

Chai~Lights



May 2017

5 Iyar - 6 Sivan 5777

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

May 2017

5 Iyar - 6 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Yom Hazikaron	2 Yom HaAtzma'ut	3	4	5 Dana Grace <i>Sisterhood</i>	6 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00 a.m.
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting 11	8	9	10	11	12 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur <i>Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg Roy Pollack</i>	13
14 Lag B'Omer Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19 Joyce Peckman <i>Medina & Carl Roy</i>	20
21	22	23	24 Yom Yerushalayim "Six Days in June" film 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Medina Roy <i>Sisterhood</i> Rosh Chodesh Nisan	27
28	29 JFK's 100th birthday	30	31 First Day of Shavuot	June 1st	June 2nd Tikkun Leil Shavuot dinner 6 p.m. Bernie Ginsberg <i>Yizkor</i>	

2017 - 2018 KJCC Officers and Board

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Beth Hayden



Shalom uvracha,

Nisan is Pesach time. And what wonderful activities the Keys Jewish Community celebrated during Pesach: the Women's Seder on April 2nd; the First Night Seder at the KJCC on April 10th; and the Community Seder at the Is-lamorada Fishing Club on April 11th. All three events were well attended and very successful. The Women's Seder was organized by Erica Lieberman-Garrett. First Night Seder had more than 60 in attendance; KJCC's talented cooks provided food that was both bountiful and delicious. Thanks to Susan Ellner and all who assisted in making this such a memorable occasion. The Community Seder on April 11th, managed and coordinated by Sisterhood, also had the largest attendance in years with more than 80 participants. Thanks to Renee Salant and Sam Weis. All Seders presented awards to deserving recipients (see Passover Section). Synergy is the creation of a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. KJCC's Seders are an apt demonstration of that phenomenon.

In Israel, the end of Pesach is marked by the wonderful Moroccan celebration of Mimouna which has become a popular annual celebration with outdoor parties, picnics and barbecues. Mimouna begins after night fall on the last day of Pesach,

chametz is sold back to its former owners, pastries and foods forbidden during Pesach are in abundance and arrangement of foods and articles in "fives" recall the chamsa amulet common throughout North African communities as protection against the evil eye.

On the second night of Pesach Jews enter a period of "counting the omer". We count for 49 days until the festival of Shavuot. This is a period of semi-mourning, however each day counted is an opportunity to prepare spiritually in anticipation of Shavuot - when we celebrate Israel's covenant with HaShem; the giving and acceptance of Torah. Jewish mystical tradition holds that not only did Israelites physically present at Mount Sinai at that time agree to receive Torah, but all the souls of all Jews ever to be were present to receive and accept that immense responsibility and commitment.

During the counting of the Omer, the 33rd day for Ashkenazi Jews is Lag B'Omer (for Sephardi Jews, the 34th day is LaD BaOmer). In Israel, Lag B'Omer is celebrated with bonfires and song. For Ashkenazi Jews the restrictions imposed throughout the counting of the Omer are lifted on this one day (for Sephardi Jews, the next day) - weddings and parties are commonly scheduled for Lag B'Omer. Wishing you good counting and a wonderful Shavuot.

Nosh

A Last Hurrah for Learning

Relax. We're only talking about this season. Rabbi Richard Agler's fall and winter 5777 series of Torah Learning Shabbat morning services will conclude on Saturday morning, May 6th. The service will begin at precisely 10:00 a.m., and will delight, instruct and engage all who attend. Let's make it as big a crowd as we can to show our appreciation for the Jewish enrichment we've received thanks to Rabbi Agler's generosity from Rosh HaShanah onward. We are a very blessed congregation to have a Resident Scholar among us who, month after month, offers us the benefits of his warm and stimulating teaching style, plus insights all regulars say have greatly expanded their understanding of the sacred texts. May we all come together again in the fall to continue our studies.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot – Friday, June 2

Our ancestors nearly slept through the giving of the Torah, after 49 days of walking towards Sinai. It isn't often that we have a chance to correct a mistake made millennia ago. That's why we observe the practice begun by Kabbalists from Safed in the 16th century. We have a study night to keep us awake on the first night of Shavuot. It is called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* and we will celebrate it on Friday night, June 2nd, with a dairy dinner sponsored by Sisterhood, a *Yizkor* service of remembrance along with our regular service and an evening of discussion in an attempt to correct our ancestors' failings.

Tikkun means "repair" or "improve" or "period of study." *Leil Shavuot* means Night of Shavuot. (Yes, we're a few days off because Shavuot actually begins on May 30th, but it is our KJCC *minhag*, or custom, to celebrate our holidays on the closest Shabbat, so that the most people possible can participate. For more details, please see the ad on page 10.

Oneg Sponsors for May 2017

May 5th - Sisterhood

May 12th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg in honor of their shared birthday. Roy Pollock in honor of Maddie's birthday.

May 19th - Medina and Carl Roy in honor of Bianka Kirschenbaum's 102nd birthday.

May 26th - Sisterhood

Jane and Harry's Garden

Take a moment to look in awe at the creation in action happening along our driveway. Bordered by a white picket fence, the burgeoning tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, broccoli and herbs are saying thank you for their tender care in a big way. They are growing huge. And Burton Memorial's Food Pantry patrons will soon have lots of fresh produce to be thankful for. I suspect that KJCC may be the beneficiary of some marvelous salads as well. Thank you for your continued dedication, Jane and Harry Friedman.

BOOK PLATE

in memory of

Ellen L. Coltman

By Barnet Coltman

Six Days in June: the Movie at KJCC

The full title of the film we'll be showing on Wednesday, May 24th, at 7 p.m. in honor of Yom Yerushalayim, Israel's Jerusalem Day, is "Six Days in June: the War that Redefined the Middle East." It's a 2007 documentary that is said to present possibly the most clear and concise account of 1967's Six-Day War. It was shot on location in Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Moscow and Washington. Guests are welcome, and there is no charge.

May Birthdays

1st.....	Cheryl Margulies
2nd.....	Barney Coltman
4th.....	Laura Leigh Tallent
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
5th.....	Richard Palacino
7th.....	Murray Rapoport
7th.....	Scott M. Pearl
7th.....	Skylar Bella Strasser
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
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.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Brennan
18th.....	Sheree Savar
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
19th.....	Sylvie Coeurjoly
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

May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....	27
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	26
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	45
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Wehl.....	58
28th	George & Lori Richardson.....	6

New Work on Walls

Take time to admire the two new additions to the KJCC “*B’reishit*” art exhibit. One is in the social hall, a photograph on metal, titled “Pelican Connection.” It won second place in this year’s Joe Cella “Bird’s in Nature” Art Exhibit.



The other is a magnificent portrait of sunset, across from the doors of the sanctuary, also a photograph on metal, called “Sunset Awe.” Both are on loan from creator Jan Hartz, a photographer whose sensibility has as much of the poet and the painter in it as the photogra-



pher. She’s a filmmaker, too, and we are indebted to her as well for our permanent record of the day last year – using short videos but mostly the beautiful photographs taken by Eve Knowles – we celebrated our restored Holocaust Torah.

A stylized tree with a circular trunk and branches, set against a light background. The text is centered within the tree's canopy.

TREE OF LIFE

in honor of

Dr. David Ehrenreich

By Linda Pollack

A stylized tree with a circular trunk and branches, set against a light background. The text is centered within the tree's canopy.

TREE OF LIFE

in honor of

Estelle Incociati

By Linda Pollack

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Gene Silverman, 305-664-3316.

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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-304-1810.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was 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 Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 to arrange your donation.

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

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual rates.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

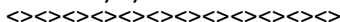
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam May 2017

In Memory Of

Rose Roazen

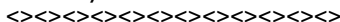
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Neil H. Tomor

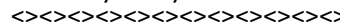
By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

Charles S. Cohn

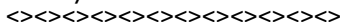
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Becky Kanowsky

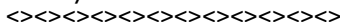
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

Sam Hitzig

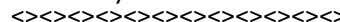
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

Emanuel Schafer

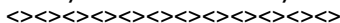
By Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

Gertrude Weisberg

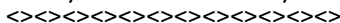
By Gerri & Frank Emkey



In Memory Of

Alex Perl

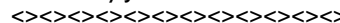
By Gerri & Frank Emkey



In Memory Of

Carmel Catanese

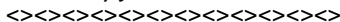
By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

Julie Gorson-Marrow

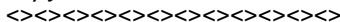
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Barbara Gould

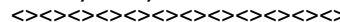
By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson



In Memory Of

Belle Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Amalia Kahn

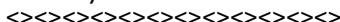
By Franklin & Judy Greenman



In Memory Of

Morris Moshe Grossman

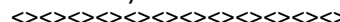
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

Yolanda Haviv

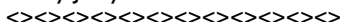
By Leo Haviv



In Memory Of

Rose Herson

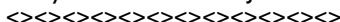
By Jerry & Barbara Herson



In Memory Of

Esther Jacobs

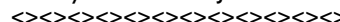
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

Leo Grossman

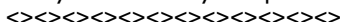
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Max Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Cele Rosen

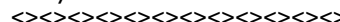
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

Morris Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

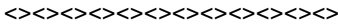


In Memoriam May 2017

In Memory Of

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum



In Memory Of

Robert Schur

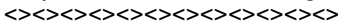
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

Rose Wainer

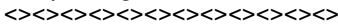
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Ida S. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Norma Cutler

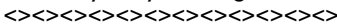
By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

Robert W. Singer

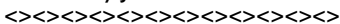
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Benjamin Weber

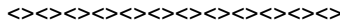
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Rene Rose

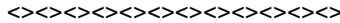
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

Elaine Beth Silverman

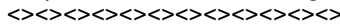
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Sam Wainer

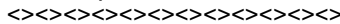
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Phillip Temkin

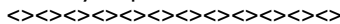
By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

Susan Cimkowski

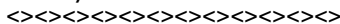
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

Lilyan Sax

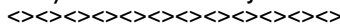
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

Esther Jacobs

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the *mishebeyrach* prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

Sisterhood Renee Salant

written by Sam Weis



As I sit at my computer diligently writing the Sisterhood column (punctuated by long periods of staring out at the ocean), it is impossible to ignore a certain uptick in the level of activity in the house. We, like you, are in full-tilt Pesach mode. Of course, by the time this publication is in your hands we will have had many wonderful Passover experiences. Many of us will have shared the sumptuous meal, the copious amounts of wine and the retelling of the Exodus story with our families, with friends and with our KJCC family.

Sisterhood began gearing up for Pesach with the 14th Annual Women's Seder. Sisterhood is very grateful to Erica Lieberman-Garrett for chairing the event, and to Gloria Avner, Suzi Feder, Jane Friedman, Susan Gordon, Beth Kaminstein, Marcia Kreitman, Joyce Peckman, Lee Schur and Joan Stark for their exuberance and their efforts. Thank you to all the women of Sisterhood who brought delicious dishes to the Seder. Your talents are a culinary apex, a gastronomer's delight.

A special thank you to Donna Bolton, who braved the grinding of the root to create a powerful and delicious horseradish. The making of Donna's horseradish is important because it allowed us to partake in something one may regard as simple, yet is difficult to locate. When you see it in a jar at the grocery, please read the label and you will find the words "high fructose corn syrup." I think you will agree, this is something none of us care to eat. So, thank you, again, Donna, for bringing us a healthy alternative. The real thing.

Thanks to all of the participants for having an open mind, and a spoon in hand, to try the Sephardic *charoset* brought by Seattle transplant Sam Weis (yes, me). It's OK to expand our traditions.

One of the highlights of the Women's Seder is when we honor one of our members. We certainly made an excellent choice this

year with Erica Lieberman-Garrett. Does she ever run out of energy? Susan Gordon introduced Erica as our Honoree, admitting that she just couldn't say enough about her, so she'd let Erica say it herself. We were then treated to a delightful and tender speech from Erica. I would be hard pressed to think of anyone who has done so much for our organization. Erica has courage, and *ruach*, and I feel that her speech let us get to know her a lot better.

The Sisterhood of the KJCC takes its *tikkun olam* responsibilities seriously. The money we raised from the seder and the raffle will be divided equally between The Talia Agler Girls Shelter, The Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys, and The KJCC Scholarship Fund. We did have a lot of fun with the raffle, too, with several items created by our own members; a beautiful painting by Geri Felder Smith, a Judaica bowl donated by the KJCC Sisterhood Gift Shop, a "Tea Basket" with herbal teas and a tea pot and tea cup from Susan Gordon, a collection of four of her CDs and her novel donated by Sam Weis (yes, me), and a truly lovely painting from Gloria Avner. Our raffle winners were very happy. It was a deeply meaningful seder, enlightening and heartfelt. I am hopeful and confident that all of our seders will be this powerful.

Our Shavuot Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 2nd at 6 p.m., but check with President Beth Hayden's weekly announcements. It will certainly be another delightful gathering, with delicious food from Sisterhood.

Remember, you can always sponsor an oneg, even if your special date already has a donor. It is utterly impossible to have too much *simchas*.

Have a beautiful month, in the beautiful Florida Keys. Be well, and keep working for justice. ◇

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER



We have been wandering in the desert for 49 days.

Omer counting is over.

It is time to receive the Torah.

JOIN US at the KJCC on FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017, 6:00 PM

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE

SERVICES at 7:30 with DISCUSSION to follow delicious
cheesecake-laden ONEG.



- Contact Erica -

hippiejap@hotmail.com - (305) 393-1162

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

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World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Sweet Celebration

Goldenberg's Peanut Chews, the candy bar filled with roasted peanuts wrapped in molasses and coated with dark chocolate, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Mostly distributed in Philadelphia and surrounding states, the snack was introduced by the *Goldenberg Candy Company* in 1917 as a ration for soldiers in World War I. The company was founded by David Goldenberg, a Romanian immigrant. The Philadelphia-based company was run by the family until 2003, when it was sold to Just Born, the company that makes *Peeps*, *Hot Tamales* and *Mike and Ikes*. (www.forward.com, 3-22-17)

Bulgarian Church Nominated for Nobel

Moshe Aloni, a Bulgarian-Israeli lawyer and head of the Bulgarian-Israeli Cultural Institute, is hoping to find support for the Bulgarian Independent Orthodox Church to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The Bulgarian Church protected the country's Jewish minority during the Holocaust; Aloni nominated it this past January for its bravery and acts of heroism. Even though the Bulgarian government was allied with Nazi Germany, the church voted unanimously to condemn anti-Semitic laws during World War II and resisted the planned deportation of the country's 48,000 Jews to Nazi death camps in Europe. Aloni's nomination of the Church for the Peace Prize specifically mentions two Independent Orthodox clergymen: Metropolitan (Bishop) Stephan, head of the Sofian Church (and the highest ranking Bulgarian Church official during the time of the Holocaust) and Metropolitan Kiril, the head of the Church in Plovdiv (located in south-central Bulgaria). In 2001, the two men were recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by *Yad Vashem* for their opposition to the anti-Jewish policies of the Bulgarian regime and for tak-

ing active steps against the government's policy of deporting Bulgaria's Jews and/or turning them over to the Germans. According to *Yad Vashem*, Kiril is said to have saved the 1,500 Jews of Plovdiv by sending a personal telegram to the king pleading for mercy toward them. There is testimony claiming that he threatened to lie across the railway tracks in order to stop the deportation. Moshe Aloni, his contemporary champion, was born in Sofia. He and his family are among those saved by the heroic actions of the Bulgarian Church. (www.jpost.com, 3-13-17)

"A Priority for Germany"

At the end of April, the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) bestowed the *Elie Wiesel Award*, the museum's highest honor, to German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her work "advancing Holocaust awareness." Merkel was noted for her "unwavering commitment to making the preservation of Holocaust memory a priority for Germany." In 2011, Merkel was instrumental in seeing to it that the *International Tracing Service*, the Germany-based documentation center of Nazi atrocities, opened their archives in spite of the reluctance to do so by the eleven nations that run the service. (You'll remember that this is the international organization run for several years by history professor Rebecca Boehling, Holocaust scholar and KJCC member along with husband Mark Lipkus. Rebecca, too, was instrumental in the opening of those archives.) Merkel accepted the award – via video from Germany – during the museum's National Tribute Dinner, which took place in Washington, D.C. on *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day. (www.jta.org, 3-23-17)

Those Crazy, Inflatable “FlyGuys”

You know those tube-shaped inflatable “dancing guys,” waving their arms frantically, designed to catch our attention as we pass shopping plazas and car dealerships? They were designed (well, sort of) by Doron Gazit, a Los Angeles-based Israeli artist. It seems that the origin of these “air dancers” traces back to Caribbean artist Peter Minshall, who conceived of these larger-than-life puppets for the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Minshall’s idea was to have their movements resemble Calypso dancers from his native country of Trinidad & Tobago, and hired Gazit to carry out his vision. Apparently in 2001, Gazit applied for a patent and began licensing the use of the “flyguys” (as he calls them) through his company *Air Dimensional Designs*. Minshall of course was not happy. Gazit claims he tried to contact Minshall several times to no avail, already having put a lot of work into developing the “guys” and claimed several other people were “starting to rip him off.” It seems it’s a case of “he said, he said.”

(www.thejewniverse.com, 1-31-17)

Just a Misunderstanding?

An Amsterdam couple who filed a lawsuit to remove the postcard-sized Holocaust memorial *Stolpersteine* (German for “stumbling stone”) in front of their home withdrew their suit after a storm of criticism on social media. The stumbling stones are the creation of German artist Gunter Demnig. He’s been traveling across Europe for many years placing these plaques in front of homes where Jews lived before being deported by the Nazis. The stones have brass plaques engraved with the name, dates of birth and death and the name of the camp of the Jewish victim where he/she was murdered. The purpose of the project is to commemorate the victims at the homes from which they were taken. The couple felt that being “confronted” by the stone every day is an “emotional burden,” because they themselves have lost a child and that their privacy is affected by people passing by who “intrusively” look at their home. They felt their lawsuit was misunderstood, as they did

not intend to offend anyone. “We are stopping the lawsuit because we are shocked at the way this has been publicized and the misunderstandings that arose...,” they said. Amsterdam currently has some 400 of these *Stolpersteine* stones – part of over 50,000 artifacts (in 18 countries across Europe) installed since 1996, when Demnig began his project. Some 75 percent of the 140,000 Jews who lived in the Netherlands were killed in the Holocaust, the highest death rate in Nazi-occupied Western Europe.

(www.dutchnews.nl, 4-3-17)

Is This Fire-Hydrant Free?

The municipal government of Tel Aviv recently launched *Digi-Dog*, an app for the city’s 25,000 dogs (and their human companions). The program was inspired by Tel Aviv’s successful 2013 resident card program called “Digi-Tel,” a program designed to change the way citizens interact with the city’s municipal departments by putting all of the services provided by the municipality in a single place. (Citizens can pay water and municipal tax bills, order parking permits and send photos of potholes or broken park benches to the municipal complaint line. They can locate nearby bike lanes, parking lots, restaurants, etc.) The new app provides lists of nearby veterinarians and dog-walkers, discounts at local businesses, vaccination reminders, and directions to the nearest dog park. (Tel Aviv currently has 70 open to the public and four dog beaches.) The city also started a festival called *Kelaviv* (“kelev” is the Hebrew word for dog) where one can find a canine massage parlor, an adoption booth and a dog-friendly screening of the movie “The Secret Life of Pets.” (By the way....Tel Aviv’s dog-to-human ratio is 1 to 17.)

(www.thejewniverse.com, 3-28-17)

The Findings Are a Warning

According to a report recently published in the journal *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, scientists have discovered evidence of severe droughts deep below the bed of the Dead Sea dating back more than 100,000 years. The researchers believe that these find-

ings are a warning of what might happen in the region if climate change predictions come true. The report is based on research by scientists in six countries, including Israel. The study involved the extraction – which took place about six years ago – of sediment cores and long salt cores from a depth of about 1476 feet under the Dead Sea bed (which is almost 3,772 feet from the lake’s surface). “The cores were sent to Germany for testing, and using radioactive measures we were able to date the period of each section of the core,” said Professor Mordechai Stein of the *Geological Survey of Israel* and the *Hebrew University* of Jerusalem. Stein said that these cores are like time capsules, allowing scientists to study the changes that have taken place in the sea. “The observations show that this region is one of the most influenced by climate changes today,” stated Dr. Yael Kiro, one of the authors of the report. The level of the Dead Sea has declined in recent years as a result of human activity, but it is expected to decline even more sharply due to climate change. (www.haaretz.com, 3-31-17)

In Memoriam

★ Yevgeny Yevtushenko, acclaimed Russian dissident poet best known for his 1961 poem commemorating the Nazi massacre at Babi Yar, the Ukrainian ravine near Kiev, died on April 1st. He was 84. He died in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he had been a faculty member at the University of Tulsa since the mid-1990s. Yevtushenko grew up in Moscow. Both of his grandfathers died in Stalin’s purges of the 1930s. He studied at Moscow’s Gorky Institute of World Literature. His poetry was critical of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, who ruled the country for 30 years. Yevtushenko published more than 150 collections of poems; he was officially recognized in 1953, after Stalin’s death. “*Babi Yar*” told of the 1941 massacre that killed some 34,000 Jews and exposed the anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Russian authorities had refused to recognize the Jewish victims of the Nazis. Yevtushenko wrote the poem after he visited the site of the mass killings and found nothing memorializing the tragedy. (An official

memorial to Soviet citizens shot at Babi Yar was erected in 1976.) “*Babi Yar*” was set to music by Dmitri Shostakovich in his Symphony No. 13. He later became a member of the Soviet Union’s first freely elected parliament. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 4-3-17)

★ Don Rickles, actor and comedian famous for the art of insult comedy, earning him the nickname “Mr. Warmth,” died in early April. He was 90. In his nightclub act and on late-night TV, Rickles would find “victims” in the audience to harass over their weight, dress or ethnicity, mostly without causing any real offense. (To an Asian man sitting in the front row of one of his shows he said, “There are 40 million Jews here in Los Angeles; how did you get such a good seat?”) Rickles was also a serious actor, having studied at the famed *American Academy of Dramatic Arts*. He had roles in several memorable films – “*Kelly’s Heroes*,” “*Run Silent, Run Deep*,” and “*Casino*,” to name a few. Don Rickles was born in Jackson Heights (Borough of Queens), New York. His father had immigrated to the United States as a child from Kaunas in Lithuania. His mother, born in New York, was the daughter of Jewish immigrants. Rickles served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Frank Sinatra spotted him at a Miami club in the 50s and helped to make him a headliner in Las Vegas. (Frank and entourage walked in. Rickles saw him and said “make yourself comfortable, Frank; hit somebody.” The entourage gasped. Frank burst out laughing. A career was born.) Rickles first appeared on Johnny Carson’s “*Tonight Show*” in 1965 and would return as a guest some 100 times. He continued performing till the end of his life. (www.jta.org, 4-6-17)

★ Ingeborg Syllm-Rapoport, German neonatologist who passed her doctoral exam in May, 2015 – almost 80 years after she was denied the opportunity by the Nazis – died at the end of March. She was 104. (Her story was reported in an earlier issue of *Chai-Lights*. She had completed her thesis on diphtheria in 1938 but was refused entrance to the oral exam by the Nazi authorities because her mother was Jewish.) (www.jta.org, 3-27-17) ◇

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.

General Fund

Begam, Delores
Grobman, Marc
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Steinberg, Lei Lane

In Honor of

pray for us, please
holiday open door
Beth Hayden
becoming president
Joel Cohen's
granddaughter

Horn, Dorothy
Tallent, Lillian D.

Blum, Laurie
Boruszak, Joan
Sheinker, Miltra
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Temkin, Robert
Wohl, Joan P.

Anna Horn
Ida Tallent

Janet Blum
Baruch Epstein
Warren J. Sheinker
Morris Smith
Claire Smith
Anne Temkin
Dr. Milton A. Wohl

Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Memory of

Bea Avner
Ellen Bloom

Book Plate

Coltman, Barnet

In Memory of

Ellen L. Coltman

Sunshine Committee

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Get Well wishes
-Lee Schur

Leaf on the Tree of Life

Pollack, Linda
Pollack, Linda

In Honor of

Dr. David Ehrenreich
Estelle Incociati

Yahrzeits

Horn, Dorothy

Ida Ratchik

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 bemaah 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.

KJCC Religious School News

by Morah Reba (Randy) Klein-Gross



savta Jules and Nettie Seder sitting around a beautifully set table, saying the blessings, asking the four questions, telling our story, singing the songs and talking about freedom and all that makes a seder most meaningful. The food was delicious, the children joyfully rambunctious, and good memories were stored away for the future. ◊



This past month from Purim to Passover was filled with creativity and teachings from our elders. One Sunday, we invited Jules Seder and Bernie Ginsberg to teach the kids about Torah and trope. Trope is not easy to master, even as adults. We practiced some of the basic tropes, discussed their roots and read the Torah. We also practiced the prayers for Aliyahs. All of these little lessons help create the future of Bar Mitzvah training into a reality.



The kids also created *seder* plates for the KJCC School Family Seder. They will be used and cherished. On the night of the School Seder, we had all the family members of our school children, Principal Susan Gordon, and our wonderful substitute grandparents, *saba* and



KJCC Gift Shop



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For further information contact:
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

The Naming of Our KJCC Sanctuary

by Gloria Avner

A special announcement was made at the Community Seder this year and eighty seder participants broke into spontaneous applause. We want to share this announcement with all who were not with us that night as well.

Our synagogue has been honored with a generous gift that will help ensure the financial health and stability of the Keys Jewish Community Center for years to come. In the very near future, when you come to services or a dinner, look up as you enter through the double sanctuary doors. There will be a plaque there and a second above the *Aron Kodesh*.

Stan's philanthropy and generosity to Jewish causes is not something new. Nor is his commitment to KJCC. Stan's whole life, from his college days onwards, has continuously stressed the theme of giving back. His deep, lifelong commitment to the State of Israel began while he was still in college, working for pro-Israel politicians. Later, in 1967, Stan took a tour of the Middle East: Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Stan was arrested in Damascus, Syria for visiting the Great Synagogue. He was interrogated for five hours. His Jewish commitment never wavered. During the tour, the last country visited was Israel. The day after Stan left Israel, the Six-Day War broke out. For Stan this was an epiphany – it wasn't the Arabs against the Israelis or the Arabs against the Jews; it was the world against the Jews.

Nor is Stan's philanthropy limited to Jewish causes. He established an Innovation Endowment Fund some years ago at his *alma*

mater, Johns Hopkins Medical School, in Baltimore. As he explained: "Much of what I've done and can do is a result of what I acquired at Hopkins. I feel responsible to give back,

and this comes from my heart." Giving from the heart is a thread woven through Stanley and Jenny's lives. In addition to their gift

The Margulies Family Sanctuary

Stanley and Jenny

Named in Honor of their Support and Generosity

To Help Assure the Future of the KJCC.

January 2017

to KJCC, Stan has also set up endowments to benefit two other Jewish organizations dear to his heart: AIPAC and the Jewish Federation of Broward County. Nor will this be the first important gift from Stan to the to KJCC. Every important fundraiser includes the name Margulies among its donors. Stan and Jenny were particularly supportive when we undertook the complex project last year to restore and rededicate our Holocaust Torah from



Stan Margulies enjoying this year's KJCC Community Seder on the second night of Passover, in a photo taken by Richard Knowles.

Susice, Czechoslovakia, ending up as the largest donor.

Stan and Jenny have been with world leaders such as Ronald Reagan and Hillary Clinton. President Reagan offered him a membership role for the then-upcoming Holocaust Council in Washington, D.C. Also, Stan had counted Elie Wiesel as a long-time friend; sometimes they even traveled together.

As we sat together in the KJCC office one Shabbat eve, I asked Stan to tell me what was in his mind, what was his intention, when he decided to make this life-sustaining gift to us, to this little KJCC *mishpocha* in the tiny town of Tavernier,

Florida, where there had never been a Jewish house of worship before KJCC was founded in the early 80s. This is what Stan said as he looked me in the eye: "I thank God for all the great things He has done for Judaism and for all of us; I see the Keys JCC as being important for all Jews in the Keys, and when there is anything Jenny and I can do to support it, we will. I want to thank you and all those who have been working for the Keys JCC, for the wonderful things you have done. Keep up our survival. Keep up Judaism. Keep up our belief in God." And then Stan said, "thank you."

When I asked Stan about his first experi-



In the photo above, Stan and Jenny sit at dinner with author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel (far left) and his wife Marion (far right.) In the photo below, from this year's KJCC Community Seder, Stan and Jenny were joined at their table by Adam and Judy Starr (standing beside Jenny) plus Stan's daughter Robin Juenger and his two granddaughters, Emmy (at left) and Lila.

ence with the KJCC, he described a visit in the late 1980s with his cousin, then Israel's Deputy Minister of Defense, who gave a 15-minute talk to our congregation on the importance of Israel to American Jews. I also asked Jenny about her first experience at the KJCC. She remembered a warm and smiling welcome by Joan Boruszak – a welcome that made them feel part of the KJCC *mishpocha*.

Dear Stan and Jenny: we are the ones who want to say "thank you," and like you, our gratitude comes straight from the heart. We promise to be good stewards of your gift. Generations to come will see your names and gratefully offer thanks to you as well. ◇

Doing Good Under Water

Rabbi Ed and His Scubi Jew Dive Club Visit KJCC

It's been far too long, but our old friends from Eckerd College Hillel's Scubi Jew Dive Club joined us again after an absence of almost a year. Since 2011, 12 groups of Scubi Jew students have come to Key Largo to volunteer with the Coral Restoration Foundation and called the KJCC their home away from home. This year, seven students and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal came back, but for a different type of dive experience.

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

This year's group of Hillel college students volunteered with an organization called "Diveheart," which teaches and facilitates scuba diving for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Diveheart's mission is "to build confidence, independence and self-esteem in the lives of children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba diving, scuba therapy and related activities." They focus on abilities, not disabilities, to instill the "can do" spirit in their participants. It is Diveheart's hope to inspire participants to take on challenges that before might have seemed impossible to them. This was the first time that Scubi Jew has worked with Diveheart, but we are certain it will not be the last. While so many college students come to Florida for spring break to party, these student came to Key Largo to do some serious good.

In total, the students each underwent 54 hours of training to receive their adaptive

buddy certification before the trip. They learned the skills necessary to be safe and effective dive buddies to adaptive divers, but the preparation also included extensive empathy training. The students had to actually experience what it is like to dive "blind" and as a paraplegic, amputee and quadriplegic. The training was intense and sometimes scary, but always rewarding.

Our group arrived at the KJCC just in time for *Havdalah* at sundown on Saturday and then joined the congregation to watch the movie "No Place on Earth." After that, however, it was nothing but work. After another full day of open-water dives to complete their adaptive buddy certification, the students



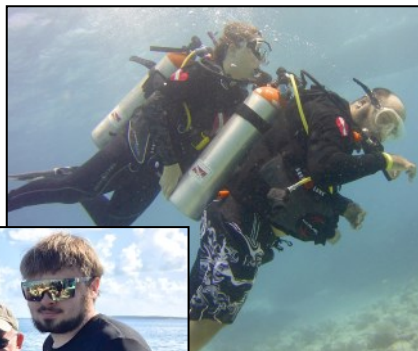
One Scubi Jew helps his (or her) adaptive dive buddy experience the awe of diving.

met their adaptive buddies and the rest of the Diveheart staff. There were five adaptive divers from Orlando, Deerfield Beach, Chicago and Denver. Under ordinary circumstances, scuba diving is a very bonding experience. Experiencing the wonders of the underwater world, and knowing that your buddy's life is in your hands when you're underwater, brings people closer together. The Di-

veheart is that same experience . . . on steroids. It was intense. It was terrifying. It was beautiful. It was life changing.

Scubi Jew Update: Sorry we haven't been down to the KJCC since last year, but a lot has happened for Scubi Jew. This year we received the donation of a boat. Her name is *Ally's Way* and she is dedicated to the memory of an amazing Eckerd College stu-

dent named Ally Willen who was tragically killed in a hiking accident in New Zealand two years ago. Ally was a passionate environmentalist and received her scuba certification through Scubi Jew. With the addition of *Ally's Way*, Scubi Jew students have been conducting regular cleanup dives in Tampa Bay twice a month. So, we have been doing more locally and not coming to the Keys as much as we have in the past. But, after this trip, the students said they want to come back again more often. Our intention is to be back in Key Largo at least once a semester to volunteer for CRF and for Diveheart. All of which is good news, because we love staying at the KJCC. ◇



Rabbi Ed's Scubi Jew Pre-Havdalah D'var

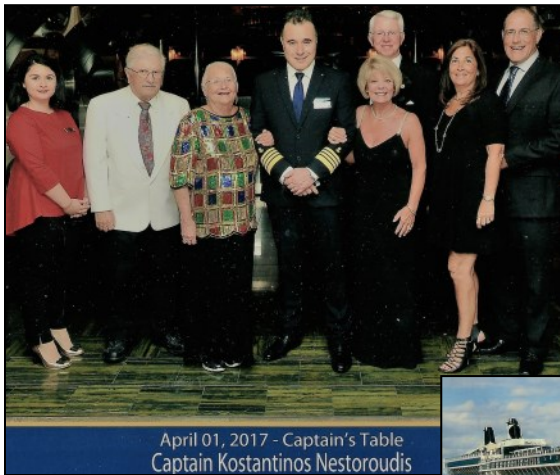
A rabbi named Avraham Twersky was sitting in his dentist's office when a nature magazine caught his eye. It had an article about lobsters and how they grow.

Human skeletons are inside our bodies, supporting us. They grow as we grow. A lobster's is outside – a hard exoskeleton designed to protect the soft body while it grows. That hard outer shell cannot expand. When the lobster within gets too big to be contained by that shell, he or she swims to a sheltered place. The pressure of his/her body on the exoskeleton cracks it open. Once it breaks fully, the lobster slips out and moves to a protective, narrow, hidden spot. He (or she) stays there until a new (though softer) shell forms, which will soon become hard and which the lobster will eventually outgrow and crack open again. And again. Now comes the “aha” moment. In his report on the article about lobsters, Rabbi Twersky makes a metaphorical connection between lobsters and soft-skinned humans. When we are uncomfortable and under pressure, we may long for the stress to go away. We don't want to crack open and be unprotected, but it is exactly this moment of discomfort and pressure that allows us to grow from within. Without pressure and discomfort we would never expand beyond old limitations.

So here's Rabbi Twersky's lobster lesson: Be grateful for everything that comes to you, especially stress, pressure and difficult challenges. As our parents used to say in unwanted moments: "it's for your own good."

Photo Gallery

Once again this year, KJCC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal (far right, above) and his Eckerd College Hillel Scubi Jews visited the Keys to do important marine work and stayed at KJCC. They arrived on Saturday, March 25th just in time for Havdalah, which Rabbi Ed then led, shown in the three photos at top. (Please see the article about Rabbi Ed and his students on pg. 19.)



April 01, 2017 - Captain's Table
Captain Kostantinos Nestoroudis



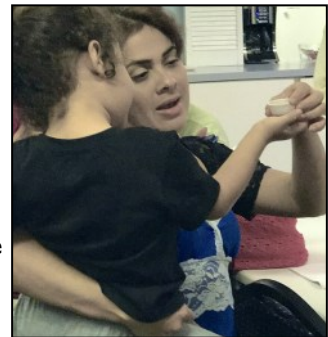
The three photos at bottom are from a late March cruise taken by KJCC members Gunther and Shirley Karger. Most of you will recognize the familiar Captain's table photo plus a shot of Shirley shopping ashore.



On the last day of March, a special service was held, led by the students in Yardena's Shabbat class (where they focus on learning to read Hebrew by studying the prayers in the Siddur). They were proud and enthusiastic about what they had learned and appreciative about their teacher.



Lee Schur, Susan Ellner, Donna Bolton, Art Itkin, Steve Steinbock and Jane Friedman all played their parts well. In the top photo they are leading Aleinu with oneg sponsors Nettie and Jules Seder, at right, Toby and Joel Bofshever, below right, and Cheryl and Jeff Margulies, next to the Torahs in the top photo.



After the service, happy students and anniversary celebrants joined forces for cake cutting, catching up with old friends and schmoozing. This may have been our largest *erev Shabbat* service of the winter (without a dinner). The Social Hall was full of friends and family members. We were, as usual, grateful for all of Jane's wonderful cooking (and Maria's as well — shown above right with son Binyamin).

After their service, the prayers continued as Steve Steinbock and Yardena Kamely (at right) led the happy crowd in the Kiddush. Jane's son Harry Friedman, in Ramen shirt below right, led HaMotzi, and on we went towards food sampling.



Lee Schur, at right, free of her neck brace at last, celebrated her birthday with co-celebrant Jane Friedman. Blow out the candles. Make good wishes. Long life, good life.



It's always a pleasure to see this happy couple, Muriel and George Swartz, at right, at any KJCC event.



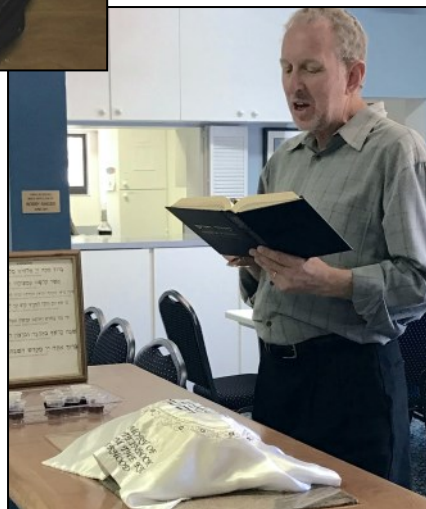


In the photo at left, Nyan Feder, soon to graduate from Florida State, plays at this year's Bay Jam, whose impresario just happens to be his father Dave. (Yes, that really is Nyan, if you haven't seen him for a while.)

The oneg on April 7th had two co-sponsors: Stuart and Geri Smith, at right, celebrating their 52nd anniversary, and Gene and Mort Silverman, celebrating Gene's birthday. (It was an ice cream cake, hence the need for the big knife.)



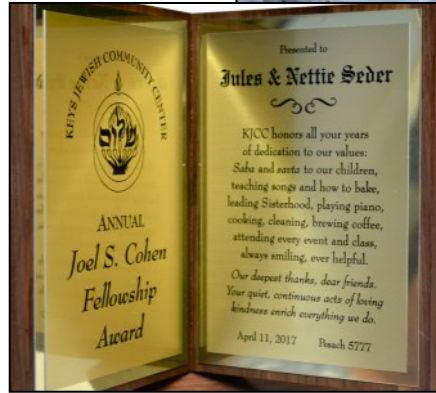
Saturday morning, April 8th, was Shabbat Gadol, the important Shabbat before Pesach. It was also that month's Torah Learning service



offered to KJCC by Rabbi Richard Agler.

Jules and Nettie Win 2017 Joel Cohen Award

Every year a special award is presented to the person (or people) who most embody the values of our Keys Jewish Community Center, people who volunteer, who are present when things need doing, who have shown their commitment over a number of years, who take initiative, support various projects, donate their skills and talents, and enrich us all with both their contributions and presence. This year's winners were Jules and Nettie Seder, *safta and saba* to our schoolchildren and so much more, quietly, behind the scenes. Mazel tov!! They were surprised. They cried. They were the unanimous choice of the voters, previous Joel Cohen award winners.



We abound with winners this month. Below are the just-completed, custom-designed banners with our 2016 and

2017 Women's Seder honorees, Jane Friedman and Erica Lieberman-Garrett. The banners were created and handmade by Marcia Kreitman and Gloria Avner.



Linda Pollack was surprised at the Second Seder with a plaque honoring her twenty years of service to KJCC as our treasurer and so much more. Gerry Emkey, at far right, brought home an award, too. Her team, Save Our Sisters, won a major Dragon Boat race — all competitors are breast cancer survivors — in Miami.





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Contact: Beth Hayden

hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net 305-773-0067



KJCC'S SEASON OF SEDERS



The magic number this year was four. We're not talking about the four questions here, the core preamble to our annual telling of what possibly is the greatest story ever told. This particular four is about the number of seders held under KJCC auspices this year. First came the Women's Seder (the pictures are worth more than 1000 words). You will read all about it, in the Sisterhood Column and in this Passover section.

Then came our Sunday School's Family Seder in the school room on the Friday before the actual first seder. You can read about that, too, on the KJCC Religious School News page. The third seder was our very own First-Night-of-Pesach *Haimische Seder*, held in our filled-to-capacity-and-beyond Social Hall. The pictures for that



one tell a tale of meaningful and entertaining enjoyment, just what a seder should be, a boisterous crowd paying tribute to the past, making the story relevant in the present, and having a heck of a good time with family around a huge dining room table (albeit a snakily meandering one) and then an unexpected honor given to worthy recipients.

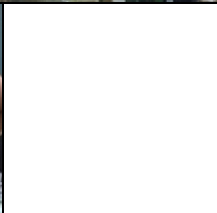


And how does it end? What is the fourth seder about? It was the traditional Passover Second Night Community Seder (confused yet?), the only one where we do not cook or bring the food ourselves. The second-night seder, as celebrated by KJCC at the Islamorada Fishing Club, is the one that is as much

about community service as the retelling of the story of our people's passage from slavery to freedom. See the photos and the stories about honors bestowed. There are even photo pages of some of us far away, happy KJCC-connected people, happy to be at other seders. Enjoy the reprise and the delighted faces. ♦

ON HER 14TH BIRTHDAY: *Welcome to the KJCC Women's Seder*

Once upon a time an unusual baby was born – a brand new take on a 3,000-year-old tradition. She was treasured and nurtured by many different women. They brought her to life, sustained her, and every year they gathered to drink wine, tell stories, eat delicious food, make pottery, and celebrate her. She loved her moms' creative projects and the moms supported her first steps into advocacy of



world repair (tikkun olam). In turn, she celebrated these women – a different one of her “moms” every year.

Last year the Women's Seder had her 13th birthday. Bat Mitzvah time. Those of us sitting in the back of the sanctuary the day the baby was conceived remember both excitement and antagonism. We have seen many changes and much growth, especially in the depth of relationships between the women of





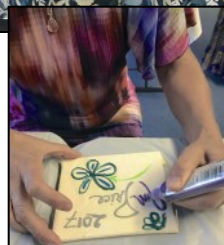
KJCC and in the connection with their friends in the larger community. Who knows what future changes will evolve. It's been a joy for 14 years. Stay tuned - there may be a cookbook in the works.

Join us in this year's journey. Look at the diversity of people sharing the good words, the singing and the food. Marvel at the

"tablecloth" inspired by Muriel Swartz's witnessing of artist Judy Chicago's work

(made manifest here by artist and seamstress Marcia Kreitman, adding textiles with names of new attendees over the past eight cycles). Note that we have caught up with our beautiful honoree banners for last year's honoree, Jane Freidman and this year's, Erica Lieberman-Garrett.

(Note the distinctive "hippie-style" lettering created just for Erica by Joyce Peckman's tribute to this year's honoree from history. Finally, be witness to Erica's speech as she accepts her honor as the KJCC Women's Seder's "Woman of the Year." ♦

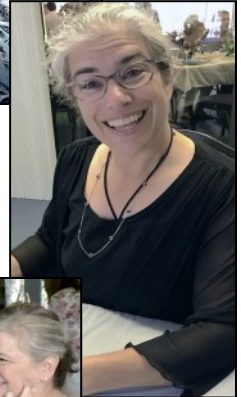


Since 2010, each new attendee at Women's Seder decorates a piece of cloth with her name, the year and any symbols

that are meaningful to her. Looking at the cloth from end to end is like taking a walk among good friends, some of whom are no longer with us.

Women's Seder (cont.):

Joyce Peckman, below, tells the story of Fanny Von Arnstein, the 18th century salonnière who was the historic honoree at this year's event. (Please see the separate article on page 32.)



Women's Seder (cont.):



Joyce had a busy and fulfilling night. At left she holds the painting she won in the raffle, an original oil by Geri Felder Smith.

And, yes, that's Luigi the service dog you see in the photo at right with owner Jan Price. Luigi has become a familiar fixture at KJCC services and events.



Our Honoree from History:

Fanny Von Arnstein and the Salonnières

by Joyce Peckman

Erica has long understood the value of people coming together around a meal, skillfully implementing Bernie's innovative commitment to shared monthly community dinners. We are extremely grateful to her for the social atmosphere she has helped to create here. In this room, we take for granted the notion of an egalitarian society, where men and women of different backgrounds and economic classes can gather and talk and enjoy cultural events together. But that is a modern concept. Before there were universities, women's suffrage, and concert halls for everyone to hear beautiful music, there were the salons.

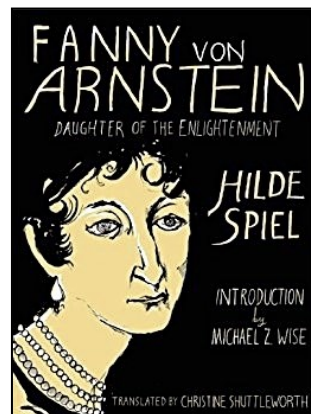
From the late 18th century into the 20th, some Jewish women in Europe, and later in America, turned their drawing rooms into salons that shaped culture and politics and helped to create the modern world. Education has always been a Jewish virtue. Because most young Jewish women were not educated in traditional Jewish texts, they were often taught foreign languages and music. Because Jews were outside of the regular European social circles, their Jewish homes were free from the normal social conventions. Their education and language skills helped them create a comfortable international atmosphere in their homes. Writers, artists and politicians of different classes could mingle and speak freely. These women fostered careers, spearheaded new art movements, protected and promoted controversial modernist works, encouraged new cultural movements and advanced social change, yet few people in America know their names.

Fanny von Arnstein was the outstanding *salonnière* of her time in Vienna. Born in

Berlin on November 29, 1758, Fanny was the eighth child of the banker Daniel Itzig, who was court financier to King Frederick II of Prussia. In 1776 she was married to the Viennese banker and merchant, Nathan Adam Arnstein. During this

time, almost all Jews in the Empire were subject to heavy taxes and legal disabilities; they could not enter the professions or own real estate. Yet a small group of "tolerated" Jews who lived in Vienna managed to win for themselves extraordinary privileges. Aware of her social responsibility as a wealthy woman, Fanny supported countless charities. She was a patroness of music, arts and literature. Her social talents created a very pleasant atmosphere in her Viennese salon, where guests from different ranks of society met and talked. Fanny, a gifted pianist, welcomed Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven to her musical evenings. The high esteem in which she was held contributed much to the growing acceptance of Jews in the high society circles of Vienna.

It was not all music. During the Napoleonic Wars (1805-1815), Fanny Arnstein and her daughter worked tirelessly for the sick and wounded soldiers. During The Congress of Vienna in 1814-1815, which reorganized Europe after the war, her salon became "the place to be," and diplomats from all over Europe were among her guests. So tonight we honor Fanny von Arnstein and the Jewish women whose social talents helped usher in the modern age. ◊



ERICA LIEBERMAN-GARRETT – WOMAN OF THE YEAR

I am honored to be here with you tonight, and I thank Susan Gordon for the lovely introduction. Susan told me that she wanted me to talk about myself; I said, sure! I won a public speaking contest in grade six, talking about my family, so I'll start there.

I was born in Toronto, Canada, to Max and Maxine Lieberman. My parents were very young when they married, and my mom had me at age 20. I was the first of her five children, and it was a miracle she had more after me -- I weighed over ten pounds. I have three sisters and a brother. We grew up in a modest suburb of Toronto called Bathurst Manor, with traditional Friday night dinners, homemade *challah* and *matzah* ball soup. My mom used to tell me I better learn how to clean a chicken and deal with the *pippick!* She would say, "It all washes off with soap and water." That was the beginning of my love for being in the kitchen, which eventually led me to our KJCC Sisterhood.

I was fortunate to grow up having both my Lieberman and Kornbloom grandparents well



into my 20s. Their influence and commitment to Judaism set me on my path. I went to Hebrew school three days a week at Beth Emeth Synagogue until my *bat mitzvah*. I was always interested in learning and studying and en-

joyed the options of the *shul's* classes while I lived in Toronto.

I was diagnosed with a major scoliosis at age 16, and was advised to have spinal surgery. I chose not to do that; instead I found chiropractic and alternative healing options to help my condition, and this became my lifelong career.

I moved to Miami Beach in 1992 after meeting my husband, Captain Ron, while visiting my grandparents. We were married in 1994, and raised his two wonderful children. We moved to Destin, Florida, for a few years, but we ended up in the Keys in 1996, when I opened my practice and wellness center in Tavernier. Next year will mark my career's 35th year. In the past 21

years in the Keys I have taught water exercise, yoga and meditation to many in our commu-

nity. This led me to meet Gloria Avner, who invited me to attend my first Women's Seder, in 2008. I then joined her at the Sisterhood meeting and have been involved in the KJCC ever since.

As I look around at all my friends and sisters who have become my Keys family and KJCC *mishpocha*, I feel such love and joy to be connected to all of you, to have shared in so many blessed events, to have been the Sisterhood president, and to be part of this wonderful community. I know that we will share many future *simchas*. Thank you all for bringing me this moment. I am very grateful for this honor. ◊



FIRST SEDER AT KJCC

A NEW TRADITION, A NEW SUCCESS.

For the third year in a row, KJCC held its own first-night seder for Pesach.

We've taken to calling it our *haimische* seder because that is what it is - homey. Apparently people like it that way. First night is traditionally for families and that is who we have become to each other. The room was filled to bursting and yet we felt we were at the family dining table in the very large dining room, thanks to the efforts of the gang of ten who came that morning to set up. There was drumming to accompany the songs (thank you, drummer Rick Wolfe), a graphic demonstration of the plague of hail the Egyptians suffered (okay, so they were really ping pong balls - extra credit for creativity to Donna Bolton, who brought them and delighted the children when she began to fling them about the room) and lots of homemade, delicious food thanks to the organizational efforts of coordinator supreme - Susan

A large contingent of Susan Ellner's family was on hand for the first-night seder at KJCC. Her grandchildren, together with a little vocal help from Susan, led all present in a musical recitation of the Four Questions.



In the symbolic Pesach washing of hands on behalf of all, Susan Gordon pours water on the hands of seder leader Beth Hayden. Susan Ellner, the founder of KJCC's new first seder, is at lower right.

Ellner - and the many contributing cooks who brought their best dishes. (Everyone brought their own wine.) The



feast, including many vegetarian options, was arrayed buffet-style. Medina Roy became self-designated jokester, adding occasional commentary from a comic writer's take on seders as Beth Hayden, Sam Vinicur and Susan Gordon led a meaningful, tuneful, and humor-laden seder.

The high point of the evening, though, came just after dinner, before the seder resumed. It was time for

Rick Wolfe, at right, offered tympanic accompaniment to the seder songs.



the presentation of our synagogue's highest honor - the annual Joel Cohen Fellowship Award. Each year the previous winners decide the newest winner, or winners. Nominations are taken, and then there's a spirited discussion of how, and how much, the candidates have contributed to the culture and health and inner bonds of KJCC. No

one is given the award for one act, or one idea. The goal is always to recognize who has been there, and participated, and contributed in ways

large and small, and over time truly made a difference. Traditionally the winner is announced at the second-night KJCC Community Seder. But we knew that this year's winners would be at the first seder this year and not the second.

The selection this year was easy, the vote unanimous. The winners of the 2017 Joel Cohen Fellowship Award are Jules and Nettie Seder. We offer them our congratulations and deep appreciation. ◊



Almost 70 people attended KJCC's potluck first-night seder. Tables meandered around our social hall like a winning hand of dominoes. At the end of the evening, all previous Joel Cohen Award winners who were still there posed with our newest winners, Jules and Nettie Seder. (No, their name got them no extra votes.) It was wonderful to get a visit from past-president (and former Joel Cohen winner) Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake, left with Medina, who to our delight were making a Pesach return to the Keys.

KJCC SECOND SEDER

Renee Salant coordinated the KJCC Community Second Seder this year, and with the help of her team and Vinnie, the Islamorada Fishing Club head organizer, she did a wonderful job. Everyone loved the placecards designed by Sam Weis. Seder officiants Beth Hayden, Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon, were grateful for Sam Weis's set up of the sound system.

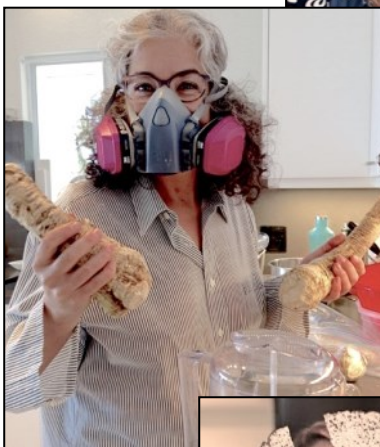
Gene Silverman helped in preparing the room as well as contributing charoset, Rosemary Barefoot greeted our guests at the door, Steve Hartz gave us the opportunity to sing Hallel in mini-version, and Steve Steinbock traveled well with the microphone to make sure every table could take part in the reading,

Eighty people were welcomed, and how wonderful it was that we had so many children taking part. Some were children and grandchildren of our members (like Stan and Jenny Margulies' visiting family). Others were passing through.

This year, we had three different Jewish families on vacation with children among us. They were grateful to have a Jewish community to be among. They loved being part of our seder, and their children's visible excitement enriched all of us. Take a good look at Richard Knowles' photos of the climactic *afi-*



The three leaders of the KJCC second seder are above, from l-r: Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon and Beth Hayden. The woman in the gas mask at left is Renee Salant, who not only managed the seder, she also made a whole lot of horseradish from scratch. (The raw root is what she's holding. If it tasted incredibly fresh, now you know why. Who loves ya?)



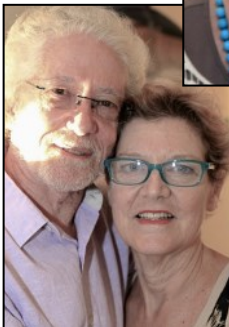
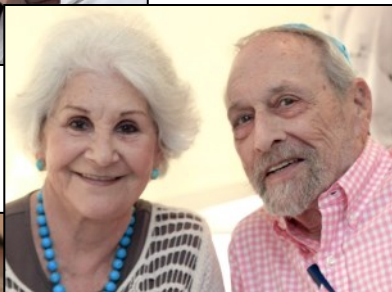
komen moment. The expressions are priceless. Memories are being made that will be woven into their adult Jewish souls.

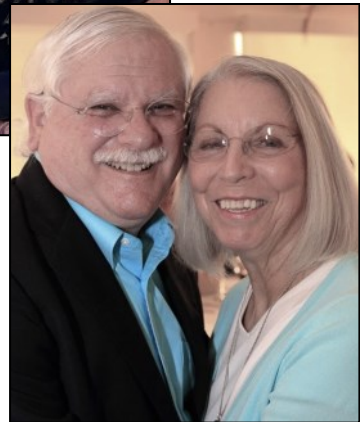
Passover is the one major Jewish Holiday that is not held in a Synagogue nor led by professionals. It is homemade. We are guided by our

Haggadahs, our KJCC "*minhag*" (or customs), and our hearts. Of all the holidays we celebrate, more Jews around the world want to be around the big Passover



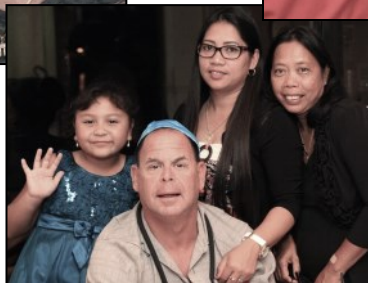
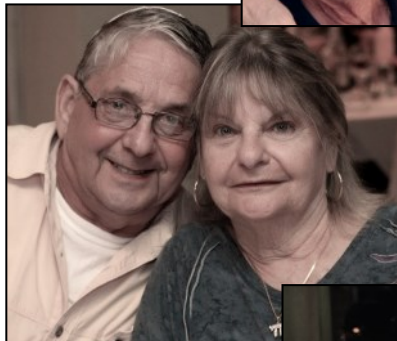
family table than at any other event we celebrate. We bless our ritual foods, ask our questions, tell our story, sing our thanks, get sensorally visceral with our pinkies dipped in wine as we recite the ten plagues, we eat, we sing some more, drink lots of wine, and resolve to do it all again next year. Maybe that will be the year Elijah comes. If we don't do it all again, who will remember our story and how grateful we are to be here, a free people with a complex history and obligation to work towards justice and freedom for others as well as ourselves. ♦







Our deepest appreciation to Richard Knowles of Barbara Knowles Photography for all the photos you see here of the KJCC Second Seder report.



Other Seders

In Other Places

Shared by KJCC Mishpocha...



Among the 60 people at the Feder/ Kaminstein annual seder-by-the-sea were a notable crowd from KJCC. It was good to see the Levy sisters back in the fold, along with a great selection of mothers, aunts, cousins and babies. We got to eat *schmeur matzoh* and see Nat Werthamer (below) hide herself on the way to finding the afikomen.





Rabbi Ed Rosenthal sent us the photo at top, of his Eckerd College Hillel seder. (A number of those at this table had just been at KJCC while getting their open-water adaptive dive buddy certifications. At immediate right is a seder photo sent by Linda Pollack. Skip is at far left, and Linda's sister Lani is at far right.



up in Aden, and someone in his family actually made this and other fez kipot.



Kathy Shabathai sent the two photos at left, one of grandson Cooper

alone and the other, at left, with Joe. (It was Cooper who insisted on wearing the fez that Jews living in Arabic countries often wore. Joe grew



The photo at left is from the annual seder held at St. Columba Episcopal Church in Marathon. KJCC members attending were Judy Greenman, Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis. Above is the New Jersey seder of Joyce Peckman's family. That's son Keith as Pharaoh.



Shavuot

What is it and what do we need to know about it? Rabbis teach us that it is actually the giving of the Torah that matters. The entire holiday is referred to as the time of the giving of the Torah. We are said to receive it every day; we are constantly in the process of receiving it. But this is the one time it was given, a moment to always be celebrated. Passover may have freed us from physical bondage, but the giving of the Torah seven weeks later freed us from bondage to idolatry and spiritual darkness.

Shavuot, which translates literally as “weeks,” did not receive much attention in the ancient rabbinic literature. No tractate about it appears in the Talmud. All of its laws are contained in one paragraph of the Shulchan Arukh. This is interesting, since Shavuot is one of the three mandated pilgrimage festivals, along with Pesach and Sukkot, when healthy males — women were often exempted, because it was believed they had more important things to do at home — were expected to travel to Jerusalem to bring crop offerings to the Temple. But today, what we like to think of as modern times, there are many aspects to the celebration of this holiday. It might have begun as strictly an agricultural observation, but today it is infused with many levels of significance, especially because it is believed to be the exact moment when, with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the ragtag wandering Hebrews, so recently slaves in Egypt, at that moment became the nation of Israel, soon to be a major and continuous player in world history.

Omer Counting, the 49-Day Walk to Sinai, and Polishing Our “Rocks” to be Worthy of Torah

by Gloria Avner

An old friend of mine, and the synagogue’s, gifted me with a small book ten years ago, a spiritual guide that forever transformed my view of *Shavuot*. It is called “Counting the Omer: Forty-nine Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition,” written by Rabbi Simon Jacobsen. Say thank you to Chaim Shaffer, creator of “Shabbos Shirts,” the next time he visits. Ritual Committee bought several books and they are available in the office for your perusal. The counting of *omer* is about more than barrels of barley.

There is a teaching (reinforced by Rabbi Agler in his Shabbat Gadol learning service last month) that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon

which our life as a people is built. The process of receiving the Torah—“instruction”—actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called “Sefirat Ha’Omer,” the Counting of the Omer.

Ancient Israel’s economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the “waves” of grain were offered up every day from Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn’t. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is *mida* (plural: *midot*); it is the same word that is used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn’t our language wonderful?

The word *s’fira* (plural: *s’firot*) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the “counting” definition, but listen to what the famous 16th century Kabbalist RaMak said: “*Sefirah* means both ‘*mispar*,’ or number, and ‘*sipur*,’ as in story-telling. A third root is

‘safir,’ or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of “emanation -- light from a source of illumination.”

According to our little booklet, “counting *sefirot* illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of *sefirah* tell us a story—the story of our souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as *sefirot*. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine.”

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

Chesed: Lovingkindness, benevolence;

Gevurah: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;

Tiferet: Beauty and harmony; compassion;

Netzach: Endurance; fortitude, ambition;

Hod: Humility, splendor;

Yesod: Bonding, foundation;

Malchut: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person’s particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these *midot/sefirot*.

Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of the week is represented by an aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days, again with each of the *sefirot* listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for example, we would focus on *chesed b’chesed*—lovingkindness in lovingkindness, On Day Two of Week One, we focus on *g’vura she’b’chesed*—the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the focus is *tiferet she’b’chesed*—harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the *Omer*, we take opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days’ walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much

We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource guide not just to behavior in daily life but to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to our source. Bring your brightly polished self to KJCC on the evening of June 2 at 6:00 pm to enjoy a home cooked dairy meal, to pray, remember your loved ones at the fourth and final Yizkor service of the Jewish year, study

and discuss the Book of Ruth with Bernie Ginsberg, stay as long as you can to correct our ancestors’ mistake of almost sleeping through the giving of the Torah. We’ll help each other stay awake. Let’s receive Torah with open arms and hearts. Come celebrate all the aspects of Shavuot with your KJCC *mishpocha*. ◇

Shavuot Customs through History and Around the World

A medieval book of customs states: “It is customary to scatter spices and roses on the synagogue floor to celebrate the festival.” Beautiful paper flower cutouts called “*shevuoslekh reizelekh*” or “*shoshanta*” were pasted on windowpanes facing the streets. Among the intricate designs of folk art creations were motifs and patterns relating to Shavuot and the Torah.

Why Dairy On Shavuot?

Sephardic women took pride in baking a seven-layer cake for Shavuot called “*Siete Cielos*” (Seven Heavens), symbolic of the seven celestial spheres G-d traversed to present the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. Fashioned in seven circular rising tiers, one smaller than the other with the smallest on top, it was decorated with various symbols such as a star of David, the rod of Moses, the two tablets of the Law, manna, Jacob's ladder, and the Ark of the Covenant. Others topped the cake with a seven-rung ladder to recall Moses ascending Mount Sinai. Graven images might have been forbidden, but no one said Jews couldn't be creative when it came to their food.

Similar elaborate pastries called “Sinai Cake” alluded to the mountain. A large cake or bread with raisins, known as “*pashtudan*” or “*floden*” when baked for Shavuot, was also called Sinai. Some Sephardic women baked “*baklava*,” a sweet cake made with nuts, sugar and honey.

Jews of Kurdistan (assuming there are still any Jews in Kurdistan) prepare large quantities of butter and cheese for Shavuot. Their dish was ground wheat cooked in sour milk with butter and flour dumplings.

In Tripoli (now Libya), women baked wafers in various shapes: a ladder, to recall Moses' rise up Mount Sinai; a hand, denoting hands extended to receive the Torah; the two tablets of the Law; eyeglasses, to see the words of the Torah, and other symbolic forms.

In North African communities it was customary to serve matzah remaining from Passover, because Shavuot is the culmination of the Exodus from Egypt. The matzah was shredded into bowls of milk and honey.

When Yemenite Jews read “*Tikkun*” in the synagogue Shavuot night, each brings a choice delicacy such as spiced coffee or candy to share with those studying through the night. (One hopes this Yemenite tradition has been kept alive in Israel.)

And when KJCC Jews gather in the Social Hall to discuss the Book of Ruth with Bernard Ginsberg, we will have slices of Key Lime Pie ready at hand. ♦

One of the most enduring customs of Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods. The most common explanation is because it was at Mt. Sinai that Jews were first given the dietary laws and, now obligated to follow its teachings, realized that they could not properly prepare meat or their utensils there. So they ate dairy instead.

But food is involved here, so there are many more explanations. It is said that baby Moses was placed in the river on the sixth of Sivan (the future Shavuot). It is also said that Moses refused to nurse from an Egyptian woman, which led to his sister Miriam's suggestion that Yocheved, his birth mother, be brought in as his “wet nurse.” Moses could not drink mother's milk from a non-Jew. So the day is commemorated with dairy dishes.

Some take their guidance from the Torah (given on Shavuot), which speaks in Exodus of a land flowing with “milk and honey.” At Sinai, the Israelites were said to be as innocent as newborns, whose food, of course, is milk. Mystics have noted that the *gematria*, the numerical value, of the word *chalav* (milk) is 40, the number of days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments and other teachings. And that Mt. Sinai itself has eight names, one of which is *gavnunim*, because its appearance resembles that of cheese, which in Hebrew is *g'vinah*.

Those with a gustatory bent, however, focus on the menu of traditional Shavuot dairy dishes. There's cheesecake. And cheese blintzes. And yogurt with honey. And lasagna. And *burekas*, a Sephardic dish of cheese stuffed in dough. Even *kreplach* are sometimes cheese-filled.

So when Shavuot comes, remember that it celebrates many things: the harvest and our gratitude for it, the end of counting the Omer, and that it represents the giving of the Torah, the single essential act that created the Jewish people.

Then, guilt-free for the only time all year, have an extra, but very spiritual, helping of cheesecake. ♦

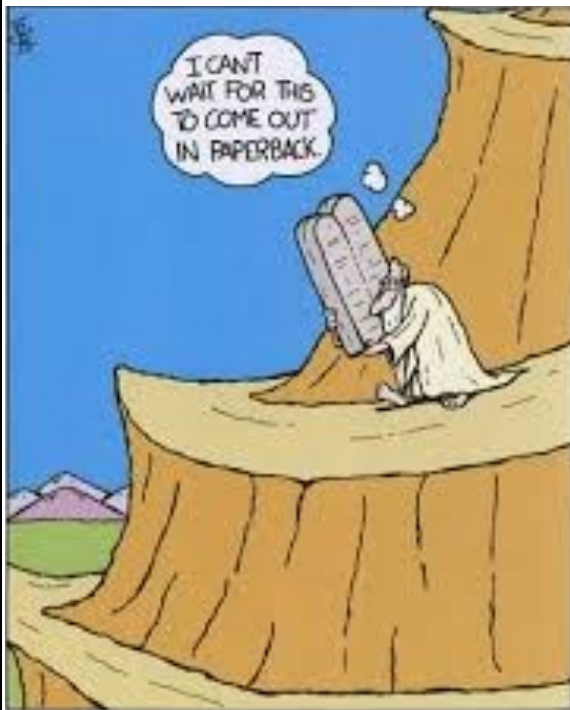


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Because our residents come first, every employee must reflect the higher standards of our communities. Based on Ritz-Carlton procedures, a comprehensive orientation program reinforces this focus. Regular training and educational programs continue so that residents will always receive the very best care and services.

3. Local Ownership –

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services bearing The Palace name: only the best.

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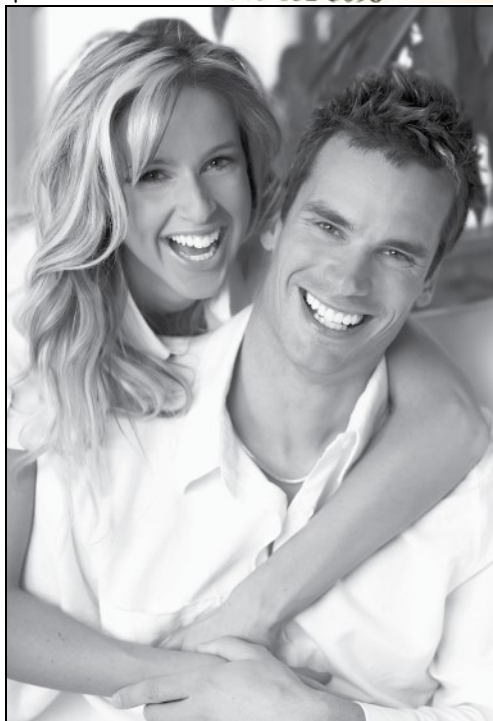
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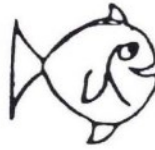
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