Chai~Lights

April - May 2019 25th of ADAR II - 26th of IYAR 5779

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Scubi Jews, Joyful Noise and Purim Complexity – page 41

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Keys Jewish Community Center

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com

April - May 2019

Names denote leaders of Friday Services.
Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 APRIL Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	2	3	4	5 Steve Hartz *Nettie & Jules Seder*	6 Torah Service Rabbi Agler 10 AM
7 Sisterhood Meeting 10 AM Women's Seder 5 PM	8 Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	9	10	11	12 Medina Roy *Toby & Joel Bofshever*	13 Movie: Fill the Void 7 PM
14 KJCC Board Meeting 10 AM	15 Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	16	17	18	19 Steve Steinbock *First Seder*	20 Second Seder Islamorada Fishing Club 6:30 PM
21	22 Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	23	24	25 Ira Sullivan in Concert an ICE event	26 Bernie Ginsburg *Kathy & Joe Shabathai*	27 Movie: Conspiracy 7 PM
28	29 Sisterhood Book Club at Mangrove Mike's 12 PM Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	30	1 MAY	2	3 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner *Sisterhood*	4 Movie for Yom Hashoah - Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness 7 PM
5 Sisterhood Meeting 9 AM KJCC Board Meeting 11 AM	6 Jewish Meditation Dana Grace 7-8:30 PM	7	8	9 Trip to Jewish Museum & Independence Day celebration at Miami Beach JCC	10 Israeli Independence-Themed Dinner 6 PM Beth Hayden *Bernie Ginsberg & Medina Roy*	11 Torah Service Rabbi Agler 10 AM Film: Life in Stills 7 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17 Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton *Sisterhood*	18
19 Film: Is That You? 7 PM	20	21	22	23	24 Ken Atlas & Art Itkin *Medina Roy*	25
26 Film: Inheritance 7 PM	27	28	29	30	31 *Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman*	

2019 - 2020 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman

My first week as President saw us come together in joy and sorrow. The day after the board installation and general meeting, KJCC had the pleasure of hosting nine rabbis and three spouses for dinner and discussion. Rabbi Steve Sager presented us with a beautiful poem and led our conversation about aging, change and legacy. The visitors were very impressed by our shul, our friendly welcome and the dinner we shared with them. Just a few days later, one of my very first obligations was to send out notification of the death of Medina's mother, Bianka, and help coordinate the shiva at her home. Without a second thought, members of Sisterhood arranged and decorated tables, and purchased and prepared food for both events. Members of the ritual committee brought books and led a service, and many of you came to show your love and support. Susan, Jane, Donna, Gloria, Linda, Medina, Bernie, Sam, Steve…the time, effort and generosity of spirit provided by you and many others make us the family that we are.

Rabbi Agler once described us as "a chavurah with a building." A chavurah is a small group of like-minded Jews who assemble for the purpose of facilitating prayer services and learning, and sharing life cycle events. He was right on target. That is us; but we are so much more. We offer a place each of us can share their passion and their skills. Medina Roy has researched and curated her film series. Since I took office, Dana Grace has guided us in the art and benefits of meditation, Judy Greenman has shown us natural ways to relax and strengthen ourselves towards a pain-free life, and Jan Hartz has shared her art and experience swimming with humpback whales. Purim was a joyous lesson of shared silliness. We experienced the crafts of preparing food to feed the body, of researching Torah talks to feed the mind, and leading songs to nourish the soul, not to mention behind-the-scenes work of managing finances and making the physical building function well. A great many members have added to the life of KJCC, and we are always looking for more.

April brings Passover, the holiday that celebrates pivotal events that made us the Jewish people. What would we be without Passover and the seder? KJCC makes three Passover Seders, each with its own following. The beloved Women's Seder, a fund-raiser for Tikun Olam sponsored by Sisterhood on April 7th, attracts the larger Keys community. KJCC first Seder on April 19th is a pot-luck KJCC family affair. KJCC Community Seder on the second night, April 20th, is a relaxing event (read that: Most of us don't cook.) held at the Islamorada Fishing Club that also fulfills our mission of offering Jewish travelers a place to connect. I am proud to be a part of all that KJCC does. ◇

NOSH

Shabbat Morning Services

Rabbi Richard Agler, our KJCC Resident Scholar, announces two new dates for Torah learning services: April 11th and May 10th . Take advantage of this opportunity and come early. (that means no later than 10:00 a.m.) You'll be glad you did. These services and discussions are always inspiring and elevating, with Torah chanting and a Kiddush after each of these services. It's a wonderful way to spend Shabbat morning. After May 10th there will be a three-month hiatus, with no Shabbat morning services during the summer. We will miss them.

Confirmation for High Holidays

It's Official. Rabbi Agler will be our High Holy Days leader for 2019. We are ever so grateful. Thank you, dear members, for the donations you have made and continue to make to the Rabbi/Cantor Fund so that we may continue to hire this facilitator of high quality connection to our spirituality during the Ten Days of Awe. Rabbi Agler is a wonder and continues to provide us with the most meaningful, yet accessible experience possible.

How Jane's KJCC Garden Grows

No silver bells or cockle shells here, but she does take extraordinary measures to keep the iguanas from harvesting the bok choy before we do. Bring her your old, unwanted CD's and they will be converted to new age scarecrows. Thanks. We are also proud to announce that one of the three recipients of our Tikkun Olam Women's Seder Fundraising Efforts this year will be the KJCC Organic Garden. Thank you for your efforts, Jane, on our behalf and on behalf of the whole Upper Keys Community via the harvests you regularly bring to Burton Memorial United Baptist Church's Food Pantry. We are grateful for your green thumb and to new member, retired surgeon Joe Levi, for fixing an issue with the irrigation system.

Women's Seder turns 16

On Sunday night, April 7th, at 5:00 p.m., the women of KJCC will celebrate our 16th Annual Women's Seder with art, music, and delicious homemade food, reading from a meaningful Haggadah focused on taking action towards repairing the world (Tikkun Olam). In addition to honoring a woman from our synagogue (Beth Hayden this year), deepening friendships among KJCC women and women from the greater community, we will raise money for three worthy projects. Cost is $34.00 and your check is your reservation. For more information, see poster on p.16.

KJCC Community Second Night Seder

As we have done for decades, KJCC will be holding its second night Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Saturday, April 20th, at 6:30 p.m. Sisterhood has done a marvelous job of training Vinnie and his staff in the making of matzoh balls, chicken soup and tzimmes, and the seder itself will be led by many of the KJCC ritual leaders. It is our tradition to offer this seder every year so that both our members and traveling visitors will have a place to celebrate the most loved and least synagogue-oriented of holidays, Passover. The price has stayed constant for both members and non-members at $54 per adult. Children under 12 are our guests. We look forward to seeing many members from afar who make a special effort every year to be among us for this special event. Your check is your reservation, and we look forward to singing, drinking our four cups of wine, answering the

four questions, and having a warm, meaningful experience with you. RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com. For more information, see the poster on p.32.

KJCC Family Seder

This year, the first night of Passover will fall on April 19th, a Friday, for the third time in four years. As we have done in the past, we will welcome Shabbat with an early service at 6:30 p.m. KJCC members will be making a first seder, sharing the cooking and other responsibilities, as a KJCC family should. A donation of $20 per person is requested to cover expenses. Joe Shabathai will lead the service and Kathy Shabathai will coordinate the food donations. You can reach her at kathyshabathai@hotmail.com, or 305-772-3935. In order to maintain a comfortable atmosphere, participation will be limited to 55 KJCC members, the maximum we can fit in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall. Your check, delivered to Donna, is your reservation.

Mezuzahs Save the Planet

Well, so far there is only a prototype, but one of our visiting Hillel College students has invented a way to make a beautiful mezuzah out of recycled plastic waste removed from the ocean by our students repairing the seas. Bravo for Tikkun HaYam. From debris to blessing. Look for it as you go from classroom to Social Hall. Kiss it. Photos next issue. This is late-breaking news.

Yizkor Services

The Torah mandates four special services during the course of the year at which we remember and say special prayers for our dear departed. The next mandated Yizkor service for this year will take place on Friday, April 26th at 7:30 and will be led by Dr. Bernard Ginsberg.

Movies, Movies, Movies

This year's movie series is loaded with stimulating choices hand-picked by our shul librarian, Medina Roy. On Saturday, April 13, we will watch "Fill the Void." On Saturday, April 27, the film will be "Conspiracy." There will be four more films in May and titles may be found in "What's Up at KJCC" on p.4. All movies start at 7:00 p.m. (approximately) and are followed by refreshments and discussion. There is no charge and you are welcome to bring friends.

Jewish Meditation Classes Continue

Monday nights at KJCC have taken on a new character since classes in Jewish Meditation have begun. Sometimes in the sanctuary, sometimes in the social hall, Dana Grace has been treating us to a wide array of music, historical context and the use of all our senses in a variety of meditation techniques all intended to lessen stress levels and enrich our lives with practices from a Jewish perspective. The twelve-part series will continue every Monday from 7:00 p.m. (promptly) to 8:30 p.m. through May 9th.

Jazz at KJCC

Ira Sullivan, renowned Jazz musician, playing trumpet and saxophone, will take the stage (bimah) at KJCC on Thursday evening, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. The concert is a production of I.C.E. (Islamorada Community Entertainment), brought to us by impresario David Feder. It should be a very lively and entertaining evening. For more information, see poster on p.24.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut in Miami Beach

May 9th is Israel Independence Day, and we plan to celebrate it with a trip to the Jewish Museum in Miami Beach. We will leave in the morning, visit the museum, have a leisurely lunch and then return to enjoy more exhibits. The fascinating core exhibit details Jewish life in early Florida, but there are some excellent temporary exhibits as well, featuring the art work of photographer Andy Sweet, the sculptures and furniture of Steve Marcus, and a retrospective of the work of Edna Glaubman. From there we will go to The Miami Beach JCC to join in their Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration, which begins at 5 p.m. Contact Dave Mont to sign on, and help work out the details. He can be reached at moogoodave@yahoo.com or 305-393-9883. ◇

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

MOVIES, MEETINGS, MEDITATION AND MORE

Monday, April 1	Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Saturday, April 6	Torah Service with Rabbi Agler 10 AM
Sunday, April 7	Sisterhood Meeting 10 AM • Women's Seder 5 PM
Monday, April 8	Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Saturday, April 13	Movie: Fill the Void 7 PM
Sunday, April 14	KJCC Board Meeting 10 AM
Monday, April 15	Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Friday, April 19	First Seder – KJCC 7 PM
Saturday, April 20	Second Seder – Islamorada Fishing Club 6:30 PM
Monday, April 22	Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Thursday, April 25	Ira Sullivan in Concert – an ICE event 7:00 PM
Saturday, April 27	Movie: Conspiracy 7 PM
Monday, April 29	Sisterhood Book Club at Mangrove Mike's 12 PM Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Saturday, May 4	Movie for Yom Hashoah – Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness7 PM
Sunday, May 5	Sisterhood 9 AM • KJCC board 11 AM
Monday, May 6	Jewish Meditation – Dana Grace 7–8:30 PM
Thursday, May 9	Trip to Jewish Museum & Independence Day celebration at Miami Beach JCC
Friday, May 10	Israeli Independence–Themed Dinner 6 PM
Saturday, May 11	Torah Service with Rabbi Agler 10 AM • Film: Life in Stills 7 PM
Sunday, May 19	Film: Is That You? 7 PM
Sunday, May 26	Film: Inheritance 7 PM

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

FEBRUARY 2019

Unrestricted	In Memory of
Mah Jongg	Andrew Grant
Joan Wohl	–
Susan Ellner	Pauline Roller Mitch Harvey Bianka Kirschenbaum Natalie Dorf Andrew Grant
Susan Ellner	–
Gloria Avner	Bianka Kirschenbaum

Book Plate

Barney Coltman	Eve L. Greenstein – 8 years

Advertiser's Dinner	In Memory of
Jon Tainow & Terri Willner-Tainow	
Stuart & Geri Smith	
Stephen Steinbock	
Arthur Plutzer	
Michael & Lorena Kaufman	

Yahrzeit

Patricia Isenberg	Fannie Phillips
Jerry & Sheila Olsen	Louis Weinstein
Joan Boruszak	Robert Kohlenbrener
Larry & Dottie Wolfe	Maxine Feinberg
Patricia Isenberg	Harry Phillips

MARCH 2019

Unrestricted	In Memory of
Linda Pollack	Bianka Kirschenbaum
Bernie Ginsberg	Bianka Kirsschenbaum
Franklin & Judy Greenman	–
Mah Jongg	–

Yahrzeit	In Memory of
Robert Temkin	Anne Temkin
Marshall & Myra Kaplan	Monty Kaplan Luba Tuchman
Steven & Marsha Harris	Monty Harris
Erica Lieberman-Garrett	Sam Lieberman
Adam & Judy Starr	Alexandra Starr
Laurie Blum	Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein Janet Blum

Service Leaders

April 5 ..... Steve Hartz
April 6 (Promptly at 10am) ..... Rabbi Agler
April 12 ..... Medina Roy
April 19 ..... Steve Steinbock
April 26 ..... Bernie Ginsburg
May 3 ..... Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
May 10 ..... Beth Hayden
May 11 (Promptly at 10am) ..... Rabbi Agler
May 17 ..... Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton
May 24 ..... Ken Atlas
May 31 ..... Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman

April Birthdays

1st ..... Janice Ichel
3rd ..... Justin L. Lebofsky
4th ..... Larry Weber
4th ..... Lauren Lane
4th ..... Thomas Brodie
5th ..... Jon Tainow
9th ..... David Feder
9th ..... Gene Silverman
10th ..... Abigail Everson
10th ..... Addison Greene-Barnett
12th ..... Richard Knowles
13th ..... Julia Berger
13th ..... Moira Knowles
13th ..... Samantha Lebofsky
13th ..... Sylvia Rimm
15th ..... Toby Bofshever
16th ..... Adam Starr
16th ..... Alfred Rimm
16th ..... Dave VanArtsdalen
17th ..... Katie Greenman
17th ..... Susan Ellner
18th ..... Jennifer Garrett
18th ..... Lauren Sax
19th ..... Augie Moss
20th ..... Jonathan Nobil
22nd ..... Robin S. Denker
22nd ..... Susan Temkin
24th ..... Lynn Nobil
24th ..... Susan Gordon
24th ..... Tiffany McNew
25th ..... Shirley Stein
26th ..... Maryann Boruszak
27th ..... Elinor Grossman
28th ..... Joni Sages Dandrea
29th ..... David Goldfinger
29th ..... Linda Pollack
30th ..... Jason Sherman
30th ..... Rachel Barrett

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 bemah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is $400.

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For $36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the wonders that lie between these covers."

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

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

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for information.

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. Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

CHAI-LIGHTS or **DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT**: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, for annual rates.

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

GIFT SHOP: We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, or email her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is $36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Sydney Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman 305-451-0665.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial Methodist Church with a project to provide empty medicine bottles to Haiti where they are needed.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and **ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

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.

May Birthdays

1st ..... Cheryl Margulies
2nd ..... Barney Coltman
4th ..... Laura Leigh Tallent
5th ..... Marissa Stein
5th ..... Richard Palacino
7th ..... Murray Rapoport
7th ..... Scott M. Pearl
7th ..... Skyler Bella Strasser
8th ..... Kelley Greenman
8th ..... Sidney Boruszak
9th ..... Camden James Hudson
9th ..... Gary Margolis
9th ..... Reid Schur
11th ..... Richard Agler
11th ..... Sheila R. Steinberg
12th ..... Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th ..... Nyan Feder
12th ..... Robert Silk
13th ..... Rose Marie Gordon
14th ..... Bernie Ginsberg
14th ..... David Ichel
14th ..... John Temkin
14th ..... Medina Roy
15th ..... Paul R. Schur
18th ..... Andrea P. Silverman
18th ..... Jaime Brennan
18th ..... Sheree Savar
19th ..... Jonathon Hodgson
21st ..... Jerry Herson
22nd ..... Christian Strasser
22nd ..... Sharon Repka
23rd ..... Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd ..... Jenny Margulies
23rd ..... Jules Seder
23rd ..... Nettie Seder
23rd ..... Rita Williams
25th ..... Matthew Birnbaum
27th ..... Alan Beth
27th ..... Jeffrey Pollack
27th ..... Joan Boruszak
29th ..... Liati Mayk
29th ..... Nancy Zinner
29th ..... Robin Forman
31st ..... Judy Starr
31st ..... Mark E. Silverman
31st ..... Robert Sherman
31st ..... Wes Conklin

April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder	53
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith	54
19th	Barat & Rosemary Barefoot	33
20th	David & Janice Ichel	25
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder	23
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz	12

May Anniversaries

		Years
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz	18
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan	47
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl	60
25th	Jay & Marissa Stein	23
28th	George & Lori Richard-son	8

Oneg Sponsors for April & May 2019

April 5:	Nettie & Jules Seder in Honor of their Anniversary
April 12:	Toby & Joel Bofshever in Honor of Toby's Birthday
April 19:	First Seder
April 26:	Kathy & Joe Shabathai in Honor of Passover
May 3:	Sisterhood
May 10:	Bernie Ginsberg & Medina Roy in Honor of their Birthdays
May 17:	Sisterhood
May 24:	Medina Roy in Honor of Bianka Kirschenbaum

Dear Everyone at the KJCC,

I want to express my sincere thanks to you for the second award of my college scholarship. This was under the condition that I had a qualifying GPA after my first semester. I mention this, because that was easier said than done. I have always been a mostly A student in school -- elementary, middle, and high school. However, after my transition and immersion into college, I discovered the level and difficulty were far from what I had ever previously experienced. Honestly, it became really tough and my chemistry class and lab were a real challenge. Despite that, I was finally able to gain the knowledge required. It feels good now, but at first, it was a struggle.

As you know, I recently graduated (with Honors, Cum Laude} from the Coral Reef Senior High School Engineering Magnet Program in Miami. I was then admitted as a freshman in the University of Florida Gator Engineering Program at Santa Fe (College} Program, here in Gainesville. To sum it up, this is indeed a quality educational experience. There are so many things that are new to me. It can almost be overwhelming, especially now, living on my own, so far away from home, family, friends and the KJCC for the first time in my life. And, as you also must know, missing my mother's cooking has been especially difficult for me.

On a good note, receiving the generosity of others to fund my educational pursuits has also been a new experience for me. I am really sincerely appreciative of the faith and confidence you have shown in me by awarding me this scholarship, and I have already put the funds to immediate use. I have applied for scholarships, awards, and grants to cover the costs of my tuition, books, housing and food; but, there are so many students requesting the same assistance from the same sources, that it has not been as successful as I'd hoped.

I mentioned in my essay, that I want to become an electrical engineer and serve my country in the U.S. Navy and government. As an engineer, I have a personal interest in creating-developing-discovering an alternative energy source, and especially the replacement of fossil fuels. I want that to be my contribution to this world for my life. My goals remain unchanged.

I can say that because of the core values that were instilled in me by my family, as an Eagle Scout, and in my years at the KJCC. I may not have been raised as a monetarily wealthy student, but I was raised as a student grateful for a quality education, a value system, and a heartfelt understanding of my heritage. Your award to me will help enable me to pursue my goals and live the life I have envisioned. I am sincerely appreciative. There is a lot of hard academic work ahead of me, and, unfortunately, it will come at a price. That is something that worries me, as my family and I do not have the financial resources to meet all of the expenses, despite my best academic efforts. This is why the generosity you have bestowed on me is so very valuable and will be life-changing. I want to express that to you, that your contribution to my future is taken very seriously, will not be wasted, and you will be proud of my future accomplishments.

I thank you for your confidence in me and for your financial contribution toward this educational opportunity in my life. I will succeed, and it will be, in part, due to your help.

Very respectfully,
HARRY J. C. FRIEDMAN
UF Gator Engineering Program

Harry Friedman and mom Jane celebrate his 21st birthday by becoming racecar drivers. Home from college, Harry catches up on his great love -- his Mom's cooking.

KJCC's Adult Education Program

Proudly Presents Its

Third Annual KJCC Winter Film Fest

Sponsored in part by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In loving memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez

Sat., Apr. 13, 2019	Fill The Void
Sat., Apr. 27, 2019	Conspiracy
Sat., May 4, 2019	Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness
Sat., May 11, 2019	Life In Stills
Sun., May 19, 2019	Is That You?
Sun., May 26, 2019	Inheritance
Sun., June 2, 2019	Beneath The Helmet

All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME – There is no charge

REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards

For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com

DINNER WITH RABBIS

NOURISHMENT FOR BODY & SOUL

On Monday evening, February 11th, we who were fortunate enough to attend, sat down for dinner with nine rabbis and their spouses. The dinner of course was wonderful, but what followed was even more unique, exciting, and uplifting. We were privileged to be part of a learning session in which the "rabbi of rabbis," Steven Sager, he who was scheduled to hold seminars with Rabbi Agler and his colleagues all that week, shared his insights and skill with us. Ask anyone who was there and you will see eyes light up and hear superlatives flow. We are in discussion now with this inspiring rabbi to continue learning with him next year. How generous that our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler, sent us this thank you letter when we of course are the ones truly thankful to him for sharing.

Dear All who helped make this happen,

On behalf of my colleagues and their spouses, please accept our deepest thanks for hosting us all last Monday evening at the KJCC. The program met every hope, goal, and expectation that anyone could have had for it.

It was an opportunity for the congregation to interact with a group of rabbis—likely the largest contingent ever assembled in Tavernier! And vice versa: my colleagues were likewise fascinated as they learned about our local Jewish community. In addition, we all had the chance to learn from Rabbi Steven Sager, a first-rate scholar of modern Jewish poetry and we were, of course, well fed.

So again, on behalf of us all, thank you to one and all who invited, prepared, and participated in what was a most memorable evening. We are most grateful!

Best, shalom, u'lehitraot,

R

Now After Living Many Years

Now, after living many years, I am beginning to see
that I did not rebel except a bit and I fulfill all the laws and commandments.
I fulfill the law of gravity, the law of the earth's pull,
with all my body, with all my might, and with all my love
I fulfill the law of equilibrium and the law of preservation of matter,
my soul and my soul, my body and my body, my soul and my body.
I fulfill the fear of emptiness with my pain and with my joy
I fulfill the law of interlinked vessels, past and future are returned
to me. I rise and I raise with the law of the lever.
I begin to understand, as with a car that is already old
how it works, the workings of pistons and brakes
reward and punishment, be fruitful and multiply, forgetting and remembering, screws and springs
fast and slow and laws of history.
This is the utterance of the years of my life to the days of my life
This is the utterance of my soul to the parts of my body,
This is a sermon for the synagogue, a eulogy
for the dead, burial and resurrection. *The utterance of the man.**

(*2 Samuel 23:1, the final words of David.)
Amichai/Sager

עַכְשָׁו אַחַר הַרְבֵּה שָׁנוֹת חַיִּים אֲנִי מַתְחִיל לִרְאוֹת
שֶׁלֹּא מָרַדְתִּי אֶלָּא מְעַט וַאֲנִי מְקַיֵּם אֶת כָּל הַחֻקִּים וְכָל מִצְוֹת.
אֲנִי מְקַיֵּם חֹק הַכּוֹבֶד, הוּא חֹק מְשִׁיחַת הָאֲדָמָה,
בְּכָל גּוּפִי וּבְכָל מְאֹדִי וּבְכָל אַהֲבָתִי.
אֲנִי מְקַיֵּם חֹק שְׁווּי מִשְׁקָל וְחֹק שִׁמּוּר הֶחֳמָרִים,
גּוּפִי וְגוּפִי נַפְשִׁי וְנַפְשִׁי וְגוּפִי וְנַפְשִׁי.
אֲנִי מְקַיֵּם אֶת פַּחַד הַרֵיקָנוּת בִּכְאֵבִי וּבְשִׂמְחָתִי
אֲנִי מְקַיֵּם חֹק הַכֵּלִים הַשְּׁלוּבִים, עָבָר וְעָתִיד מֻחְזָרִים
אֵלַי. אֲנִי קָם וַאֲנִי מַקִּים בְּחֹק הַמָּנוֹף.
אֲנִי מַתְחִיל לְהָבִין, כְּמוֹ בִּמְכוֹנִית שֶׁהִיא כְּבַר יְשָׁנָה
אֵיךְ הִיא עוֹבֶדֶת, פְּעוּלַּת בֶּכְנוֹת וּבְלָמִים
שָׂכָר וְעֹנֶשׁ, פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ, שָׁכוֹחַ וְזָכוֹר, בְּרָגִים וּקְפָצִים
מַהֵר וּלְאַט וְחֻקֵּי הַהִסְטוֹרְיָה.
זֶה נְאוּם שְׁנוֹת חַיַּי אֶל יְמֵי חַיַּי
זֶה נְאוּם נַפְשִׁי אֶל חֶלְקֵי גּוּפִי,
זוֹ דְּרָשָׁה בְּבֵית כְּנֶסֶת, זֶה הֶסְפֵּד
לַמֵּתִים, זוֹ קְבוּרָה וְזוֹ תְּחִיָּה. נְאוּם הַגֶּבֶר.

FIRST NIGHT MISHPACHAH SEDER

A HAIMISHE EVENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

FOLLOWING

6:30 P.M. SERVICES

AT THE

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Limited Seating - to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish, Contact Kathy Shabathai, kathyshabathai@hotmail.com - 305-772-3935

Donation: $20 - Mail to KJCC, PO Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

The State of Our Synagogue

An Address by Outgoing President Beth Hayden At KJCC's Annual Meeting

Our mission has been to be a spiritual, intellectual, and cultural center for our membership, offering worship experiences that appeal to mind, heart, and soul; offering support at all life cycle events; providing meaningful education to members of all ages; offering programs which foster friendship, warmth, and kindness inside this building; and providing connections to the Jewish community in general. The KJCC, because of its unique mission to provide these supports and services, fulfills an important and irreplaceable function; were we not here, the Keys would be without a formal Jewish presence, resource, or service for 130 miles extending from Homestead and South Miami down to Key West.

We did not have to survive a destructive hurricane this year. Nevertheless we experienced hardships. We experienced the loss of several valued KJCC members during the past year including our beloved Matriarch, Pauline Roller, who left us at 103 years of age.

Regrettably, this year we continue with no religious school because we have no children of school age. The good news is that we do have children in the pipeline and once they are of age, the KJCC religious school will rise, like the Phoenix, from the ashes of slumber. We do have, once again, a very strong adult education program under the capable guidance of Medina Roy. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal will be back to continue educating us on Kabbalah later in the year. If you missed his presentation last year, I would really urge you to be sure to take advantage of his return. You will never regret it. Sylvia Rimm presented an outstanding program on managing smart children. Miles Hoffman presented a witty and entertaining program on Jewish Contributions to American Music in early February that was very well received by all. Jan Hartz will offer an outstanding presentation on Swimming with Whales in March; we have so many activities, you might well consider pitching a tent in the back and saving yourselves the drive back and forth to Shul. We have an ongoing series of films here at the KJCC and other speakers, subjects and offerings Medina has lined up during the coming months. I, unfortunately, have had to cancel the March 31st program I planned to

After outgoing President Beth's Speech, Joyce, incoming President, presented her with a plaque honoring her contributions.

present because of recent events, but perhaps that means I can offer something more involved and longer later in the year. You are invited to all KJCC events – please attend – they are for your edification and entertainment.

This is certainly a testament to the unique position the KJCC occupies in the Keys – here we are at MM 93.1 with such a rich and varied offering of Jewish entertainment and education in the breadth of subjects covered. We should never be complacent about that or take it for granted.

Equally important, we have had community events to just enjoy each other's company or move the spirit as evidenced by our Shabbat dinners. For sure none of us will starve while at the KJCC. Tremendous thanks to Susan Gordon and Sisterhood for the absolutely outstanding contributions they make to the KJCC. We dine very well on a monthly basis with beautiful decorations and copious amounts of delicious food. Patrons like Linda Pollack and Joyce Peckman sponsor dinners so that we do not have to charge our members. Great thanks to them and to all the wonderful cooks in our KJCC mishpachah.

Then we must thank Gloria Avner – who does an outstanding job as Ritual Chair and, since she did not have enough to do, also took over as editor of Chai-Lights. From minor holidays to the High Holydays, Gloria enriches the KJCC with creative rituals and services. And that leads to thanking all our service leaders and wait! I have more – thanks to Marc Bloom for his behind the scenes activities, Jane Friedman who manages the garden and makes us healthy with her wonderful dishes, Ken Atlas who quietly comes every month to update our Yahrzeit Boards and provides security at no charge at all for our High Holyday services, Steve Hartz and Linda Kaplan who keep me on the straight and narrow (more or less) Erica Lieberman- Garrett who organizes beyond organization. And Jules and Nettie Seder who are always there when you need someone. Do we have an emerging theme?

What is the state of the KJCC? It is currently very strong, because we are gifted with individuals who give of themselves to make the KJCC what it is. We have a beautiful building, we are financially on very solid ground thanks to the generosity of our members, in particular thanks to Stan

The entire new Board of directors swearing to work faithfully for the good of KJCC. We are so grateful to our hardworking, generous board members. These individuals make our Place a home away from home, both a shul and the warm, welcoming activity packed Jewish Community Center it has become.

and Jenny Margulies for their belief in the KJCC and their generosity to us, and thanks to Linda Kaplan and Donna Bolton who have shepherded KJCC funds with extreme attention to maximizing our returns. Thanks also to Barney Coltman, who has donated hours without charge to assist us in keeping our financial records in compliance with standard accounting procedures. Joyce Peckman, you have filled a void and taken on the difficult task as incoming president. May haShem reward all of you as you richly deserve. Sisterhood has gained members for the KJCC through its Book Club and thanks to Steve Hartz, who has begun an outreach initiative, we have been to Marathon and will, in the future, outreach to Ocean Reef. I think these outreach activities will strengthen our membership in the future. As we stand here today in the Margulies Family Sanctuary, I would like to ask all the members of the current Board to stand along with prospective Board members and I would ask you to offer them all a very sincere thank you and a well deserved round of applause. These are the people who make the KJCC run.

So I think our emerging theme is that we are as strong as the people who enter this place and give of their time to make the KJCC what it is. Without the people who make this happen, we would have an empty shell of a building. A beautiful shell but, still, just a shell.

Right now we are strong. But we need to remain strong for the future. So I submit to you an urgent appeal to be ambassadors for our future. We need to have new people willing to donate their time and efforts in the service of KJCC. We need bodies and minds in training to take over and become the future leaders of the KJCC. That is crucially important to our future and I ask your assistance in helping us to accomplish that. I would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers whose work makes this community so unique. The effort, enthusiasm, and care that you bring into this building are remarkable. In closing, the KJCC is not the possession or undertaking of a single person – it is the result of composite efforts made by many individuals. The

Jules Seder led the swearing in ceremony

KJCC is a precious entity that belongs to all of us and depends on all of us to survive. Therefore I invite you to become actively involved and support your incoming President as she conducts the business of our Shul. One of the most fundamental differences between Christians and Jews is that Christians put great emphasis on what you believe, while Jews put great emphasis on what you do. One of my favorite Rabbis, Rebbe Nachum of Breslav asked "If you are not a better person tomorrow than you are today, what need have you for a tomorrow?" – Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

We are custodians of an ancient and modern system of laws and traditions that guide us in our actions. If the human experience can be likened to an orchestral concert of multiple voices, let us be part of the human symphony and let our voices ring loud and clear.

Thank you all for your attention and I extend best wishes for the incoming President and Board. ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center

16th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday
April 7, 2019
5:00 PM @ KJCC
Homemade Seder Dinner

Come celebrate the 16th KJCC Women's Seder.

Donation: $18 chai
+ $16.00 for 16 years -
Total cost is $34.

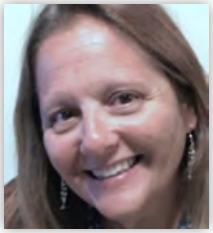
Join us in celebration as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam - repair the world.

Limited seating - Please RSVP by April 1st
Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com
(305) 393-1162

Mail your check, payable to KJCC Sisterhood, to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

SISTERHOOD

Susan Gordon



As we enter into springtime in the Florida Keys, we see our days getting longer, allowing us more time to enjoy the many rewarding outdoor activities that first lured us here. For me, that means boating, fishing, kayaking, swimming and bike riding. Those are just some of the things that keep me occupied during the daylight hours. Evenings are eagerly welcomed, while first taking the time to watch a beautiful sunset over Florida bay, transitioning from day to evening dusk by sounding three long blasts on my Conch Shell horn. Living life in the Florida Keys, even after 34 years, remains idyllic to me. My routines have most certainly changed, though. Until recent years, I was a dive business owner, wife, and mother raising a daughter, all of which kept me extremely busy. There was, however, always a constant -- the KJCC, and my involvement within it. KJCC is, and always has been, my sanctuary. It is where I belong. The members of the KJCC are my Keys family. Everything that I do for the KJCC feels natural to me. Life is good, and the KJCC makes it even better!

Holding the position of Sisterhood President gives me the opportunity, alongside other talented women, to plan and implement many activities to enhance the social experiences for the greater KJCC membership. I feel that, through these activities, we are bringing members together as friends and family. This is very important in our community. Each week, the women of Sisterhood work hard to ensure that everyone who attends Shabbat services is treated to a bountiful Oneg celebration following the evening prayer service.

We have two busy months ahead of us, filled with activities to look forward to. Sisterhood meets the first Sunday of each month at 10 am. We welcome and encourage all female members of the KJCC to attend these planning meetings. Please be sure to add to your calendars the mornings of April 7th and May 5th.

The Holiday of Passover brings the opportunity to celebrate with other KJCC members by attending and participating in a Seder. Although Passover doesn't begin until April 19th, Sisterhood is holding our 16th Annual Women's Seder on the evening of Sunday, April 7th at 5pm. Cost is $34. All proceeds are donated to three needy organizations as part of our Tikkun Olam efforts (to heal the world). Seating is limited, so please RSVP to Erica just as soon as you can. Sisterhood also organizes the KJCC Annual Community Second Night Seder. This Seder, held at the Islamorada Fishing Club will be on the evening of Saturday, April 20th at 6:30 pm. Cost is $54 per person. Please RSVP to Beth Hayden. Vegetarian options are available if you request when making your reservation with Beth.

The KJCC Sisterhood Book Club meets monthly on the last Monday of each month at 12 Noon. The book being discussed for April is "The Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish. Please join other members of our vibrant book club on Monday, April 29th at 12 Noon, at Mangrove Mike's Café in Islamorada. To RSVP, contact Randi Grant.

Looking ahead to May, we plan to celebrate Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day, on Friday, May 10th, at 6pm, with an Israeli food themed Shabbat Dinner. Services will follow; then be prepared to do some Israeli Folk dances during our Oneg celebration that evening! ◇

In Memoriam – April 2019

Clara Bloom
By Marc Bloom

Baruch Epstein
By Joan Boruszak

Mark Hitzig
By Wes & Rita Conklin

Frances Wolfe
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Belle Scaller
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

Gertrude F. Kaplan
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Zelda Pearl
By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl

Jean Blumenfeld
By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Sylvia Weiner
By Nelson & Roberta Chester

Faye Klein
By Hanna David

Bill Gordon
By Susan Gordon

Harry Grossman
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

Nathan Klein
By Harvey & Judith Klein

Dorothy Ross
By Joyce Peckman

Audrey Pearlman
By William & Donna Bolton

Ellen Coltman
By Barnet O. Coltman

Maurice Field
By Carol Field

Marty Graham
By Mrs. Marty Graham

Stella Hartz
By Steven & Jan Hartz

Arlene Sugarman Margolis
By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Erwin Moss
By Linda Pollack

Dr. Joel Pollack
By Linda Pollack

Dolores Feldman
By Jeffrey Schocket

Louis S. Smith
By Steven & Barbara Smith

Ida Tallent
By Lillian Tallent

Louise Folks Baker
By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Richard Schulberg
By Elaine Schulberg

Morris Smith
By Stuart & Geri Smith

Charles Kram
By Sanford Yankow

Sam Sax
By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Ginger Lewis
By Robert Silk

Mrs. Anne Miller
By Shirley Stein

David Wernicoff
By Donald Zinner

Sanctuary Seat Plate

In Our Thoughts
Kurt Kluger

Sanctuary Seat Plate

In Our Thoughts
Fanny Kluger

In Memoriam – May 2019

Carol Steinberg
By Richard & Mindy Agler

Neil H. Tomor
By Barbara A. Calev

Jerry Abramowitz
By Naomi Copeland

Vivian Faye
By Sydney Faye-Davis

Belle Kirschenbaum
By Marilyn Greenbaum

Morris Moshe Grossman
By Stuart Grossman

Fred Klimpl
By Michael Klimpl

Helen Berman
By Sylvia Berman

Charles S. Cohn
By Nancy L. Cohn

Gertrude Weisberg
By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Carmel Catanese
By Jane Friedman

Amalia Kahn
By Franklin & Judy Greenman

Rose Herson
By Jerry & Barbara Herson

Marilyn Janet Barr
By Michael Klimpl

Nat Feldblum
By Marc Bloom

Becky Kanowsky
By Wes & Rita Conklin

Alex Perl
By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Julie Gorson-Marrow
By Janice Gorson

Shirley Grossman
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

Esther Jacobs
By Lawrence Jacobs

Morris Kornbloom
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

George Nobil
By Lynn Nobil

Rene Rose
By Skip Rose

Sally Shabathai
By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Claire Smith
By Stuart & Geri Smith

Susan Cimkowski
By Stephen Steinbock

Benjamin Weber
By Judith Weber

Norma Cutler
By Donald Zinner

Rabbi Milton Greenwald
By Paul & Susan Roberts

Lilyan Sax
By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Elaine Beth Silverman
By Morton & Gene Silverman

Cantor Alex Chapin
By Steven & Barbara Smith

Ida S. Reider
By George & Muriel Swartz

Dr. Milton A. Wohl
By Joan P. Wohl

Maryann Sandusky
By Skip Rose

Robert Schur
By Lee Schur

Robert W. Singer
By Mary Lee Singer

Rose Wainer
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Phillip Temkin
By Robert Temkin

Hilda Mazur
By Sanford Yankow

Dr. Joel Pollack
By Linda Pollack

Bill Gordon
By Susan Gordon

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER

Celebrating Israel Independence Day
Yom HaAtzma'ut

Israel's Independence Day is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. The original date corresponded to May 14, 1948.

Join us on Friday, May 10, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. for Israeli Food, Music, and Folk Dancing!

ישראל

- Contact Susan Gordon -

susangordon424@yahoo.com - (305) 766-3585

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please rsvp by May 5th - No Charge

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy

An Important Step Forward

In early March, Pope Francis announced that a Vatican secret archive – one that scholars, both Jewish and non-Jewish, have for decades called upon the Vatican to open to the public – will indeed be opened to the public on March 2, 2020. This archive relates to the bitter controversy regarding the role played by Holocaust-era Pope Pius XII in the wartime treatment of European Jews. "The church is not afraid of history," Francis said, in announcing this major change to church policy. Pius XII was the pope from March 2, 1939 to October 9, 1958. For years, his role during the Holocaust has been vigorously contested. Critics accuse him of having turned a blind eye to Jewish suffering. The Vatican has long claimed that he worked behind the scenes to save Jews. The most serious charge made against Pius XII by his critics, both Catholic and Jewish, is that he was inactive, indifferent, and ineffective in the face of Nazi Germany's horrific policy of mass murder during the Holocaust and that Pius XII's "silence" and inaction, as Europe's most important moral voice, helped seal the fate of the Jews in Europe. Information and records in the archive should help clarify, if not fully settle, the controversy. Bishop Sergio Pagano, Prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, said that Vatican archivists began preparing the hundreds of thousands of pages back in 2006. "Pope Francis's decision to make these materials now fully open and available for international scholarly research is enormously important to Catholic-Jewish relations," said Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee (AJC) International Director of Interreligious Affairs. (www.washingtonpost.com, 3-4-19)

Seeking Ways to Reconnect

The results of unprecedented genetic research undertaken by dozens of professors from all over the world has provided evidence that almost twenty-five percent of Latinos and Hispanics have a significant amount of Jewish DNA. For decades there has been speculation that among the populations of Latin America, North America and Europe there is significant Jewish ancestry and much of that speculation was consistent with historical data. Hundreds of thousands of Jews had been forced to either convert or leave in Spain and then Portugal. These people have been referred to as Anousim, Marranos, Conversos and Crypto-Jews. An unknown number who fled the Iberian Peninsula came to the New World during the Age of Discovery, late in the 15th century.

The recently completed study, published in December 2018, revealed that the number of descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jewish communities is much higher than ever suggested. There could be as many as 200 million descendants of these Jewish communities around the world today (out of a total of approximately 770 million total descendants of Spain and Portugal – the last approximate number conducted by the United Nations in 2016.) An organization called "Reconectar" has a mission to facilitate the reconnection of the descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jewish communities to the modern Jewish world. It has conducted a number of studies exploring the attitudes of tens of thousands of these descendants towards their ancestry. The studies revealed that at least fourteen percent are interested in identifying in some way with the

Jewish people and that as many as thirty percent are aware of some Jewish ancestry. That indicates that millions of people outside the conventional Jewish community are searching, in varying ways, for reconnection. (www.jpost.com, 3-1-19)

The Disappearing Dead Sea

The Dead Sea – a natural wonder, Earth's saltiest body of water and the lowest measured sea-level on earth (plus a place where you can spread some mud all over your body and feel rejuvenated) – is quickly disappearing. In the 1930s, the Dead Sea (technically a lake) spread over 385 square miles. Today it reaches only 250. According to Israel's Water Authority, the drop in sea level is the result of two primary factors: the diversion of water sources and mineral extraction. Originally, water from the Jordan River and its tributary, the Yarmouk River, flowed south and filled up the Dead Sea. But in the past few decades, dams were built in Israel, Syria and Jordan, and as a result almost completely prevented the natural flow of water into the Dead Sea. The pumping carried out by the Israeli and Jordanian mineral factories on both shores of the Dead Sea has further worsened water levels. As a result, the Dead Sea's water level has been dropping at an astounding rate of three feet per year. This is "an ongoing ecological disaster generated by human activity," according to EcoPeace Middle East, an NGO that brings together Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian environmentalists. Why care? The Dead Sea is a geologically and environmentally unique area, home to rare and special animals, vegetation and geological phenomena. (www.israel21c.org, 2-7-19)

The Secret Red Sea Diving Resort

In the early 1980s, Israeli secret agents opened a diving resort on the Sudanese shores of the Red Sea as a front to clandestinely operate a mission to rescue Ethiopian Jews from Sudan to bring them to safety in Israel. During the course of several years, the "resort" enabled some 6,000 Jewish refugees suffering from persecution, war and famine to flee by boat and plane to a new life in Israel. The mission – codenamed "Operation Brothers" – began around 1978. Undercover Mossad agents posing as a European tourist company rented an abandoned resort village in Sudan, an enemy country to Israel. Even though the operation was a front for the rescue, it did accept real tourists through a shell company in Switzerland so that the Sudanese authorities wouldn't be suspicious. The agents brought in Israeli diving experts and a deep-sea diver who spoke fluent German. "It's one of those stories that are hard to believe," said Gad Shimron, one of the Mossad agents who operated the "resort." "It was the only time when Europeans had extracted Africans from the continent not to be enslaved but to be freed." In 1984, not long after "Operation Brothers" ended, the Israeli government began the months-long "Operation Moses," another secret mission to rescue some 8,000 Ethiopian Jews stuck in Sudan. "Operation Solomon" followed, this time rescuing more than 14,000 in May 1991. "The Red Sea Diving Resort" will be made into a feature film sometime later in 2019. (Watch for it at KJCC's Jewish Film Festival next season.) (www.israel21c.org, 1-21-19)

Israel Comes in at #10

In the Bloomberg Healthiest Country Index, published at the end of February, 169 nations were scored based on factors such as life expectancy, access to sanitation and availability of medical care. Countries were penalized for obesity and use of tobacco, among other health risks. The State of Israel was ranked number ten – 54 spots ahead of the United States. Not surprisingly, the Mediterranean diet – common in Israel as well as in Spain (who ranked number 1 on the list) and Italy (number 2) – was noted in Bloomberg's analysis. "The Mediterranean diet, supplemented with extra virgin olive oil or nuts, has a lower rate of major cardiovascular events than those assigned to a reduced-fat diet," a study cited by Bloomberg reported. The U.S. placed only 64th mostly because of its high obesity rate. The Centers for Disease Control recently released figures estimating that about 40 percent of U.S. residents – over 93 million of us – are obese. (www.jpost.com, 2-25-19)

Robert Kraft: The Good News

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, 77, is the winner of this year's $1 million Genesis Prize, also referred to as the "Jewish Nobel Prize." Kraft plans to give the money "to initiatives combatting anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice as well as attempts to de-legitimize the State of Israel." Stan Polovets, Genesis Prize chairman and co-founder, called Kraft, the Jewish National Football League (NFL) owner and businessman, "one of the world's most generous philanthropists, whose charitable giving reflects the Jewish value of tikkun olam – repairing the world." The award honors individuals who serve "as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through their outstanding achievement along with their commitment to Jewish values and the Jewish people." Over many years, the Kraft family has given over half a billion dollars to many causes, including cancer research and treatment, health care, education, the Jewish community, interfaith relations, Christian organizations and local needs. According to Forbes, Kraft has a net worth of $6.6 billion and is the 79th richest American. He grew up in an Orthodox family in Brookline, Massachusetts. He will receive the award at a gala in Jerusalem in June. (www.jta.org, 1-9-19)

Robert Kraft: The Bad News

At the end of February, formal charges were filed against Robert Kraft (and two dozen other defendants) for soliciting prostitutes in a Jupiter, Florida spa that was part of a broader sex trafficking investigation. He was charged with a first-degree misdemeanor. The charge carries a mandatory $5,000 fine, 100 hours of community service, and a mandatory class on prostitution and human trafficking. (The accused also face jail time of 60 days to one year, although prison sentences are usually not given to first-time offenders.) The sheriff's office which opened the investigation maintains that "the spa employees lived in poor conditions, never leaving the massage parlors and working seven days per week." Under its personal conduct policy, the NFL said that it will "take appropriate action as warranted based on the facts." It could levy fines on owners like Kraft or suspend him from any or all activities involving the Patriots for breaking the league's code of conduct. Kraft has categorically denied that he engaged in any type of illegal activity. (www.jpost.com, 2-26-19)

Robert Kraft: The Update…

Stan Polovets, Genesis Prize co-founder, announced that Robert Kraft will still receive the Genesis Prize and has his full support, in spite of the prostitution sting charged against Kraft. "The incident…is unfortunate," Polovets said. "However, as of now, it remains an unproven allegation…In democratic countries, everyone is entitled to the presumption of innocence and I have no reason to doubt Robert's word." The twelve members of the two committees that choose Genesis Prize laureates selected Kraft unanimously. (www.forward.com, 2-28-19)

In Memoriam

Stanley Donen, filmmaker, director and choreographer, best known for the 1952 musical "Singin' in the Rain," died at the end of February. He was 94. Donen grew up in Columbia, South Carolina and faced anti-Semitic bullying, his family being one of the only Jewish families in his community. The movies provided an escape for him and turned him on to the world of acting and dancing. He met Gene Kelly when they worked on the original Broadway production of Rodgers and Hart's "Pal Joey," when Donen, then a dancer of sixteen, was in the chorus and Kelly was cast as the lead. (In the 1940 Broadway version, Joey was mainly a dancer.) They met again in Hollywood and began working together. He became Kelly's assistant, choreographer and later co-director. (Donen also worked with Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra and Fred Astaire.) His other notable films included "On the Town" (1949), "Royal Wedding" (1951), "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (1954), "Funny Face" (1957), "Indiscreet" (1958), and "Charade" (1963). Donen never received an Academy Award nomination (though his films often did), but he was given an honorary Oscar for life achievement in 1998. (www.haaretz.com, 2-23-19)

Did You Know…

- An Israeli spacecraft successfully launched

aboard a SpaceX rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral on February 21st on the way to the moon. If it lands successfully, it will make Israel the fourth country ever – after the Soviet Union, the United States and China – to land a spacecraft on the moon. The craft is named "Beresheet," Hebrew for the first Book of the Torah. The lunar lander is expected to touch down on the moon in early April. (www.jpost.com, 2-24-19)

• By the end of February, more than 8,500 donors – individuals, companies and organizations – from across 48 states and some eight countries, had given more than $6.3 million to a fund set up by the local Jewish federation for those affected by the tragic October 2018 Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. The bulk of the money (about $5.3 million) went to the families of the eleven killed and others injured in the attack. Another $500,000 was set aside for injured police officers, who will also receive other funds from outside the Jewish community. (www.jpost.com, 3-6-19)

• At the end of February, Israeli director Guy Nattiv won an Academy Award for "Best Live-Action Short" for his film Skin. The English-language film is set in America and follows the story of neo-Nazi racists. The last time an Israeli director won an Oscar was in 1978, when Moshe Mizrachi received an Academy Award for Madame Rosa. He won for the major category of "Best Foreign-Language Film." (www.israel21c.org, 2-25-19) ◇

PHOTO GALLERY

Wedding of Gena Bofshever, daughter of Joel and Toby and sister of Dori, to Bobby Alon, on February 24 in Weston.

Celebrating Randi Grant's birthday @ mah jongg

Thank you, Activities Committee (Dave Mont and Susan Gordon for getting us to go see and hear the Isle of Klesbos, a very talented Klezmer band. We'll try to bring them to KJCC next year.

Mary Lee and Jeffrey

r. Steve Smith and Barbara are honored by Jan and Steve Hartz for hosting the mobile minyan at their home in Marathon.

Erica makes hamotzi after leading services

Richard Knowles treated us to his excellent voice and a moving Torah talk about the heart while leading Shabbat eve services on March 1st. Welcome back to the roster. (We are looking for more co-leaders too and will happily pair you with someone experienced. Contact Gloria Geetavner@gmail.com)

We celebrate two birthdays in one Oneg. Happy day and year to Steve Steinbock and Joan Wohl's visiting daughter.

We are fortunate to have strong women like Linda Kaplan capable of carrying our Torahs in Shabbat morning services.

Newest Chai-Lights Advertisers Lacy Herlth and Katie Uhl ,partners in Duotone Design Co., and newly in charge of ChaiLights production.

Chana and Stu and Geri Smith

Rabbi Ed's Scubi Jews arrive for a week of "camping in" at KJCC and volunteering to do Tikkun HaYam work (repair of the seas). Looks like the happy campers (at least one) like to clean: they leave our Shul well taken care of. We love their youthful energy and commitment to making the world a better place, both on land and sea. It's nearly 10 years since Rabbi Ed first came here with his students. We love the learning he shares and the fact that he considers KJCC his home away from home. Hope you enjoyed his Torah talk and Kabbalah teachings.

Judy Greenman offers introduction to exercises for pain-free living to KJCC members

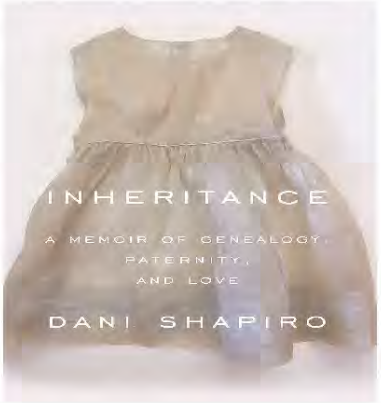
Joe Shabathai leads post service kiddush (and will lead KJCC's first night Seder).

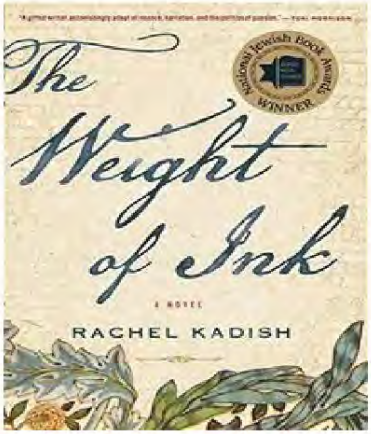
Nancy Kluger, Medina Roy and Marcia Kreitman at Gloria's Batik class. A date for KJCC Batik is in the works.

KJCC Sisterhood Book Club

Monday
March 25, 2019 - Noon
Mangrove Mike's Cafe
MM 82.2 Bayside, Islamorada

INHERITANCE
BY DANI SHAPIRO





Monday
April 29, 2019 - Noon
Mangrove Mike's Cafe
MM 82.2 Bayside, Islamorada

THE WEIGHT OF INK
BY RACHEL KADISH

RSVP and more information - Randi Grant - rkgcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320

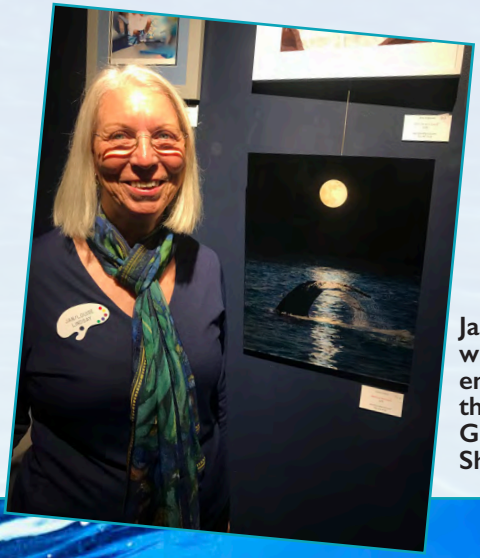
KJCC Sisterhood Book Club Hosts Rabbi Agler

This gathering was a special event, on many levels. Exactly one year earlier, the Book Club had held its inaugural meeting in the same place, the beautiful home of Linda Pollack, with an equally large crowd and another generous potluck lunch. Since then the club had met strictly in restaurants, the attendees had been exclusively women, though men are welcome, and the numbers of attendees rarely hit double digits. But this was our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler, coming to discuss with us his newly published book, The Tragedy Test, and though we are familiar with the painful tale of Mindy and Rich's daughter's death, we had read the book and appreciated the shared insights, difficulties, struggles and breakthroughs that Rich had gleaned from the experience and shared with us.

Harold Kushner, author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People," predicted that the book would be helpful to others who had also suffered inexplicable loss. He was right, and everyone in attendance was grateful for the sharing.

Jan Hartz Shares Beautiful Whale Tales

KJCC Member Jan Louise Lindsay Hartz stands in the afterglow of her successful Sunday evening presentation on her trip swimming with humpback whales last year. More than 85 people filled the sanctuary, a feat rarely accomplished for events other than High Holidays, concerts and tragedies. It is good that the greater Upper Keys Community is getting comfortable among us. Many of the attendees were members of the Purple Isles Art Guild. The description of the event as an intersection of science, artistic endeavor



Jan Hartz, with her entry at the Art Guild Show.

One of three photographs taken by Jan up close and personal, now hanging in the social Hall.

and spirituality brought to us a wide array of interested and interesting people.

The faces were familiar, the comments enthusiastic and book sales seemed to be flourishing. It was good to see more KJCC members too than we usually see at this uniquely lovely evening presented by our Education Committee.

Make sure to look at the beautiful photographs created by Jan after her trip, now hanging in the social hall. There will be books here for sale in the gift shop as well. ◇

Jan signs one of her books to a member of the larger Keys community.

Beth Kamenstein and recently returned Sam Weis enjoyed the night's program, the company and discussed possibilities for future arts programming.

KJCC Annual Community Passover Second Seder

Tuesday, April 20, 2019

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

104 Madeira Road, Islamorada, FL 33036

MM 82.1 Bayside behind Lorelei

For information and reservations contact
Beth Hayden
hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net (305) 773-0067
Your check is your reservation. Mail your check, payable to KJCC Sisterhood, to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.
Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after April 1.
Vegetarian options are available - please request when making your reservation.

Donations:

Adults $54; children 12 and under are our guests.

PASSOVER:
GRATITUDE FOR FREEDOM AND SOUL FOOD WITH CRUNCH

By Joyce Peckman

Jews are called the "People of the Book" and on Passover our book is the Haggadah. This book is read around a dining table, along with friends and family. For me, that scene epitomizes what our faith is all about: history, prayer, thankfulness, friends, family and food.

Food is one of the more difficult aspects of Judaism. For the observant Jew, a lot is already off limits. No shellfish or fish without scales (eel, catfish, shark, skate are examples); no pork products (that includes bacon, Italian sausage and lard), no furry little animals like squirrel or rabbit. Then there is the prohibition against mixing milk with meat, so bye-bye cheeseburger.

Along comes Passover, and the strictures multiply. Many people, like me, who aren't very kosher outside their homes, will "become orthodox" with their food during the week of Passover.

Keeping kosher for Passover means abstaining from hametz, the fermented products of five grains: wheat, rye, spelt, barley and oats. Matzah is made from grain, but it is produced under highly controlled conditions to ensure that it does not ferment. Shemurah matzah is literally "guarded" from the moment the wheat is harvested. The wheat is ground in a mill which has been cleaned, dried and inspected by rabbis, then watched as it transported to the bakery, to make sure no water touches it. The dough is generally kneaded and shaped by hand. Holes are made to prevent air pockets from forming that might keep the dough from completely cooking within 18 minutes. Shemurah matzoh is believed to be similar to the unleavened bread carried in haste by the Children of Israel as they fled Egypt. For that reason, many people believe that the prayers recited during the seder should be over shemurah matzah. My sons love the stuff, even though it is more expensive than the Streits or Manischewitz machine-made varieties. I think it sometimes tastes like cooked cardboard. Because it is baked quickly in a very hot oven, it is more burnt than the machine-made, and often has broken pieces. Although the broken pieces can't be used to make a blessing, they are just fine with charoset or chopped liver.

We are told in the Bible to remove all leaven from our homes. For me, that means using up the bagels and cakes in my freezer as the holiday approaches, then emptying my closets of opened cracker and cereal boxes, taking off the couch cushions to vacuum out cookie crumbs and thoroughly cleaning the fridge. Anything opened gets tossed. Anything unopened gets boxed or segregated in a taped cabinet. But it is still in my home…how to deal with that? The rabbis found a method: sell the chametz! Rabbi Zucker is my go-to-guy. I go to his website, give my address, and he arranges for a non-Jew to "buy" all of my stuff. In theory, this person could come to my house and take my cereals, rice cakes, beer and whiskey, but he never has.

Kitniot (or kitnios since this is an Ashkenazi issue) is the next Passover food issue. The word comes from the Hebrew word katan which means "small." It refers to the small grains not included in the grains listed above: rice, buckwheat/kasha, beans, peas, chickpeas, soybeans, sunflower, mustard and poppy seeds and corn are kitniyot. It is an Ashkenazi minhag (custom) that developed in Europe in

the Middle Ages. The reasons cited in Mishnah Berurah are that these grains are harvested, ground into flour and baked in the same way as the five grains of chametz. Because they are so small, they may have grains of chametz accidentally mixed in. Avoiding kitniot can be difficult. Corn syrup is found almost everywhere, as is corn and soybean oil. Vegetarians who rely on beans for protein have a right to complain as well. The evolving rabbinical discussion would take its own book. Those who keep strictly kosher look for the small P next to a regular kosher symbol. In the spring, Coke makes a run of special soda using sugar instead of corn syrup. Many soda lovers stock up; it really tastes better! Most Sephardic Jews do not follow the rules of kitniyot, and enjoy rice and beans at their Seders. In the 19th Century, Reform Judaism formally permitted eating kitniyot, and in 1989 the Responsa Committee of the Israel Conservative movement ruled that Conservative Jews in Israel may eat it. Conservative Jews worldwide tend to avoid it, but attitudes are slowly changing.

However you celebrate it, I wish you a happy holiday. Enjoy the crunch. Chag Samaich! ◇

CELEBRATING PESACH SEPHARDI STYLE:

SEPHARDI SEDER TRADITIONS

Most of our KJCC members come from Ashkenazi background and tradition. There are differences, large and small, between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews – both in belief and practice. We like to focus on what unites rather than divides us, but at this time of year as we prepare for Passover, the differences stand out. None of these differences are "wrong" halachically because "minhag" (or a community's custom observed over long periods of time, carry great weight. The following exploration of Sephardi customs is excerpted, with great gratitude, to author Anne deSola Cardoza, Donald Harrison (The San Diego Jewish Press) and Rabbi Johnathan Chipman (The Jerusalem Post). Our interesting, even quirky Seder traditions are not "wrong," but examples of Jewish differences that enhance us all. This year the KJCC first seder will be led by Sephardi member Joe Shabathai. G.

Rice – is considered kosher for Pesach by Sephardi Jews. It was a tradition among Egyptian Jews to purchase all the Pesach rice one month before the holiday. For some families that meant buying about 40 pounds of rice. The rice would be placed in the middle of the table and the family would sift and wash the rice then divide it into eight portions for the eight days of Pesach. Rice is part of a group of legumes known in Hebrew as "kitniyot." These foods are considered kosher for Passover by Sephardi Jews and include corn, millet, string beans, green peas, lentils, split peas, soybeans and chickpeas.

The Seder Plate in Southern Italy, Sicily and Morocco – The Seder plate is brought to the Seder table with great ceremony. It would be covered with a beautiful scarf and the family would sing as the plate arrived at the table. Before it was set down, the Seder plate would be placed on a child's head and then rotated for everyone to see.

The Seder Plate in Tunisia, Sicily and Sardinia – As the plate arrives at the table, the Seder leader sets it on the head of the Seder leader. The plate is then passed from person to person around the table – held for a moment on each head by a family member. The Seder begins in this manner to demonstrate that we were once slaves in Egypt and carried heavy burdens on our heads.

The Matzah – At the point in the Haggadah where the matzah is described as "the bread of affliction," Italian and Moroccan Jews would have ready three pieces of matzah tied up in a napkin, like a little sack. The sack would be passed around the table, shoulder to shoulder like this: First the sack would be held on the person's right shoulder and the leader would ask her/him, "Where are you from?" The person with the shoulder sack would reply, "I am from Egypt." The leader then asks the same person, "Where are you going?" Then the person with the sack would shift it to the left shoulder and say, "I am going to Yerushalayim. Will you come with me?" The sack is then passed to the next person at that table who says, "Yes." And the process repeats around the table.

The Ten Plagues – This custom is Italian but I am told it comes from the Yemenite Jews and as such has become "minhag" for many of us.

As each plague is said aloud, the Seder leader would pour a little bit of wine from his cup into a tin can. When all the plagues have been repeated, the matriarch of the family would take the tin can out into the farthest part of the yard, pour the wine into the ground and say in a loud whisper, "May this go to all of our enemies and haters. May they create no suffering for us or for themselves. Amen!" Those at the table remain very quiet, so that the loud whisper can be heard. In Greece this same ceremony is done with vinegar poured into a can as each plague is said.

Singing "Dayenu," – In Italy the Seder table is set with a green onion (with long stems), one for each person. When it is time to sing Dayenu, each person takes an onion and wields it like a whip. At the chorus, each person takes the onion and whips the wrist of the person next to her/him. The sound of the onion stems represents the sounds of the whips of our slave masters. In Iran Afghanistan and Iraq the onions are gathered in a bunch and one person "whips" the person next to her/him, then passes the onion bunch along. Incidentally, this ritual is performed while singing Dayenu because Dayenu is the song of miracles, so the whipping reminds us that it was a miracle to be freed from the lash of oppression. (Yardena shared this custom with us and our Sunday School students. It became a favorite part of the school's family seder for years)

The Charoset – is one of the most popular and well-remembered Seder foods. It is part of the ritual food on the Seder plate, chosen to remind us of our lives as slaves where we had to mix mortar to make the bricks for Pharaoh's buildings. Sephardi charoset is often made with dates as the staple (in Ashkenazi homes the staple is apple) because the color of the dates is similar to the color of mortar. Other Charoset ingredients include a variety of nuts, apricots, cinnamon and wine.

Using this charoset at your Seder table will remind your family, especially the children, of the plight of Cuban Jews and all oppressed people around the world.

Mimouna – ("mee-moh-oo-na) Celebration for the end of Pesach – There are several ways to celebrate the crossing of the Sea of Reeds and our path to freedom. In Sephardi synagogues in Mediterranean countries, the synagogue is opened at one minute after midnight (the end of the eighth night). The Torah is taken from the ark and the Song of Songs is read while congregants dance in the aisles. Following the Torah reading, the Mimouna festival begins. (Mimouna can also be done on the evening of the ninth day with visiting of neighbors and friends.) The Mimouna celebration honors Rabbi Maimon, the father of Moses Maimonides who was the beloved leader of the Moroccan Jews. Traditional Mimouna foods include pita bread, cut into pieces and eaten by dipping a piece into honey. The meaning behind this tradition is that the pita and honey will glue the family together and slavery and oppression will never again separate us. ◇

Yahrzeit plaque

In loving Memory of

NATALIE DORF

Mother, Grandmother and Artist

10/3/1946 - 10/24/2018

You will live in our hearts forever

Her Children Steven & Risa, Her Grandchildren

Emma, Jordan, Cameron, Joey & Jacob

Book Plate

In Memory of

Eve L. Greenstein

8 Years

by Barnet Coltman

KJCC Women's Seder Repairs the World:
Sixteen Years of Tikkun Olam

By Linda Kaplan

The Women's Seder is hosting its 16th annual event on April 7th. This joyful occasion celebrates women's contributions to the shul, the community and the world and is dedicated to Tikkun Olam, (repairing the world). All of the food is donated so that all of the money raised can be donated each year directly to the three organizations and projects selected by the Seder Committee. The Sisterhood is especially excited about their choice of beneficiaries this year.

The three beneficiaries this year are the Talia Agler Girls Shelter (TAGS), The KJCC community garden and the Coral Shores High School Food Pantry.

TAGS, in Nairobi, Kenya, was established in January 2012 in memory of Mindy and Rabbi Agler's daughter, Talia, by Tali's mentor, Edith Murogo. It's mission is to offer direct assistance to girls aged between 10-24 years who are victims of human trafficking, child labor, forced migration and sexual abuse. To realize its objectives, the shelter works through 4Rs to: Reach, Rescue, Rehabilitate and Reintegrate "one girl at a time." TAGS accepts girls from Kenya and those who have been trafficked in neighboring countries as well. For more information, contact http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/talia-agler-girls-shelter/. We have been supporting this worthy effort for four years now.

The Community Garden at KJCC was built by Harry Friedman for his Eagle Scout Project and is lovingly tended to by his mother, Jane, our garden maven. Each year, the fresh vegetables are grown and used to make delicious, healthy food for our Onegs and more importantly, are donated to the Burton Memorial Food Bank so that the clientele there have access to healthy, nutritious, fresh vegetables. The garden needs seeds, dirt and other supplies annually but at this time needs an upgrade of the irrigation system. We are happy to help.

The third beneficiary of the Women's Seder is the Coral Shores High School Food Pantry. We often hear of hunger in third world countries but don't usually realize that some of our local high school students are also food insecure. Some children receive their primary source of nutrition at school, where they have breakfast and lunch but then go home to an empty pantry. On weekends, they may have no regular meals. Coral Shores food pantry works to make sure that all of the students have access to food when they are not at school. The Coral Shores Food Pantry receives donations of money, food and gift cards and operates from the school. Some students volunteer to work in the food pantry as community service. The students organize the pantry and help pack food boxes. The food pantry provides for 26 families with students at the school by packing a box of food for each of these families every week.

The cost of the Women's Seder is $34.00, but we ask seder attendees to consider being more generous this year so that we can provide even more in the way of Tikkun Olam for TAGS, The Community Garden and the Coral Shores Food Pantry. We have a wonderful time in the process, meaningful and delicious. ◇

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Course registration is $50 for 12 weeks.
New students welcome to enroll at any point before it ends!
To register, please contact Medina Roy at hiitsmedee@gmail.com
or 305-394-1702

Keys Jewish Community Center

Israel Independence Day Activity

Thursday, May 9th is Israel Independence Day - Yom Ha Atzma'ut, and we plan to celebrate it with a trip to the Jewish Museum in Miami Beach. We will leave in the morning, have a leisurely lunch in Miami Beach near the museum, then enjoy the exhibits at the museum. The fascinating core exhibit details Jewish life in early Florida, and there are some excellent temporary exhibits as well, featuring the art work of photographer Andy Sweet, the sculptures and furniture of Steve Marcus, and a retrospective of the work of Edna Glaubman. From there we will go to the Miami Beach JCC to join in their Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration, which begins at 5 p.m.

Contact Dave Mont to sign on, and help work out the details.

moogoodave@yahoo.com (305) 393-9883

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

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Omer counting is over.

It is time to receive the Torah.

JOIN US at the KJCC on FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019, 6:00 PM

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE

SERVICES at 7:30 P.M.

After Services there will be a TORAH LEARNING EVENT led by Rabbi Agler along with a delicious cheesecake-laden ONEG.

We can feed our brains along with our appetites.

- Contact Joyce -

joycepeckman@gmail.com - (305) 451-0665

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please rsvp by June 2nd - No Charge -

Joyful Noise:
Purim with the Scubi-Jews

On Erev Purim, the first day of spring, with a full moon lighting up our back yard, KJCC held a rollicking good Purim Party. We obeyed the mitzvot by reading the ganssa (whole) Megillah (the Scroll of Esther), having a joyous feast (Donna's and Joyce's salads and pizza (including a half dozen kosher ones brought to us by the generosity of Rabbi Zucker, daughter and son-in-law Esther and Mendel, and David Goldfinger), and we raised money for charity. This may have been our rowdiest Purim Party ever. We have Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Shayna, ten Scuba Jews and six visiting Eckerd College students to thank for that. Yay. Literally. Rabbi Ed expanded the noise quotient of our celebration by insisting that we make as big a joyful noise for our hero, Mordechai and Esther, as the drowning out "grogger" noise we make whenever villain Haman's name is read.

So think triple the noise, triple the enthusiasm, and two little girls, Mark Bloom's daughter Maddie and her friend Leah, blowing their magic trumpets and you have a good idea of the level of levity that abounded. If you missed it, there is always next year to look forward to and more to be learned (Rabbi Ed filled us in on the Hidden Mysteries of Purim).

Rabbi Ed presented us with a wonderful gift before starting the reading. Look for it at the entrance to our Social Hall's kitchen door. Kiss it. It's a mezuzah that could save the world. It was designed by a Scubi Jew and made from the discarded plastic bottle refuse, pollution they pick up while removing debris from the ocean and mangroves.. Bless Rabbi Ed and his group's efforts to spread Tikkun HaYam, Repair of the Seas. On a sober note -- overheard in a discussion at the rollicking good party, were some very serious words: "Without water, there is no life. There is no Planet B."

We are grateful for the work that Ed and these young people are committed to, and doubly glad they joined us. ◇

When KJCC is joined by a dozen Scubi Jews from suncoast Hillel do a Purimfest, fun is bound to happen. It did.

Having a gaggle of Scubi Jews with us made the party extra joyous.

Fascinating hearing two rabbis discuss the difficult parts of the Esther story.

Shayna Cohen, Rabbi Ed's co-worker, gave a terrific reading.

A visit from Mendel and Esther (the real one, Rabbi Zucker's daughter), who came bearing gifts of kosher pizza and hamantashen (mishloach manot), gave extra meaning to the holiday and our scroll as he chanted the entire Megillah in Hebrew after our round robin reading in English.

Jan Price as Esther with faithful Palace Guard Luigi

Linda Pollack and Bernie Ginsberg in best Purim attire await reading of the ganssa Megillah, the scroll of Esther

Rabbi Zucker's daughter, the real Esther enjoys the spiel sitting between Sylvia Rimm and Linda.

Is Steve Hartz a soulful visiting Arab or Mordechai?

Gloria Avner leads song and dance version of Haman story with help of Maddie Bloom and friend Leah.

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