*, the final days of prayer, atonement and fasting, ripe with good intentions, and then, just five days after *Yom Kippur*, we are told to get out of our comfort zone: it is time to celebrate again, but in the most humble of ways.

Remember, in our earliest days, Sukkot was known as THE holiday, not just the most joyous, but also the most important. The hard work of crop rearing had literally just paid off. The harvest was in and for seven days (in Israel) or eight days (here), the festival of Sukkot celebrated success, the time of year when lews experienced the most abundance and were at their wealthiest - time to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and share the wealth. What better way to gain perspective, not get puffed up, and remember our desert-dwelling roots, than to share our produce with G-d and neighbors while living directly on the earth in a humble hut where the sky shows through chinks in the schach (Rabbi Agler's favorite word), a slatted roof made of palm fronds. We not only accept our fragility and dependence on nature. We revel in it. The roof that does not separate us from sky lets in not only light and weather but divine presence, Shechina. (I am reminded of the Leonard Cohen lyrics: "There is a crack in everything." That's how the light gets in.")

Guests, historical and spiritual as well as friends and neighbors, are invited to eat with us in our rickety but beautifully decorated temporary dwelling places. The historical guests, called by the Aramaic word, *Ushpizim*, are our forefathers, the souls of the seven great leaders of Israel – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and King David. The Zohar says they deliberately leave Gan (the garden of) Eden to partake in the divine light of the earthly Sukkot. Let's imagine them sharing wisdom with us as we sit together. All of us need to be reminded in the midst of our overbusy technologically-oriented lives that we are not only connected to nature, her whims and her bounty, but we are responsible for her continuity

of care. As one of our prayers in the *siddur* says, should this earth be destroyed, there is no one to come after us to repair it.

Here in our temporary "booth " or *sukkah*, we engage all our senses, making the space visually beautiful by decorating colorfully with our children (thank you again, Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake, for the living memorial you created in honor and memory of your parents). The aroma and sight of the *etrog* intensifies our prayers as we bless the "four species" (*lulav* or date palm, *etrog* or citron, willow and myrtle), shake the *lulav* (all the species held together as one) in all sacred directions, listening to its *shh shh shhh*, the symbolic sound of gentle rain we will be praying for once *Sukkot* is over (our service leaders will remind us during *Amidah*). And we will taste, eating the fruits as we bless them.

Whether one's Sukkah blows over, as the Agler's did during that heavy storm surge years ago, or remains steadfast throughout Chag Simchateinu (holiday of our great joyousness), doesn't matter. The holiday is literally "all good," full to the brim with lessons and mitzvot. Let's eat our olives, blessing and remembering the produce of the ancient land we are intimately connected to even if we've never set foot upon it. Join us in our KJCC Sukkah on Friday night October 18th as we celebrate after Erev Shabbat services. Happy times for our *mishpocha* continue unabated on Shemini Atzeret and later when we unroll our Torah and begin the ceremonial cycle all over again. And If it starts to rain while you're eating breakfast in your Sukkah and your cereal gets soggy, halacha (Jewish law) says go indoors. G-d wants us to enjoy. Chaq Sameach. \$



Come to Decorate our Sukkah at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 13!



HEAL THE SEAS: REVERSE TASHLICH

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Home of Donna and Bill Bolton 140 Canal Street, Tavernier, FL 33070

We are participating in a new and expanding tradition of taking sins OUT of the water, 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. 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.

PHOTO GALLERY



New Member, Arthur Plutzer, recently celebrated his second bar mitzvah in his New York shul.

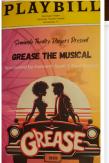
> Jan Price and Joyce Peckman take KJCC activities to a newly extended level with a trip to Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.



KJCC Enjoys **Grease**Fourteen people had a great time July 21st. We enjoy musical theater and we love each others company.











Here are four photos Barney Coltman took on his recent trip to Budapest. What an amazing shul. These offer just a taste. We look forward to stories and more photos next issue. Thanks for sending these Barney.









August is Jewish Heritage Month in the Baseball world. Our top dogs, Pres. Ken Atlas and Exec V.P., Michael Kaufman along with our young Star Hebrew Student, Sean Kaufman, represented us.





Joyce Peckman and Terry Wilner Tainow found each other on Broadway as they exited "Suffs", a musical about the Suffragettes.

Art On and Off the Rocks

It's not the season for art shows right now but two of the many artists among us —Jan Hartz (Louise Lindsey) and Gloria Avner — are happily working away at producing new work. Both show at the lovely gallery that is also one of our loyal advertisers, Our Place in Paradise. Drop in for a visit when your driving by, MM 88.7, say hi to Luke, tell him Chai-Lights sent you.

Gloria is taking a small break from batik and the tropics, painting larger pieces on canvas and smaller, heavier ones on slate. This one will be show at the Blue Hill Fair, in Maine, over Labor Day Weekend. Jan is working on a new series featuring flowers and butterflies. Her subject matter and her use of light are diverse and magical.



This is a batik painting of Lacy Alexander's children (our Chai-Lights graphic designer).



Guess who got married and is well on her way to becoming a mom? We are so happy for you, Molly Bloom. Your mom and dad would be grinning ear to ear. Mazel Tov!

SUMMERTIME - AND THE LIVIN' IS CHILLIN'

Here we are: KJCC girls know how to have fun in the sun embracing this tropical paradise we call home. Happily Relaxing in Erica's spa (have you ever seen Donna Bolton looking happier, as she relaxes with Rivka Rizzo-Trent and Jane Friedman?) Erica gets a chance to cavort near the sandbar with her sisters from Canada on Captain Jonah's generous pontoon party boat. All together now: "Summertime, and the livin' is easy . . .," especially when you have been working through some personal challenges yourself.) May we say another thank you here to the special people like Shari Carlquist, Donna, Jane, Susan, Randy, and Erica who handle so gracefully the chores d in keeping our synagogue afloat in the summer. Bless you all.



look at these happy faces. The heat can't get you down when you have a spa-sharing friend like Erica.

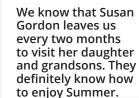




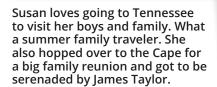
Ahoy Cap'n Jonah. We appreciate your smiling generosity.

Gloria works on new paintings and tries getting back in shape hiking Otter Ciffs in Acadia National Park.













Yom Kippur Break Fast

Saturday, October 12, 2024
Dairy Dinner
at Yom Kippur's end

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

Please contact Loni Padden
dr.padden@yahoo.com ~ 305-772-2584
to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.

RSVP by October 5th

Sponsored by KJCC Sisterhood

No Charge - Donations always welcome





TAGS FOUNDER EDITH MUROGO HONORED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE!

ountless people worldwide are working to right wrongs, defend the abused, feed the needy, shelter the homeless, etc. The US Department of State believes such efforts should be recognized and honored. It asks embassies around the globe to nominate one person from the country they serve to be recognized for their work countering human trafficking. The embassies are reportedly quite competitive about this and do their best to select outstanding candidates.

From more than one hundred nominees, the State Department selects ten to be brought to Washington to be honored and strengthened in their efforts. Edith Murogo, Founder, Guiding Light, and CEO of the Talia Agler Girls Shelter was chosen as one of those ten!

We express our special gratitude to the US Ambassador in Kenya, Meg Whitman, who visited TAGS in January, for endorsing the

REPORT

nomination. Edith was feted in Washington on June 24, 2024, by US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

It actually gets a little better! From among the ten, Edith was chosen to be the ONE to address the ceremonial gatherina. If vou missed it. you can watch the entire



[Edith receives the TIP Report Hero Award from the Secretary of State at 17:10 and delivers the featured address from 21:05—26:50.]

Please know that every contributor and

supporter of the Tali Fund shares in this honor. Without you, the efforts of Edith and her staff could not have reached this height. Gratitude and beyond to one and all for making it happen! ♦

The Tali Fund--Saving the World, One Life at a Time

Edith Murogo delivering her speech representing nine fellow honorees for their work countering human trafficking.



From the Committee for Israel American Friends of Magen David Adom: A Friend in Need in Word and Deed

by Judy Starr

A walk through the website of Israel's emergency services organization and its most significant American supporter

irst came the Magen David Adom (MDA), which was formed by seven doctors in Tel Aviv on June 7, 1930. This was a year after the Arab anti-lewish riots of 1929, and nine years after the riots of 1920. The original MDA operated out of a run-down hut, with modified open wooden-platform truck or two bicycles on either side of a gurney serving as the first ambulance. By 1931 a second emergency station was founded in Haifa, and in 1934 a third opened in Jerusalem. In 1935 the emergency groups began to work together in order to supply medical aid to both the public and the Haganah [the para-military group founded in 1920 to defend Jewish settlements and later to work around the British prohibition against Jewish immigration]. By this time, the MDA consisted of several dozen volunteers and now had a small converted truck to serve as an ambulance. In response to more riots between 1936–1939, the MDA grew further. It also trained the auxiliary police and the Haganah in first aid.

In 1940 the first iteration of the AMFDA was formed by a group of concerned

Americans. It was called the "American Red Mogen Dovid for Palestine." The group aimed to raised funds for upgraded medical supplies and blood services to the MDA. In addition, during the War of Independence (1948) they shipped ambulances and blood collection vans across the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. A picture on the AFMDA website shows several ambulances on the deck of a ship leaving the port in New York in 1949.

In 1950 the year-old State of Israel passed the Magen David Adom law, making the MDA the official "Red Cross" of Israel. It also gave the organization a major, but unfuded, mandate: to provide all emergency medical, ambulance, and blood services. American donors stepped up to provide the needed funding.

With the reunification of Jerusalem after the 1967 War, and increased immigration that followed that event, the need for emergency medical services increased.

During the 1980's the first national blood bank was established in Ramat Gan, outside of Tel Aviv. In 2022 the MDA opened the first-in-the-world underground, shielded blood bank, and out of that site operates the national Marcus National Blood services center in Ramla. [Located in Central Israel, Ramla is a city with a mixed population of Jews and Arabs.]

Another life-saving program operated

by MDA with AFMDA support is the Human Milk Bank. The milk bank supplies pasteurized milk to approximately 2,000 premature babies annually. Healthy mothers donate milk, which is then processed. This program saves the lives of the tiny babies who do not receive enough nourishment from their mothers and would not survive on any other form of sustenance

There are two hundred emergency medical stations throughout the land. These are the base stations for paramedics and ambulances. As with any type of building, they require ongoing maintenance and periodic upgrading. As a point of interest, it is estimated that an ambulance leaves from one of these 200 stations every 24 seconds.

The MDA serves Israel with an amazing array of vehicles: 1,210 life support ambulances; 340 mobile intensive care unit (NICU) ambulances; 650 medi-cycles to bring additional supplies to emergency sites; 281 electric rapid response vehicles (ERVs); 45 bloodmobiles, 4 advance life-support Medivac helicopters; 2 Marine rescue units (at Lake Kinneret aka the Sea of Galilee and the Red Sea).

According to the AMFDA website, the MDA responded to 1.3 million emergency calls last year.

Recently the MDA has signed an agreement with the Blood Centers of America. At present, Israel's blood supply is sufficient. This agreement should enable the Blood Centers of America to provide additional blood supplies should that become necessary (hopefully not).

Under a new program, Doctors on Call, or "Project Magen", hundreds of doctors have volunteered to serve as first responders in the north. Right now the program is sited in the north, near the village of Majdal Shams. Its aim is to reduce response time in case of need. The plan is for this service to cover the entire country.

With emergency funds donated since October 7, the MDA has been able to obtain new emergency vehicles, equipment, and supplies. It has hardened their facilities. It is training new EMTs, aiming for shorter response times. It is providing protective vests and helmets for EMTs, and armoring ambulances and bloodmobiles.

MDA is taking a number of measures in anticipation of an attack by Iran and/or any of its proxies. These measures include:

- Stockpiling equipment, food, and water, in anticipation that the airports may be closed
- Setting up generators at various locations across the country, in anticipation of possible power outages
- Training volunteers in an "isolated island scenario" - being able to work independently of organization-wide resources
- Training members of local communities to help the injured in case of MDA delays due to attacks
- Predicting through AI where the next call may come from
- Preparing for the possibility of simultaneous attacks from a number of different points.

To summarize:

The MDA has been serving Israel for almost 100 years, through riots, wars, and terrorist attacks during and between times of war. The AMFDA has walked side by side with the MDA for almost all that time working to make sure this relief work is always available for the people. With over 30,000 volunteers, 2,450 emergency vehicles, and 200 stations across the land, MDA's quiet hero volunteers continue to serve all Israelis. As the old saying goes: "A friend in need is a friend indeed." AMFDA is there for the MDA with the goal of meeting every one of its needs. \diamond

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

