

Chai~Lights



June/July/August 2013

23 Sivan - 25 Elul 5773

YEDA—Last in the Israel Series - page 17

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Gloria on Summer Judaism - page 38

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

June 2013

23 Sivan - 21 Tammuz

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|-----|-----|---|---|
| <p>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</p> | | | | | | <p>1 Harry Friedman Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.</p> |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | <p>7 Potluck Dinner 6:30 Joyce Peckman <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i></p> | 8 |
| <p>9 Board Meeting 9 a.m.</p> | 10 | <p>11 KJCC Israel Trip Departs</p> | 12 | 13 | <p>14 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely <i>Amelia & Steve Kasinof Sisterhood</i></p> | 15 |
| <p>16 Father's Day</p> | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | <p>21 Steve Steinbock <i>Lauren & Stuart Sax</i></p> | 22 |
| <p>23 30</p> | 24 | <p>25 Fast of the 17th Day of Tammuz</p> | 26 | 27 | <p>28 Gloria Avner 6:30 Service</p> | 29 |

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P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070
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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



I'm sitting here writing for June – although it's still May – still aglow with the pleasures of Rabbi Mitch Chefitz's pre-*Shavuot* presentation on preparing spiritually for *Shavuot*, and full of thoughts and questions from preparing *Erev Shavuot* services I co-led with Gloria.

I want to thank Gloria Avner, Medina Roy and Sam Vinicur as well as all the ladies who prepared the wonderful desserts for making the evening with Rabbi Chefitz a success. By the time you read this, we will have completed not only the pre-*Shavuot* services, but also a regular *Shavuot* Friday service (with Yizkor) as well as a special Saturday Torah service with Rabbi Agler. More weeks packed with Judaism.

We will soon be sending off our KJCC Israel Trip contingent. We wish them a wonderful trip and I can hardly wait for the wonderful stories they will bring back.

I'm thinking of Harry Friedman's Bar Mitzvah, to take place on May 31st and June 1st. The entire congregation wishes Jane and Steve Friedman a hearty *mazel tov*. I am personally gratified to see the influence on Harry's development fostered by our religious school. Harry personifies what our congregation is about – the production of worthy young people to insure the survival of Jewish tradition. We can all justifi-

ably take pride in his achievements.

Please remember that we are having a potluck dinner before Friday services on June 7th. Dinner begins at 6:30. It will be a very simple affair. Just bring a dairy dish and make twice your usual amount so all can share. Please notify Barbara Knowles what you intend to bring. (We don't want everyone bringing cucumber salad!)

The Men's Club Shabbarbeque and celebration of Pauline Roller's birthday will be Friday, July 5th. I want to thank Steve Friedman and Marc Bloom for stepping up to lead this delightful KJCC tradition. (We'll be cooking on the grill Steve and Jane donated a few years ago.)

Please check out our library. Medina is working hard to make it accessible and beautiful to look at. I just finished a quick read of "Sacred Trash," the story of the treasures discovered at the Cairo, Egypt *Genizah*. (Only the Dead Sea Scrolls are considered its equal in importance. Most of what we know about the writings of Maimonides comes from this discovery.) Improve your own Jewish education and find some treasures of your own in our KJCC library.

Have a joyous and safe summer, everyone, and remember that High Holidays begin *very* early next fall, on September 4th.

Nosh

Chai-Lights Heads Into Summer Hiatus

As we head into the hotter, slower days of summer, Chai-Lights will take a two-month break. This issue is a special "triple" issue for June, July and August. But we will still be accepting (and encouraging) submissions of photos and info for our next print issue in September. The calendar of events on the website will still be updated regularly.

Oneg Sponsors for the Summer of 2013

June 7th - Carol and Steve Steinbock in honor of their Anniversary.

June 14th - Amelia and Steve Kasinof to mark Amelia's Birthday. Sisterhood to honor Joan Boruszak.

June 21st - Lauren and Stuart Sax in honor of their Anniversary.

July 5th - Joyce Peckman to honor Joyce and Pauline's birthdays.

Absolute Last Call for the Israel Trip

Dave Mont tells us that Arza, the company planning and organizing our tour, has not totally closed the door to new participants, but that anyone wishing to sign up now (you know, the Dagwood Bumstead wannabes) would likely run into accommodation problems in Israel. But you can call Arza, at 888-811-2812, to discuss it. As of now, there is a solid group of fifteen.

BOOK PLATES

Ten In Memory of Sally Shabathai

April 19th, 2013

Joseph and Katherine Shabathai

TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of

Jane Friedman

May Your Conversion Bring You A

Lifetime of Peace

Steve & Carol Steinbock

In Honor of

Richard Knowles

May your Conversion Bring You A

Lifetime of Peace

Steve & Carol Steinbock

A Special Oneg June 14 in honor of Joan B.

As most of you now know, Joan Boruszak will be leaving the Keys at the end of June, moving to be near family in Plano, Texas. Sisterhood will be sponsoring the Oneg after the Friday, June 14th service in Joan's honor. Joan was president of Sisterhood, a long-time Board Member and long among the core group of KJCC. Please be there if you can. (See the ad on page 14.)

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to

Skip Rose

and his family on the death of

Rene Rose

June Birthdays

2nd.....Barbara Osder
2nd.....Myra Kaplan
3rd.....Abraham Rakov
3rd.....Elanor Forbes
4th.....Alfred Weihl
4th.....Scott Kay
5th.....Dorothy Wolfe
5th.....Joseph Sachs
6th.....Donna Bolton
6th.....Nancy Kluger
6th.....Suzanne Gilson
7th.....Carrie Smith
7th.....Jim Nobil
7th.....Joan Wohl
8th.....Bunny Lohmann
8th.....Elaine Solas
9th.....Renee Brodie
12th.....Kevin M. Silverman
12th.....Michal Kamely
13th.....Israel Mayk
13th.....Jeff Miller
13th.....Justin Greenbaum
14th.....Jennifer Nobil
15th.....Haley Mayclin
15th.....William Bolton
16th.....Marvin Blumenfeld
16th.....Peter Kantor
17th.....Anita Krieger
17th.....Leo Haviv
18th.....Amelia Kasinof
18th.....Kim Haviv
20th.....Harvey Klein
20th.....Judy Schmidt
21st.....Sam Janowitz
21st.....Taryn Nobil
23rd.....Dale Chasteen
23rd.....Steve Levine
24th.....Delaney Rohde
24th.....Rita Bromwich
27th.....Frank Emkey
27th.....Maxwell Schrader-Grace
28th.....Alan Cooper
29th.....Arthur Feinberg
29th.....Robert N. Kwalick
30th.....Bob Friedman

July Birthdays

1st.....Alex Hudson
1st.....Chely Markowitz
1st.....Jennifer Gilson
1st.....Patti Gross
2nd.....Elissa A. Denker
3rd.....Max Finkelstein
4th.....Pauline Roller
5th.....Ron Levy
8th.....Erica Morgan Shatz
9th.....Joyce Peckman
10th.....Lindsay Gould
11th.....Steven Hartz
12th.....Rebecca M. Schur
12th.....Richard Steinberg
13th.....Dot Brooking
14th.....David Gross
14th.....Paul Eric Bernstein
15th.....Danna Levy
17th.....Foster Davidson
17th.....Robert Werthamer
17th.....Shira Listman
18th.....Luzviminda Levine
18th.....Zachary G Kwalick
20th.....Carol Laskin
20th.....Roosmary Benowitz
21st.....Arlington Garrett
21st.....Brian Smith
21st.....Joshua Samuel Bernstein
21st.....Linda Perloff
23rd.....Carrie Temkin
25th.....Alan Markowitz
26th.....Carol Field
27th.....Marc Bloom
27th.....Rachael Bloom
27th.....Stephanie LaMarche
28th.....Lila E. Juenger
29th.....Bruce Boruszak
29th.....Candy Stanlake
29th.....Mary Lee Singer
30th.....Molly Bloom
31st.....Drew Nobil

New Donations to the KJCC Library

In my article in last month's issue of Chai-Lights showing how the library had grown, I made specific mention of a book titled *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, by Erik Larson. What I neglected to mention was that the book had been donated by Jim Williams. My sincere apologies.

The following books were recently donated by Joan Boruszak. Thanks, Joan!

- *Every Tallit Tells A Tale*, edited by Debra W. Smith. Location: Spirituality (SPI).

- *Transformations: From Ethiopia to Israel*, photographs by Ricki Rosen, essay by Micha Odenheimer. Location: Jewish World (JW).

- *Skyline Jerusalem*, by Duby Tal and Moni Haramati. Location: Israel (ISR).

Also, many thanks to Candy Stanlake and Alan Beth for donating a large box of books and assorted audio-visual material to our library. (For anyone interested, also in the box was one of Alan's old pay stubs, five rusty allen wrenches, one black sock, a no-longer-moist towelette, one ziplock baggie with assorted audio-visual plugs, a small clipboard made in China, a bungee cord, and one penny.) Although we are sad to see them leave the Keys, we are grateful for their thoughtful donation. (Well, most of it, anyway.)

-Medina

Potluck Dinner on June 7th

Following Bernie's dictum to get us together as often as possible, we're having a dairy dinner at KJCC at 6:30 on June 7th, prior to services. There's no charge. Contact Barbara Knowles to reserve your place or contribute a dish. Please see the ad on page 8.)

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN HONOR OF
Ellen Coltman
Barney Coltman**

June Anniversaries

| | Years |
|-------------|--|
| 1st | Jim & Rita Williams.....29 |
| 1st | Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....27 |
| 5th | Stephen & Carol Steinbock.....30 |
| 7th | Richard & Sheila Steinberg.....54 |
| 8th | Stephan & Jane Friedman.....17 |
| 10th | Mark & Sofy Wasser.....18 |
| 12th | Steven & Jan Hartz.....37 |
| 12th | Harvey & Beverly Robins.....56 |
| 12th | William & Donna Bolton.....20 |
| 14th | Harvey & Joan Kay.....43 |
| 18th | Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace.....19 |
| 19th | Richard & Mindy Agler.....37 |
| 20th | Milton & Joan Wohl.....62 |
| 21st | Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.....26 |
| 23rd | Stuart & Lauren Sax.....39 |
| 24th | Robert & Heide Werthamer.....18 |
| 25th | Herbert & Elinor Grossman.....56 |
| 28th | Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble.....44 |
| 28th | Wes & Rita Conklin.....43 |

July Anniversaries

| | Years |
|-------------|--|
| 2nd | Douglas & Rozi Graham.....9 |
| 9th | Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly.....3 |
| 12th | Jason & Debbie Madnick.....18 |
| 24th | Dick & Rita Bromwich.....39 |
| 29th | Bernard & Elaine Solas.....57 |

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN HONOR OF
Lilyan "Babe" Sax
Stuart & Lauren Sax**

Finally Seeing Janis

Often times we have a favorite singer that we have listened to for many years but never had the opportunity to see in concert. For Stuart & Lauren and David & Gloria those wishes became reality recently when we all traveled to Davie to see Jewish singer/songwriter and folk icon Janis Ian in concert.

The venue was small and it was more like a living room performance than a concert hall. Janis pleased the audience with her iconic hits "Society's Child" and "At Seventeen," along with new material of a serious or comedic nature. Her voice is as angelic and pure as ever and she maintains her infectious smile.

While her career started for self-benefit, over the last twenty years her performances raise funds for The Pearl Foundation, founded to award scholarships to "returning students" to continue their education. The foundation is in honor and memory of Janis's mother, Pearl, who fought multiple sclerosis for many years. To date, Janis's concerts have raised more than \$650,000 in scholarships, a real tribute and mitzvah to her mother. It was an honor for us to have been in her audience.



note: text by Stuart Sax, photo by David Gitin

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 at 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 Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, 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 Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES, BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

JNF TREES IN ISRAEL: A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, 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.

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.

Yahrzeits Fully Explained

Yiddish for “a year’s time,” a yahrzeit is the anniversary of the death of a loved one. One benefit of being a member of KJCC is that the secretary (that’s me) will send you a reminder of the dates. But in Judaism, nothing is simple. Since Talmudic times, families have lit candles (no prayer necessary) on the eve of the Hebrew date of the yahrzeit and recited *kaddish* in the presence of a *minyán*. For them, the Hebrew date was significant because of the belief that on the anniversary of the death the soul could ascend to a higher level, helped by the prayers and good deeds of those who remember them. Thus the custom of donating to charity or sponsoring onegs in someone’s memory.

“The soul of man is the candle of G-d.” (Proverbs, Ch. 20.) Like a human soul, flames breathe, change, and strive against the darkness. The flickering flame of the candle reminds us of the fragility of life and of the light we bring to each other’s lives. Because of this rabbinic teaching, candles, both traditional and electric, are available in the KJCC Sisterhood Gift Shop.

The KJCC has a wonderful and flexible database, created and tended to by Alan Beth. When you receive your dues packet during the summer, look for the appropriate page to add or delete yahrzeits for the names of family members important to you. There is a place to list the relationship, and - a great service not available from even some large synagogues - a place to indicate if you prefer to be reminded annually of the secular English (or, more accurately, the Gregorian) date rather than the Hebrew date, which is based on a lunar calendar. Please note that the date you select, from either the Jewish or secular calendar, determines when your loved one’s name will be read aloud from the *bemah* during services. Choosing the secular date will cause the name to be read the same week each year. Choosing the Jewish date is more traditional, but will translate to a different announcement date from year to year.

-Joyce Peckman

August Birthdays

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 1st..... | Nicholas Rivera |
| 2nd..... | Marc S. Field |
| 4th..... | Jessica Forman |
| 5th..... | Nissan Mayk |
| 7th..... | Emma Feig |
| 8th..... | Ilana Gilderman |
| 9th..... | Delia Grace Smith |
| 9th..... | Eric Freundlich |
| 10th..... | Barbara Smith |
| 10th..... | Rozi Graham |
| 13th..... | Brian Gilderman |
| 13th..... | Gina Moritz |
| 13th..... | Stephan L. Friedman |
| 14th..... | Heide Werthamer |
| 15th..... | Danielle Zinner |
| 15th..... | Patricia Isenberg |
| 16th..... | Alan Lindenbaum |
| 16th..... | Alison Thompson |
| 16th..... | Tom Brennan |
| 18th..... | Zachary Schrader-Grace |
| 19th..... | Pamela Friedman |
| 20th..... | Amanda Nobil |
| 21st..... | Rachel Zinner |
| 23rd..... | Dave Mont |
| 24th..... | Carl McNew |
| 26th..... | Mikhaela Bitton |
| 27th..... | Jaimee Marshall |
| 27th..... | Judy Greenman |
| 28th..... | Evan Stuart |
| 30th..... | Robert Temkin |
| 30th..... | Sue Ann Wehl |
| 31st..... | Ivy Blumenfeld |

August Anniversaries

| | Years |
|-------------|---|
| 7th | Larry & Dorothy Wolfe.....56 |
| 15th | Paul & Susan Roberts.....45 |
| 15th | Richard & Barbara Knowles.....14 |
| 16th | Ira & Shirley Stein.....55 |
| 21st | Jeff & Lisa Miller.....36 |
| 22nd | Franklin & Judy Greenman.....31 |
| 27th | Israel & Nissan Mayk.....41 |

Sisterhood Seder Steering Committee

May 5, 2013

Dear KJCC President and Board Members,

The Women's Seder Steering Committee is happy to announce this year's recipients of Tikkun Olam awards, money raised by Seder participants to help make the world a better, freer, more equitable place in which to live:

KJCC's Sara Cohen Tzedakah Fund will receive \$482.00. She would have loved the event and been gratified to see the values she stood for carried on by today's woman members.

Another \$482.00 will go to Take Stock in Children, an organization that provides mentors to at-risk low-income schoolchildren. Those who take part are given scholarships and services to support their success in higher education. No donated money goes to administrative costs. Every dollar donated generates a matching dollar. It is good to be "people of the book" for others as well as ourselves.

The third grant, also \$482.00, goes to the Keys Cancer Foundation, a locally run organization that helps people stricken with cancer pay their bills while undergoing treatment. Every penny goes to the people who need it. Administration is provided by volunteers.

It is a pleasure to be able to contribute to the health, education, and welfare of our community, large and small. We trust the tradition will continue for years to come.

Women's Seder Committee,

Beth Kaminstein, Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman, Erica Lieberman-Garrett,
Lee Schur



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

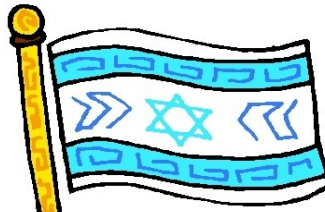
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2013

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH DINNER

~DAIRY~

**WISHING A BON VOYAGE
TO OUR ISRAEL GROUP**



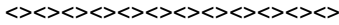
Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503
iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.
No charge for this event.

In Memoriam June, July and August 2013

In Memory Of

Samuel Segal

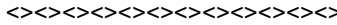
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

William Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Esther R. Cohn

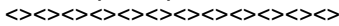
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Lois Owen

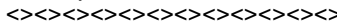
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Louis R. Coltman

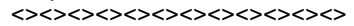
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

Leo Finklestein

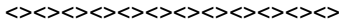
By Max & Mildred Finklestein



In Memory Of

Betty Weiss

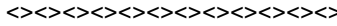
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Samuel Schneider

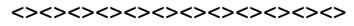
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Saul Elson

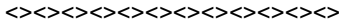
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Rose Kantor

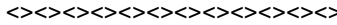
By Erwin Kantor



In Memory Of

Arthur Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Esther Kwalick

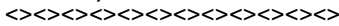
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

Bill Kwalick

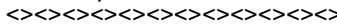
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

E. Enrique Astray-Caneda

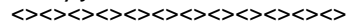
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

William Saul Kerman

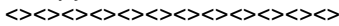
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Florence C. Kerman

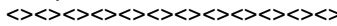
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Carl C. Reiff

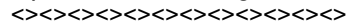
By Rick & Roberta McNew



In Memory Of

Dale Gerber

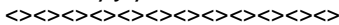
By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau



In Memory Of

Leslie Peckman

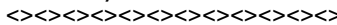
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

Ben Horwitz

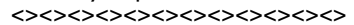
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

Morris Rose

By Skip & Rene Rose

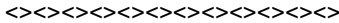


In Memoriam June, July and August 2013

In Memory Of

Milton Lang

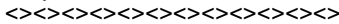
By Skip & Rene Rose



In Memory Of

Rose Graff Rosenfeld

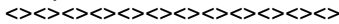
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Irma Weihl

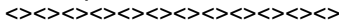
By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl



In Memory Of

Leonard Tobin

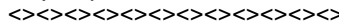
By Andrew M. Tobin



In Memory Of

Ben Steinbock

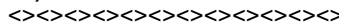
By Stephen & Carol Steinbock



In Memory Of

Seymour Werthamer

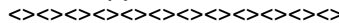
By Robert & Heide Werthamer



In Memory Of

Alfred Eichler

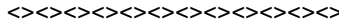
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Leon Kirschenbaum

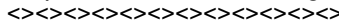
By Medina Roy



In Memory Of

Wally Steinberg

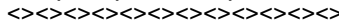
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Rose Fine

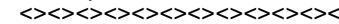
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

Jan Finer

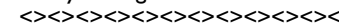
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

Mack Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Ida Estrin

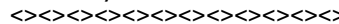
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

Henrietta Zinner

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

Sylvia Sachs

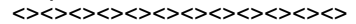
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Jack L. Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Stanley H. Klipper

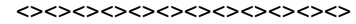
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Mollie Z. Cohen

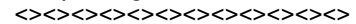
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Milton Swartz

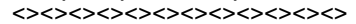
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Frieda Feinberg

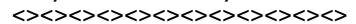
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

Seymour H. Levin

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

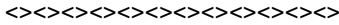


In Memoriam June, July and August 2013

In Memory Of

Sidney Stark

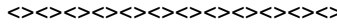
By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

Phyllis Bloom

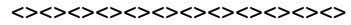
By Marc Bloom



In Memory Of

Murray Cooper

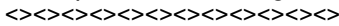
By Claire Cooper



In Memory Of

Rose Goldberg

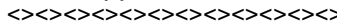
By Susan W. Goldberg



In Memory Of

S. Marshall Gorson

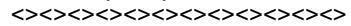
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Max Gould

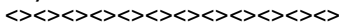
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Florence Grossman

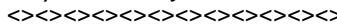
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

Jason Grossman

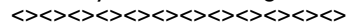
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

Margaret Isenberg

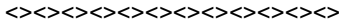
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Sydney Emsig

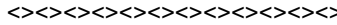
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

Beulah Grossman

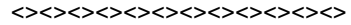
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Les Reitman

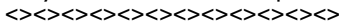
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Sidney Kaplan

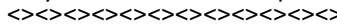
By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan



In Memory Of

Catherine Kaplan

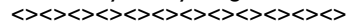
By Ronald & Deborah Kaplan



In Memory Of

Otto Kluger

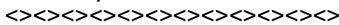
By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

Irwin Kwalick

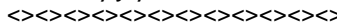
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

Fred Ross

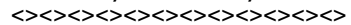
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

Paula Travers

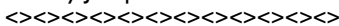
By Michele Riley



In Memory Of

Frank Stanley Sachs

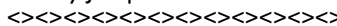
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

Morgan Rowen

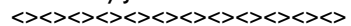
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

Aaron Schmidt

By Judith Schmidt

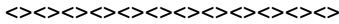


In Memoriam June, July and August 2013

In Memory Of

Franne Alter

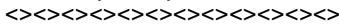
By Barry Alter



In Memory Of

Gary W. Cohn

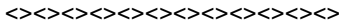
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Robert Davidson

By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin



In Memory Of

Jesse Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg



In Memory Of

Henry Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Charles Kantor

By Erwin Kantor



In Memory Of

Billie Kornbloom

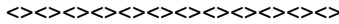
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

Isaac Berman

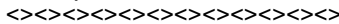
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Sandra Kanarek

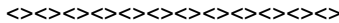
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

Dorothy Schafer

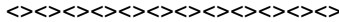
By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

Jeanette Gould

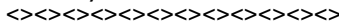
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Margaux Rene Grossman

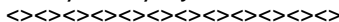
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

Eva Raub

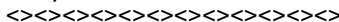
By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

Max Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

Priscilla Leshin

By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Mark Sands

By Claire Cooper



In Memory Of

Harriet Feinberg

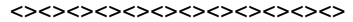
By Arthur Feinberg



In Memory Of

Richard Gould

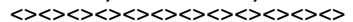
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Chanoch Levy

By Michal Kamely



In Memory Of

Shirley Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

Isaac Cohen Pardo

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

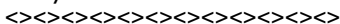


In Memoriam June, July and August 2013

In Memory Of

Dorothy Marmar

By David & Pamela Marmar



In Memory Of

Gizella Reiff

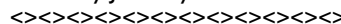
By Rick & Roberta McNew



In Memory Of

Erik S. Persoff

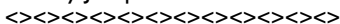
By Jim & Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

Joel Reed Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

Howard Shutan

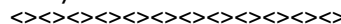
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

Selma Smith

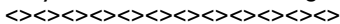
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

Meyer G. Cohen

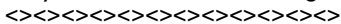
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Samuel Wainer

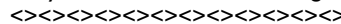
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Erwin Wainer

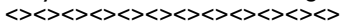
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Erik S. Persoff

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Ralph Tallent

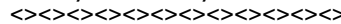
By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

Joseph Wasser

By Mark & Sofy Wasser



How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

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 treasures that lie between these covers."

Tree of Life Leaves: We have two beautiful, seven-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 wonderful blintzes."

PARTY TIME

Best Wishes Joan

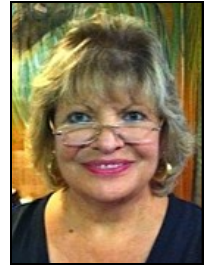
On Your Move!

Join us for Services and and Special Oneg in honor of Joan Boruszak.

Friday, June 14, 2013, 8:00 pm

**We will gather to wish good speed to a long time member of our
mishpocha and past president of Sisterhood.**

Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



As the summer is arriving and it seems our days are getting longer (certainly hotter), the Sisterhood seems as though we're taking a break. In actuality, we are still quietly in action at every Oneg, dinner and most functions taking place.

The Sisterhood will be having a special planning meeting on Monday, July 8th, 2013 at 6 p.m. Our meeting will be to discuss upcoming Shabbat dinners along with other fundraising ideas. Please mark your calendars and bring your best ideas as always. Part of the planning will be to kick off our 2013/2014 season, starting with our High Holiday services. The first holiday will be *Erev Rosh Hashanah* (Eve Of The New Year), celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. *Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre* happens on the evening of Friday, September 13, 2013. Saturday, September 14th will be the actual Yom Kippur Service (Day of Atonement), after which Sisterhood will be hosting a break-the-fast dinner as has always been done in past years. Please check our website for more details on this and other events.

This year's holiday season holds a special treat, as our services will be led by Rabbi Richard Agler along with Cantor Mark Halpern. We are very lucky to have both of them to lead our holidays this year and long forward to all those special days will offer. I hope everyone will honor us with your attendance and warm welcomes for both leaders. While Rabbi Agler has led several inspirational Torah studies and educated us, this will be his first time leading the High Holy Days as a rabbi at KJCC.

This time of year hits me with a lot of mixed emotions. We lost a long-time congregant recently, Rene Rose, who touched everyone's heart she contacted. She led the Sunshine Committee for several years without ever batting an eye, and was always there for

everyone needing a warm greeting, a smile, a get-well card, fruit baskets or a bouquet of flowers from their friends at KJCC. I was thrilled when she was awarded this year's "Woman Of The Year" at the Women's Seder in March. No one was more deserving. (I don't want to slight anyone, as there are many, many other women who are also deserving of recognition for their hard work.) We all will miss Rene. By the time you are reading this, hopefully, we will have had an opportunity to have "A Celebration of Life" for her being planned by her husband, Skip.

We will also soon be bidding a bittersweet farewell to our very own Joan Boruszak, who will be leaving the Keys at the end of June to live near her kids in Texas. Sisterhood will be sponsoring an Oneg in Joan's honor on Friday, June 14th as our way of saying "Keep In Touch and Forget us Not." Joan will be missed but will be as close as an e-mail, text or phone call. Please mark your calendars and join us in honoring Joan and wishing her the very best.

With this being my last column for a while, I have to say I miss all our wonderful snowbirds and can't wait till the fall for them to return. It will be quiet for a while, but before we know it they will be back at our Friday night services, Shabbat dinners and all our many other activities.

The next regularly scheduled Sisterhood meeting is Sunday, August 4th, at 9:30 a.m. I look forward to a lot of positive, informative input. All of you have so much to contribute, and I'm excited to hear your thoughts.

So, until next September, make it a great summer. ◇

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.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Bookplates</i> | <i>In Memory of</i> | <i>Yartzeits</i> | |
| Shabathai, Joe & Kathy | Sally Shabathai (10 plates) | Dorf, Barry & Natalie | Emanuel Schafer |
| | | Emkey, Gerri | Gertrude Weisberg |
| <i>General Fund</i> | <i>In Honor of</i> | Grossman, Stuart | Morris Grossman |
| Begam, Delores | pray for us, please | Kwalick, Teresa | Stephen Kwalick |
| Begam, Delores | please pray for us | Lieberman-Garrett, Erica | Morris Kornbloom |
| Bolton, William & Donna | | Steinbock, Steve & Carol | Susan Cimkowski |
| Davidson, Foster & Laskin, Carol | | Temkin, Robert | Philip Temkin |
| Green, Alan | tku for | | |
| | warm welcome and | | |
| | enabling me to say kaddish | | |
| Sisterhood | | | |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>General Fund</i> | <i>In Memory of</i> |
| Gilson, Michael & Suzanne | Shirley Burnett |

Meditation Garden

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | <i>In Memory of</i> |
| Coltman, Barney | brick - for Ellen Coltman |
| Sax, Stuart & Lauren - brick for Lilyan "Babe" Sax | |

Rabbi and Cantor Fund
Bolton, William & Donna
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Sarah Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund
Sisterhood - Women's Seder

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| | <i>In Honor of</i> |
| Agler, Tovah | Rabbi Agler's new house birthday |
| Ginsberg, Bernie | |
| Peckman, Joyce | b'days - J & Pauline |
| Roy, Medina | anniversary |
| Roy, Medina | birthday |

Sunshine Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren, wishing Jeremy & Kristin Sax a happy anniversary

Hold the Date for Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

to be held on Wednesday, September 4th at 5:00 pm before evening service. We will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, kasha and tzimmis, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Voluntary donation is \$20 per Member. Our children 12 and under are our guests. Non-members of all ages are \$25.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Dr. Erica Garrett by September 1st at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-853-1003 if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.



YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Yerushalayim – Jerusalem

During the past year, in my lecture series at KJCC, we have studied extensively the fascinating history of Jerusalem in our lecture series at the KJCC, from Biblical times to Modern times, in Biblical *Eretz Yisrael* and in the modern State of Israel. When you come to Jerusalem, you go through an intense experience; it is an emotional experience. And it doesn't matter how much you have studied about Jerusalem or how many times you have visited the city; once there, deep emotions are triggered and you feel an inexplicable connection to the place. But maybe these emotions can be explained by our collective *Ahavat Zion*, the Love for Jerusalem. Maybe these emotions have a lot to do with the importance of Jerusalem throughout history as the enduring spiritual center for the Jewish people, despite being scattered throughout the rest of the world. Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's long-time mayor, said: "The spiritual attachment of Jews to Jerusalem has remained unbroken – it is a unique attachment. If you doubt that statement, try to find another relationship in history where a people, whether in possession of their capital

city, or in temporary exile from it, have remained passionately attached to it, for 3,000 years." How did the Jews do it?

In Biblical times, during the First and Second *Beit Hamikdash* (Holy Temple), Jerusalem was considered to be the center of the world; according to Isaiah's vision of peace at the End of Days, Jerusalem would be the center for all the nations of the world. After the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E., the center of religious activity moved first from Jerusalem to *Yavneh*, where Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakkai re-established the *San-*

hedrin and the places of learning, and then to other cities in Israel. Nevertheless, Jerusalem remained within the memory and longing of the Jewish people as the spiritual center of their existence. In law and custom the rabbis preserved this centrality of Jerusalem in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people everywhere in the world.

In legend and tradition the rabbis described the beauty

and singularity of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem is eternity" (B'rachot); "The splendor of the world is Israel; and the splendor of Israel is Jerusalem" (Ramban). Our rabbis taught: "He



The Hurvah Synagogue served as the center of the Ashkenazic yishuv for over 200 years. It was destroyed in the 1948 war and later rebuilt.

who has not seen Jerusalem in her splendor, has never seen a desirable city in his life. He who has not seen the Temple in its full construction has never seen a glorious building in his life” (Sukkah 51b). “Whoever prays in Jerusalem is like one praying before the seat of glory for the gate of Heaven is there and a portal opening for harkening unto prayer, as it is written: And this is the gate of Heaven” (Pirkei D’Rebbi Eliezer).

Jerusalem remained a spiritual center after the Talmudic period until modern times. As mentioned, in many different ways, the *Halachah* – Jewish law – kept the memory of Jerusalem alive in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people wherever in the Diaspora they lived: “Whenever Jews prayed to the Almighty, they turned toward Jerusalem” (B’rachot 30a). Synagogues were always oriented toward the city, and when a Jew built himself a house, he always left a small portion of the wall unfinished to symbolize that it was only a temporary dwelling until he could return to his real and permanent home – Jerusalem.

On the Fast of *Tisha B’Av*, and during the three-week period preceding it, Jews mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple (*Beit Ha’mikdash*). They pray for its restoration, and for the redemption of the Jewish people. Even at the wedding ceremony, one of the most joyful events in a Jew’s life, the groom stomps on and breaks a glass as a way to symbolize and to remember the destruction



The Kotel c.1903, under Turkish rule.

of Jerusalem. Two of the blessings said at a wedding ceremony specifically mention the return to *Zion* (another name for *Yerushalayim*), and the hope that joy and happiness would be heard in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. Even in death, Jerusalem has not been forgotten. Jews throughout the ages longed to be buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. My grandfather made *aliyah* to Israel (then Palestine) in the 1920s and built his house in Jerusalem outside the Old City. His greatest longing came true: he would go to the *Kotel* (Western Wall) to pray during the High Holidays (with special permits given by the government of the British Mandate), and he was buried on *Har Ha’zeitim* (the Hebrew name for the Mount of Olives). Orthodox Jews that could not be buried in Israel requested that a small bag of soil from Israel be placed under their heads in the grave. Every day throughout the Diaspora, the following words of comfort are extended to a bereaved person: “May the Lord comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”

The longing for Zion and Jerusalem has been expressed not only in prayer and legend, but also through pilgrimage. From virtually the beginning of the common era, Jews have sought to return to Jerusalem to mourn at its ruins, to rebuild the city and to worship in it. Rabbi Judah Halevi, born in Toledo, Spain about 1075, was one of the greatest poets and philosophers since the time of the



The large open plaza at the Kotel today.

Bible. He realized the dream of his life by coming to Israel around 1142. It is said that when he came to Jerusalem, after a dangerous journey, he bowed down in its dust chanting the famous prayer, "O Zion, will you not ask if peace be with your captives." At that moment, legend tells, an Arab horseman trampled him to death. Rabbi Judah Halevi left us with beautiful prayers and poems that express the love of the Jewish people for Jerusalem. In his famous book the *Kuzari*, he also stressed the importance of making *aliyah*, immigrating to Israel.

Rabbi Moses Ben Nachman (Ramban), the great Spanish Bible commentator, legalist and mystic, in 1267, at the age of 70, left Spain for Jerusalem. He had been exiled from Spain after having a dispute over passages in the Talmud with a Jew who had converted to Christianity. When the Ramban proved to be right, he was forced to flee. He arrived in Jerusalem only to find it in ruins from the Turkish invasion. Few Jews remained and it was difficult to

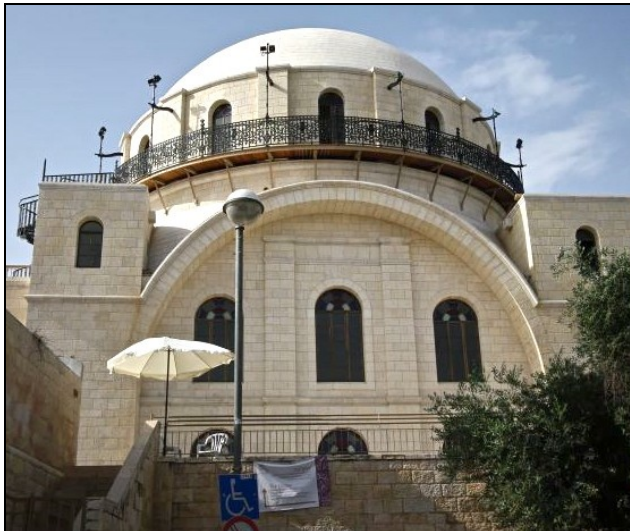
find a *minyan* on Shabbat. The Ramban bought a ruined house, turned it into a synagogue, and had the Torah scrolls that had been taken to *Shechem* (Nablus) returned to Jerusalem. He also reopened the yeshiva that had been founded about fifty years before by 300 rabbis from England and France.

Rabbi Judah Hasid led a large number of Jews on *aliyah* in 1701. Unfortunately, Rabbi Judah died almost immediately after arriving in Jerusalem. His followers had to ask for financial help from communities in the Diaspora. In memory of Rabbi Judah, the Ashkenazi residents of Jerusalem later named the

most impressive synagogue, the *Hurvah* (the ruins of) Rabbi Judah Hasid. This large synagogue was built on top of the rooms of the synagogue that Rabbi Judah had attempted to reconstruct when he came to Jerusalem. The *Hurvah* and the surrounding courtyard served as the center of the Ashkenazic *Yishuv* for more than 200 years. Before WWII, when Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook was the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel, he used to pray in this synagogue on the High Holidays. During the battle for the Old City during the War of Independence in 1948, the *Hurvah* was

bombed and destroyed. Today it has been rebuilt and serves as a synagogue again.

The largest religious community in Israel today resides in Jerusalem. Thousands of traditional Jews, Ashkenazic and Sephardic, from dozens of different countries, have come to Jerusalem. Since the reunification of the city in June 1967, the dream of the ingathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of



The Ramban Synagogue, built by Rabbi Moses ben Nachman in the 13th century C.E.

the earth has become a reality. On *Shabbat* and the holidays, Jews stream to the *Kotel* to pray. Many different *minyanim* are held before the Wall, the sounds of different melodies and evidence of different customs showing the many different places of origin of those who have returned to *Yerushalayim*. Many famous *yeshivot* have been established in Jerusalem so that truly the words of the Torah may be fulfilled: "*Ki m'Tzion tetze Torah* (for out of Zion shall go forth the Torah and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.)"

For all the travelers to Israel, a blessing for a safe trip and *aliyah* to *Yerushalayim*. ◇

Ending One Era, Starting a New One

by Stuart Sax

When one mentions the name Boruszak, the vision of pillars comes to

mind. Jim and Joan Boruszak became active members of the KJCC shortly after moving to the Keys in 1993. As our luck would have it, they were on their way to San Salvador just after Hurricane Andrew and decided to take a day trip to the Keys before departing. They stayed in a rental at the then-newly-built Ocean Pointe and decided to put down a deposit on a unit being built. On their way back to the mainland they passed the KJCC sign and instantly felt that they had made the right decision.

Strong supporters of the congregation, the Board and Sisterhood, the Boruszaks were equally involved in organizations outside of the synagogue. Jim served on the Board of Mariners Hospital and both did volunteer work there for many years. Joan served as president of Sisterhood and only this year decided to step down from the KJCC Board. Jim is one of only two people – Bea Graham being the other – who served as KJCC president for more than the typical two years. (He had also been president of their old synagogue in Chicago.) Perhaps the greatest joy they shared was the visits by their extended

family throughout the years. (And their many visits to Israel to visit other family members

living there.) Jim had a passion for fishing and Joan, who never really cared for it because she got seasick, turned her attention to bridge and mah jongg. Both enjoyed scuba diving through the years; name an important dive site throughout the world – the Red Sea, the Caymans, Cozumel – and they've traveled there to dive.

With the passing of Jim nearly a year ago, Joan faced decisions about her future. Stay or go? Part time or full time? After much consideration, she decided to put her home on the market and explore relocating to Texas to be near her daughter

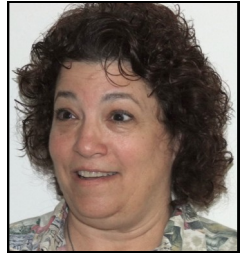
and family. The home sold quickly and she is in the process of closing the Keys chapter of her life later this month. While Joan will deeply miss the KJCC, her many friends, and the weather, she is looking forward to exploring new adventures and not having to travel for two hours after getting off an airplane!

So, will Joan trade her scuba gear for a Stetson hat and boots? The jury is still out on that one. To help say "Adios" to Joan there will be a special oneg in her honor on Friday, June 14th following services, sponsored by Sisterhood. Y'all come, heah? ♡



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The Courage of One Woman

For a few Jewish families in a small Ukrainian village in 1941, the courage of one woman, Esther Stermer, was the difference between life and death. Esther and her six children lived in that village until Nazi forces came and rounded up more than a thousand Jews and sent them to concentration camps, where most of them perished. But Esther had a plan. She and her children, including her sons Saul and Sam (now 92 and 86), spent more than 500 days underground, living in total darkness in two caves along with five other Jewish families. This amazing story is now an 83-minute documentary film entitled "No Place on Earth." The film is directed by Janet Tobias and was released on April 5th. Foraging for food at night, they built showers and latrines deep underground until April 1944, when the Russian Army liberated the area and the five families (38 Jews in all) came back into light. After the war Saul and Sam made their way to Canada and founded a successful contracting business, where they still go to work each day. Today these 38 survivors have more than 125 descendants. (www.abcnews.go.com, 4-4-13)

A \$5 Million Investment

Intel, the American semiconductor chip maker, is investing five million dollars in Israeli public education with the intention of doubling the number of Israeli students with bachelor's degrees in science and technology. During a recent trip to Israel, Intel CEO Paul Otellini announced that his company will be collaborating with the Ministry of Education to encourage 25 specially selected schools to steer students into the science and technology sectors. Intel will also dispatch company representatives to do active mentor

-ing in the schools to encourage students to enter these fields. (*World Jewry Digest*, March 2013)

"Holy War"

Rorie Weisberg, an Orthodox woman from upstate New York, is suing makeup giant Lancome, claiming that its 24-hour foundation makeup doesn't really last that long, which means it doesn't stay on long enough to get her through the Sabbath. Weisberg accuses the French cosmetics maker of false advertising when it claimed that its new *Teint Idole 24H* provides a full day and night of "lasting perfection." Because of the product's failure, she says, she can't look good and stay holy at the same time. Court papers say Weisberg "abides by Jewish law by not applying makeup from sundown on Friday until nighttime on Saturday." She claims the makeup is crucial, especially at major family occasions. (www.nypost.com, 5-1-13)

Buffett's Biggest Bet

Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett's multinational conglomerate holding company, recently paid \$2.05 billion cash to buy the 20 percent it did not already own of the Israeli company *Iscar* (The formal name of the company is IMC International Metalworking Companies). In 2006, Berkshire bought an 80 percent stake in *Iscar*, a company that makes metal cutting tools, for 4 billion dollars. At that time, that was one of the largest acquisitions involving an Israeli company and Buffett's biggest purchase outside the United States. The recent acquisition suggests that *Iscar's* value has since more than doubled. In his annual letter to shareholders, Buffett de-

scribed *Iscar* as one of Berkshire's "five most profitable companies outside its insurance businesses." (www.reuters.com, 5-1-13)

Israel's Connection to the Boston Bombing

In April, just minutes after the bombings at the Boston Marathon, Boston doctors and nurses faced an unprecedented challenge. Many of the city's hospitals have doctors with actual battlefield experience or trauma preparation from deployments to humanitarian missions, like the one following the earthquake in Haiti. But what really mattered that day was the expertise of Israeli physicians. Eight years ago, four Israeli doctors and a staff of nurses spent two days at Massachusetts General Hospital training the hospital's first-response team, preparing them to deal with mass-casualty incidents. The techniques they were taught were pioneered in Israel. On the day of the attack, when speaking to reporters, Alastair Conn, chief of emergency services at Mass General, acknowledged the help provided by the Israeli experts. According to Avi Rivkind, director of surgery at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center, Israeli doctors "rewrote the bible of blast trauma." Rivkind is an internationally recognized expert in terror medicine and widely considered one of the great brains behind Israeli innovations that have been adopted around the world. (www.jta.org, 4-22-13)

"A Slap in the Face"

Students at the Parsons New School for Design in New York have launched a petition against disgraced fashion designer John Galliano, who was invited to teach a master class there. The petition asks that the design college refuse to accept Galliano who, in 2011 was fired from Christian Dior. He was seen in a bar in Paris, ranting at a Jewish couple saying, "I love Hitler...People like you would be dead. Your mothers, your forefathers, would all be f***** gassed." The petition says that "hiring someone who has made such horrific comments shows that the school values Galliano over their entire Jewish student body." The petitioner further states that "we do not want money from our tuition going to this

kind of person. We feel like we've been slapped in the face by our school." The Jewish student union at Parsons is the oldest and largest club on campus. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 4-29-13)

Violins of Hope

The Philharmonic Orchestra of Monte Carlo recently performed a concert in Monaco featuring instruments that at one time belonged to Jewish Holocaust victims. The concert, named the "Violins of Hope," took place at the Grimaldi Forum and included stories of the owners of the instruments. Included in the biographies of musicians was that of Alma Rose (she survived the Holocaust), a conductor of the Auschwitz women's orchestra and niece of composer Gustav Mahler. Homage was also paid to Hans Krasa and Gideon Klein, Jewish musicians who continued to compose until their deaths in the Nazis' gas chambers. The instruments came from the workshop of Amnon Weinstein, an Israeli violin maker who for years has been collecting and restoring musical instruments that once belonged to Holocaust victims. Proceeds from the concert are earmarked for the Hebrew University's neurology research center. (www.jta.org, 4-30-13)

Robert Frost and The Rabbi

A rare collection of letters, audio-files, photographs and other materials involving American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) is being made available to the public for the first time. The collection chronicles a 24-year relationship between Frost and Victor E. Reichert, a Cincinnati rabbi who often summered with Frost in Vermont. All these years, the collection has been held by the rabbi's son, Jonathan Reichert, professor emeritus of physics at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The younger Reichert has now given this unique collection to the University. Scholars say the materials could "provide an important, missing link between Frost's poetry and his view of religion, which has been the subject of debate for decades." Victor Reichert (1897-1990) was among a dozen or so people in Frost's inner circle. The two met in

1939, when Victor's wife Louise insisted they attend a Frost reading in Cincinnati. Jonathan Reichert said, "I wanted the friendship of my father with Frost to be part of history." (*University of Buffalo Alumni Newsletter*, April, 2013)

In His Memory...

An Israeli college opened a journalism institute named in honor of the late Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. The Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute, part of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications, opened in mid-April at the interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. One of the institute's goals is to promote balanced reporting from the Middle East. Daniel Pearl was researching a story about Islamist militants when he was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan in January 2002. He was murdered a month later. His final words before he was killed, simple and proud and with full awareness of the consequences, were, "My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish." (www.jta.org, 4-18-13)

Shame on Them

An Israeli government official has, for the first time, admitted that Ethiopian immigrant women were injected with Depo-Provera, a long-acting contraceptive, very likely without their fully comprehending the ramifications of the treatment. Professor Ron Gamzu, the Health Ministry Director General, and other state agencies had previously denied knowledge or responsibility for the practice, which was first reported five years ago. Sharona Eliahu-Chai of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) represents several women's rights and Ethiopian immigrants' groups and has demanded that the injections cease immediately and that an investigation be launched into the practice. In a letter to Gamzu, ACRI said, "the sweeping use of Depo-Provera among Ethiopian women raises heavy suspicions that we are talking about a deliberate policy to control and monitor fertility among this community. The data...point to a paternalistic, haughty and racist attitude..." Statistics from a major Israeli health

provider showed that it had administered Depo-Provera injections to 5,000 women in 2008, 57 percent of whom were Ethiopian. Journalist Gail Gabbay interviewed 35 Ethiopian immigrants. The women's testimony could help to explain the almost 50 percent decline over the past ten years in the birth rate of Israel's Ethiopian community, attributing this decline to the drug. According to Gabbay, while the women were still in transit camps in Ethiopia they were sometimes intimidated or threatened into taking the injections. One hundred thousand Ethiopian Jews have moved to Israel since chief rabbis determined in 1973 that the community had biblical roots. (www.reuters.com, 1-28-13)

Did You Know....

- According to a report by the *Los Angeles Times*, Jewish delis across the country are dwindling. The report cites the closings of famous landmarks such as New York's *Stage Deli*, Chicago's *Ashkenaz Delicatessen* and L.A.'s *Junior's Deli*. Changing demographics, high rents, soaring food prices and unlimited restaurant fare including fast foods account for younger crowds avoiding the deli. (*World Jewry Digest*, April 2013)

- A new Israeli invention allows nursing mothers to measure how much breast milk their babies drink during feedings and how much milk is left in the breast. Developed by Israeli start-up MilkSense, the device uses electromagnetic signals to measure the amount of milk in the breast before and after a feeding. The product is planned to be marketed around the world. (www.jta.org, 4-28-13)

- On June 18th, Barbra Streisand is scheduled to sing at the opening ceremony of Israeli President Shimon Peres' annual Presidential Conference, which this year will honor the president's 90th birthday. Streisand has visited Israel several times, but this will be her first official public appearance there. Streisand, 70, is not known for performing in front of large audiences. She has only gone on five world tours in her 50-year career. She has sold some 72.5 million records in the United States. (*The Forward*, 3-11-13) ♦

Photo Gallery



On May 24th, KJCC president Bernie Ginsberg, along with Rev. Kerry Foote from our neighbor Burton Memorial Methodist Church and host Rev. Pam Feeser, discussed religious perspectives on the environment as part of the Interfaith series sponsored by Baptist Health.



On Sunday, May 5th, in a now-annual tradition, Sisterhood gathered at Pilot House Restaurant for their end-of-season luncheon. It's a chance for a final get-together before many migrate north for the summer. Of course, they'll all be back at work for KJCC earlier than usual this year, since High Holidays begin on September 4th.



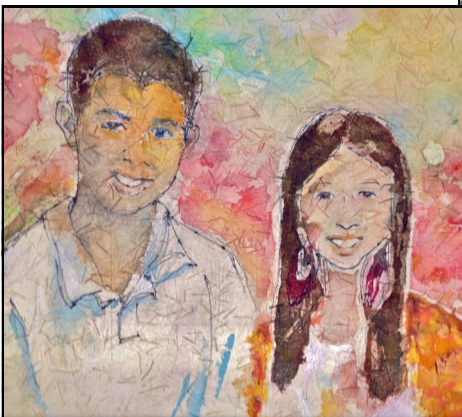
It was one of those delicious but unplanned moments at a recent Oneg, with Pauline Roller (soon to be 98) passing along a little girl talk wisdom to Rachael Bloom's newborn daughter Madison Rose.



The four photos at top are all from Gene Silverman's "girls get-away" to Ojai Spa & Resort in Ojai, California in celebration of everyone's April birthday. The photo top left is daughter Robin plus daughter-in-law Andrea; top center is granddaughters Elissa and Michelle.



The three center photos are all from a little late-April birthday lunch celebrating Linda Pollack. Yes, that's Rene in two of the photos, along with daughter Della.



The picture at left is a stunning portrait Gloria Avner just finished painting for Joel and Linda Pollack of their grandchildren, Will and Maddy.



All the photos on this page were taken during Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning service on Saturday morning, May 18th. (For those who love the traditions, and the trappings of full Shabbat services, these mornings are among the rare times we wear tallit at KJCC.) Fluent in Hebrew, Rabbi Agler often opens up rich nuances of meaning in the poetic Biblical text as the weekly parshah is discussed. (He and Yardena usually agree.) Barney Coltman chanted the weekly aliyahs and assisted with the Torah.



KJCC students and their parents and teachers made the last day of class this year a field trip, to the Jewish Museum of Florida on Miami Beach. Yardena had arranged for her colleague Chaim, in the center photo, to address the group. In the “but they were good to their mothers” category, note the donor listed on the stained-glass window.



Photos courtesy of Gloria Avner and Richard Knowles.

Moira stands next to a display about the earliest Bat Mitzvahs, titled “can girls do a Job as well as boys?” Gloria’s answer was a resounding yes, as we’ll all see next spring when Moira takes her turn on the bemah.



On Monday, May 20, the Mah Jongg group feted Joan Boruszak with a going-away (but don’t stay away) luncheon. (photo by Mary Lee’s camera.)



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER

Shabbabaque
AND
98th Birthday Party
For Pauline

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2013

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 6:30 BARBECUE DINNER

SPONSORED BY MEN'S CLUB
BIRTHDAY CAKE BY SISTERHOOD

COME AND EAT, DRINK, AND BE
MERRY AND WISH PAULINE A HAPPY
98TH BIRTHDAY!

CALL STEVE
FRIEDMAN WITH
QUESTIONS
305-720-1681



Indian Key: Chayaking and More

by Joyce Peckman

I have lived in the Keys for almost ten years, and owned my kayak for almost that long, but I had never visited Indian Key State Park. I had read about its fascinating history as a town built around the lucrative business of salvaging wrecks, then being destroyed in 1840 by Indians during the Seminole Wars. Indian Key was the destination of our April chayaking trip.

Dave Mont, as usual, was totally organized. He managed to cram five kayaks into the back of his pickup truck, then strapped one more to the top of my CRV, with all of the seats, life preservers and paddles loaded into my minivan's trunk. He drove Georgia and two Lindas, Kaplan and Pincus, while I brought along Joshua Bernstein. I drove to the little oceanside beach across from Indian Key, where we were met by Stuart and Lauren, Medina, Mimi Gillespie, Bernie and three of Dave's friends:

Sheila, Mark and Erica. Meanwhile, Dave picked up Yardena and her son Eitan (visiting from Chile) and piled two more kayaks onto his truck. We all lined up on the beach and a sunbather snapped a picture of us with my iPhone.

The island is less than a mile away, an easy paddle, unless you happen to be battling twenty-knot gusts. I think Joshua got there first, along with Eitan and the double kayaks of Medina with Linda Pincus, and Lauren and Stuart. Bernie, Mimi and I were taking up the rear, and I was fading fast, blowing around in my light little craft until Dave threw me a line.

As the last of us pulled onshore, we saw a small catamaran approaching. Manning it were Steve and Carol Steinbock, with passenger Linda Pollack, who all disembarked to join our stroll on the island's paths. We had a

delightful hour visiting the ruins, now cordoned off and clean, with Joshua recounting how he and his friends used to climb the low foundation walls to find bits of glass and pottery in the former warehouse. We tasted tamarind, examined the cistern and climbed the tower, then prepared to go for a swim before returning. Linda got back on the boat.

It was then that Steve realized the tide had gone out and his catamaran was stuck in the sand. The call went out, and the KJCC team, joking about pushing stones to build pyramids, got in there and pushed. The boat moved, so we shoved some more. I snapped photos of that, too. We gave it our best for about half an hour until it became obvious that there was no deep water to push it into. Carol and Steve would have to wait until the tide rolled back in, and navigate home in the dark.

Meanwhile it was 4:30 p.m.; the tide was still receding, and even kayaks need a little water

under them. Bernie and Mimi made room for Linda in their double kayak and we headed back, sometimes poling where it became too shallow. (Bernie reported later that he now knows his heart is in excellent shape, because he had a stress test on the water.) Thirty yards from the beach I ran into a sand bar, and had to get out and pull. Just after that was a deeper stretch with swift southerly current. It was there, getting back into the kayak, that I overturned. Except for a scratch, which was treated by Bernie (yes, he does carry a doctor's bag in his trunk), I was fine...but I learned that waterproof bags are effective only if you close them, and while 24 hours in rice can revive a car remote, it doesn't necessarily work on an iPhone retrieved from the Atlantic Ocean. Which is why there are no photos accompanying this article.

So Dave, where are we chayaking next? ◇



Leader Dave, at the helm of a different chayaking expedition on a different day.

Mitzvah, Mysticism and Meditation - An Evening with Rabbi Mitch Chefitz

by Gloria Avner

The David Kameley Schoolroom is filled to capacity. More than 50 people, KJCC members and friends, are gathered to listen to teacher and author Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz. They are eager to participate in Jewish medi-



On Saturday night, May 11th, a few days before Erev Shavuot, Rabbi Mitch Chefitz took KJCC on a journey into the depths and possibilities of the Torah.

tation, to chant sacred melodies, and learn about the mystics' way into the Torah. We are anticipating the gift of Shavuot's covenant between God and the Jewish people.

Along the way we are told stories, some of them four times, each one addressing a different level, slowly and quietly, progressively deeper. The vertical portrayal of the secret unpronounceable name of God is described as a device to help us see ourselves in God's image, to remind us to stand a little straighter. We are encouraged to use the graphic as a gateway to understanding on four different levels, the physical, metaphorical, spiritual, and unexplainable. In semi-circular rows we sit, eyes closed. We breathe as one. Later, we place our hands on our shoulders and arms with each syllable of the *Sh'ma*, to reinforce its meaning. The evening is a potpourri and each one of us takes away a different experience. Some would have

liked to go deeper into meditation.

Many buy copies of Rabbi Chefitz's books (which are now available in our KJCC library). I heard at our follow-up Shavuot celebration a tale of one congregant who

has subsequently placed the "yud hey vav hey" diagram in every room of his house and brought out his Jewish books to re-read. Others are retelling the stories, especially moved to share "The Curse of Blessings." Still others, as a result of the Rabbi's praise for it, have new respect for our own *Siddur*. Like the "tevas," or arks, that Rabbi Chefitz spoke of in the

"The vertical portrayal of the secret, unpronounceable name of God is described as a device to help us see ourselves in God's image, to remind us to stand a little straighter."





beginning of the evening, Noah's boat and baby Moses' basket, our own prayer book has no means of propulsion, but is a vehicle to carry us safely on potentially dangerous waters. It is good to hear about spiritual life rafts. And now we know there seems to be a consensus that people want more and deeper experience of Jewish meditation.

Many thanks to Rabbi Chefitz for sharing so much knowledge in a short time, whetting our appetites. Let's hope we can bring him back again, perhaps in a round table, or day-long *Shabbatone* together with some of our other favorite rabbis. ♦



Gloria and Bernie have a plan. The idea is for KJCC to become a destination, that — being situated in, well, paradise — we could become a center of learning and a place of welcome for great Jewish scholars and

thinkers and spiritual leaders. As head of the Ritual Committee, Gloria had begun by persuading famed teacher, author and Kabbalist Mitchell Chefitz to come to KJCC, so it was fitting that she should warm up the crowd and introduce him. Afterwards, she and Bernie led Havdalah. The aroma of spices was the perfect bridge from the spiritual back to the everyday.

Rene

It's so hard to say goodbye, especially to someone like Rene, who always made everyone smile, and always had a smile for everyone. There will be a Celebration of Life at KJCC soon, with lots of tears, laughter and

memories. But visual memories matter, too. All the photos here have appeared previously in Chai-Lights. Thank you to the photographers. And thank you for the sunshine, Rene



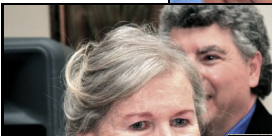
the Rose.

King Solomon is credited with writing the poem *Eshet Chavil, A Woman of Valor*. Its 22 verses conclude the *Book of Proverbs*. Here are some of the verses, in tribute to Rene:



Linda and Joel Pollack sent us the poem “*She Walks in Beauty*,” by Lord Byron, in honor of Rene. Here are two of the stanzas:

An accomplished woman, who can find? Her value is far beyond pearls.



Her husband's heart relies on her and he shall lack no fortune.



She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

She does him good and not evil, all the days of her life.



And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

She extends her hands to the poor, and reaches out her hand to the needy.

She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the lesson of kindness is on her tongue.

The photographs, from top: Rene being elegant at a Ladies Tea at the Shabathai home two years ago. Skip and Rene at the KJCC Seder in 2009. Rene reacting to being awarded the Joel S. Cohen Fellowship Award in April of 2010 from then-president Alan Beth. Alongside Muriel Swartz, Rene as she was voted Woman of the Year at the 2013 Women's Seder. At bottom, Rene and Linda Pollack, fast friends forever.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT – ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

by Yardena Kamely

This year *Yom Ha'atzmaut* was on April 16th. (It is always the 6th of Iyar on the Jewish calendar.) Israel is 65. In Miami, the Israeli Consulate and the Jewish Communities organized a whole week of festivities filled with programs, including ceremonies, encounters with young Israeli soldiers, Israeli music, films, songs, shows, food, and presentations by the congregational schools in Hebrew. In Israel *Yom Ha'atzmaut* is a holiday, and I thought a lot, as always, about how much I would have loved to be present at the ceremonies and celebrations all over the country, and especially in my home city, Haifa. The day before *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, on *Yom HaZikaron* (Israel's Memorial Day), Israelis light memorial candles on public buildings and in synagogues, visit military cemeteries, and there are State Memorial ceremonies. The *Yizkor* for the fallen soldiers is recited:

Yizkor am Israel et banav u'bnotav...

May the people of Israel remember
their sons and daughters
who endangered their lives in the
days of struggle prior to the
establishment of the State of Israel,
and may He remember
the soldiers of *Tzahal* (Israel Defense
Forces) who fell in the wars of Israel.

May the people of Israel keep them in
their heart
And may their memory be a blessing.
May they commemorate their lost
youth, their bravery and valor, their
devotion and self-sacrifice, which
ended on the battlefield.

May the memory of the loyal and valiant
heroes of
freedom and victory be sealed forever
within the hearts of Israel.

The first time I was present at a memorial ceremony where I remembered fallen soldiers who were my fellow students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was *Yom Ha'atzmaut* 1974, after the *Yom Kippur* War. It was a difficult and very sad situation to come back to classes and notice the empty seats of our friends, to be aware that they would not come back and that they would never finish the academic work we had all been doing together at the university. We learned very young how hard it is to deal with such losses. What if had been you, holding the notebook of your fellow student, reading his notes and being struck by how great his ideas were, and what an excellent professional, scientist or teacher he could have become had he not died in the war. Those friends were young Israeli soldiers, never questioning their role in *Tzahal* (Israel's Army of Defense). They were doing what they had to do – defending Israel. We would learn so many stories about that particular war, so many stories of heroic behavior, of miraculous survival.

In Israel we grew up with stories about Israel's wars. I remember the many stories our parents and teachers told us about heroism in the War of Independence.

The story of Kibbutz *Yad Mordechai* comes to my mind. My father lived nearby in *Moshav* (agricultural settlement) *Gan Yavneh*. At that time he was serving in the *Hagana*. If you travel south of Tel Aviv along the coastal road, a few hundred yards in front of the old Egyptian-Israeli border at the Gaza strip you will see a ruined water tower, a remnant of the Independence War, surrounded by beautiful gardens. Nearby stands the huge bronze statue of a man, a rough-cut figure in shirt-sleeves, clutching a hand grenade in his right hand. The statue represents *Mordechai Anilevicz*, the 22-year-old commander of the desperate Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943. The nearby *kibbutz* is named after the dead

Jewish World War II hero. *Yad Mordechai*, in Hebrew, means Hand of Mordechai.

Yad Mordechai was founded in 1943 by one of the last groups of Zionist pioneers that managed to escape Poland on the eve of World War II. They belonged to the left-wing Zionist youth movement *Ha'shomer Ha'tzair*. Anilevitz had also belonged to this movement, but was unable to get out of Poland in time. In 1946-1947 the men and women of *Yad Mordechai* were joined by survivors of the Holocaust who had made their way to Palestine as illegal immigrants aboard the overcrowded little boats that ran the British blockade. The *kibbutz* is burdened with heavy memories. It commemorates the Holocaust and the War of Independence.

Yad Mordechai played a crucial role in the War of Independence. On May 15th, the day British rule in Palestine formally came to an end, the regular armies of five neighboring Arab states invaded Palestine. Amos Elon, in his book "The Israelis," writes: "We now know that they expected a military walkover, an easy mopping-up operation that would last a few days only. We also know, at least in the case of Egypt and Syria, that their chief aim was...to carve out for themselves sizable chunks of territory in a country suddenly abandoned by British power. The Jews of Palestine stood in their way."

The Egyptian force invaded Palestine with roughly 10,000 men. Their infantry was supported by a small air force, heavy artillery, tank and armored units. The State of Israel, only a few days old, was equipped with only a few primitive weapons. The Egyptians, relying on their superiority in manpower and equipment, hoped to reach Tel Aviv within a few days. *Yad Mordechai*, at the Gaza end of the main road to Tel Aviv, was one of the first Jewish settlements to come under Egyptian attack. The *kibbutz* had prepared some fortifications, but they were not strong enough against the tanks and artillery. They did not expect an Arab army attack. Only a few weeks before the war an emissary from Tel Aviv had told the men of *Yad Mordechai* that Egypt was not planning an invasion. "You will have to hold out only against bands of Arabs ir-

regulars and armed villagers from the immediate neighborhood." When, contrary to expectations, the Egyptian army advanced toward Tel Aviv, *Yad Mordechai* became the scene of battle. Amos Elon writes: "It was neither the longest nor even the bloodiest battle in that short and awful war. Yet it was in all likelihood one of the most decisive."

There were only some 100 men at *Yad Mordechai*, including boys 14 years old; only about 75 or 80 men and boys were capable fighters. Armed only with rifles, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, 400 hand grenades, two machine guns, and two mortars with 50 shells, the defenders of *Yad Mordechai* blocked the advance of a whole Egyptian brigade for six days. (One of the Egyptian commanding officers, Colonel Mohammed Naguib, later headed the 1952 *coup d'etat* that brought Gamal Abdel Nasser to power.) The water tower was blown up on the second day. Teenagers with homemade Molotov cocktails threw themselves upon Egyptian tanks and armored vehicles. The settlement was surrounded and under constant artillery fire and it was repeatedly bombed from the air. Twenty-four men, nearly one-third of the active defending force, were killed; another 30 were wounded. On May 22nd, the fourth day of the Egyptian attack, *Yad Mordechai* signaled to the north: "The men's morale is sinking...They approach exhaustion...the settlement must be reinforced or abandoned...It is vital that women and wounded be evacuated immediately."

On May 23rd, the last machine gun had become unusable. Late that night the men of *Yad Mordechai* decided to abandon their burning settlement. Even though morale was very low, they argued among themselves over the decision to retreat. Some of them passionately wanted to fight the battle until the last man had died, as did the Jews who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Fortunately they were overruled. The survivors managed to infiltrate through the Egyptian lines and reached the neighboring settlement of *Gvar Am*, a few miles north.

Yad Mordechai was lost. Nevertheless, the battle had a profound military and political

effect. During the six days that it lasted, Jewish units farther north were able to improvise a line of defense. Although this line was broken several times by the advancing Egyptian forces, and although bitter fighting continued for sixteen more days until the UN-imposed cease-fire went into effect on June 11th, it had become clear that the Egyptians had failed to attain their major objective. They were deep into Palestinian territory, but their advance on Tel Aviv had been stopped, first briefly at *Yad Mordechai* and then a few miles north of the abandoned *kibbutz*, at *Negba*. The new state had not been destroyed.

Tells Amos Elon: "When hostilities were resumed a few months later, the tables turned." *Yad Mordechai* was recaptured and rebuilt nearly from scratch in 1949; only the shattered water tower was left as a reminder.

The story of *Yad Mordechai*, the questions and alternatives, the existential problems the men and women had to confront, were relevant in a wider sense: in their loyalty, ferocity and

steadfast courage they were forming the new generation of Israelis, who had to continue the fight for the survival of the State of Israel. The next generation, born Israeli and growing up in Israel, felt fully at home on the new lawns of *Yad Mordechai*. ◇

Chag Same'ach Medinat Yisrael

Last Call: if your goal was to wait until the last minute to sign up for the June 11-23 KJCC trip to Israel being led by Rabbi Agler, congratulations. It's now the last minute.



A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together with fellow congregants and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel beginning on June 11-23, 2013. But now you need to hurry, because final preparations are being made. The cost is \$3,252 per person, not including airfare. What's included? The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you need a final push, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. But Dave recommends that at this point you call Arza World Travel directly at 888-811-2812. They can answer any and all questions. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.) Operators are standing by.

- Tour features:**
- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
 - 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners;
 - 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
 - all program and entrance fees;
 - tipping and all portage included.

- Tour highlights:**
- Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port;
 - A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century;
 - The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine;
 - A visit to Yad Vashem.

Harry's Special Day with the Torah

by Gloria Avner

Harry Friedman is one of the best, most sincere students in the KJCC Religious School's history. His face and voice are seen and heard at nearly every *Erev Shabbat Service*. Harry has been attending our classes for five years and has been doing community service of some kind every week since we've known him. Harry walks the talk. His teachers and our congregation are immensely proud of him and his family. His serious work is a reflection of parents Steve and Jane's values.



Our deep appreciation to Richard Knowles, whose photography so perfectly captured the joy on the bema.





Harry Joseph Carmel Friedman will be called to the Torah at Keys Jewish Community Center as *Bar Mitzvah* on Saturday, June 1st at 10:00 a.m. He will be supported by his parents. Rabbi Richard Agler will



first time. Rabbi Agler, his tutor Gloria Avner, and his teacher Yardena Kamely are proud of him. He has come a long way from when we could barely hear his voice. With confidence and zest, he booms out the blessings, chants his *Parshah*, his *Haftorah*, the *Hatzi Kaddish*, the Call to Prayer, the *Sh'ema* and more. Don't miss this event (and Jane's yummy cooking at the *kiddush* afterwards). We are all invited. As a community, let's

embrace the opportunity to honor Harry and his family.

Mazel Tov to all the Friedmans. ◇



officialiate.

These photos were taken at a dress rehearsal two weeks ago. Harry is on the *Bimah*, chanting his *Maftir* for Rabbi Agler. He is chanting directly from the vowel-free, punctuation-free Torah for the



Summer's Journey into Fall: *The Road from Shavuot to High Holidays*

by Gloria Avner

We won't be reading KJCC news again for almost three months. Is there such a thing as "time out?" From Chai-Lights, yes. From Judaism, no. The ritual wheels on our spirit bus continue to go round. The next few stops are not marked well or very deeply by most of us, but each one leads us closer to the Highest of our Holy Days, *Yomim Nora'im*, the "Ten Days of Awe" from *Rosh HaShanah* through *Yom Kippur*.

A few weeks have passed since we celebrated Shavuot, received the Torah, and became the Jewish people. Now comes a double dose of mourning, the Fast of 17 Tammuz (Tuesday, June 25th), marking the fall of Jerusalem, which builds up to the much more serious fast, three weeks later, of *Tisha B'Av* (Tuesday, July 16). This second fast, commemorating the day on which a nearly incomprehensible number of tragedies befell the Jewish people, is second in importance only to the Fast on *Yom Kippur*. Whether or not we observe the mandated rituals, let's be aware of both days and the depths of sadness inherent in the season with its historic repetition of attempts to destroy the Jewish people. Summer, for the Jews at least, has not been the season when "the livin' is easy."

We drown in sorrow. But then, somehow, we transmute the sorrow into joy. What is it about our tribe that makes us so resilient? Maybe the answer lies in the mechanics of the calendar itself and cycles of growth and decay. We are like the legend of the phoenix, rising from the ashes. Nearly scorched to death, beset by odds greater than human imaginings, we continue to survive and thrive. Where do we find the strength? Where is the guidance that leads us to overcome the setbacks thrown at us by the world and the traps we set for ourselves with less than stel-

lar behavior towards God, the world, our community, business associates, friends, and family?

After the sorrow and despair of *Av* comes the month of *Elul*, 30 days before *Tishrei*, the month that begins our New Year. *Elul* is a special month of opportunity, but how many of us use it? Here are four weeks in which we can (and are supposed to) prepare ourselves for the cleansing experience of High Holy Days, asking forgiveness for our imperfect behaviors and working toward becoming our best selves. It is said that *Elul* is the month when, like a King wandering his fields, God is the most approachable.

There will not be a reminder about the opportunities of *Elul* in Chai-Lights. *Elul* will be almost over when the next issue comes out. Let's mark the calendar now and start our introspection process on the 1st of *Elul* (Wednesday, August 7th this year). We could keep a journal. Write down what we are grateful for. List one behavior that might be improved. Put a positive affirmation in our pockets. Look at it at lunchtime. Meditate, even if only for a few minutes each day. See what happens.

Use the technique taught to us by Rabbi Chefitz, breathing in through the nose, following the breath all the way to the feet, feeling it bubble like seltzer as it travels back up the spine and out the top of the head. Pause before the next breath. Let the silence become profound, an empty moment that allows for creation of anything and everything. Do it again. Rabbi Chefitz suggested a technique for keeping track of one's breaths when we saw him at FIU. It does not require counting, and is so distinctly Jewish. Visualize a menorah. See six branches and a *shamash*. As you complete each breath, light one of the

candles. See the flame. When all seven are lit, you can either stop or go on to create another menorah next to the first.

In September, during the month of *Tishrei*, shortly after we celebrate the New Year with apples and honey, we will find ourselves reciting a list of those behaviors that missed the mark (“*Cheitim*,” often translated mistakenly as “sins,” perhaps better understood as “errors”) as we stand before God in community. If we choose to use the energy of *Elul* as advance preparation, our experiences could make the Days of Awe even richer.

Our High Holy Days will be different this year, not just because *Rosh HaShanah* comes sooner than ever before (evening of September 4th, as early as it can ever be, according to Jewish law). We will have a different leader, too, Rabbi Richard Agler. If you have been to any of his Shabbat morning services this year, you know how well Rabbi Agler connects the secular and the sacred. His services are warm, educational, and uplifting. He brings 35 years of High Holy Day leadership experience with him. We will set a new course with his guidance and inspiration. May the learning continue well beyond the last blast of the *Shofar*.

See you in September.

A Shul By Any Other Name: Looking Back . . . and Forward

by Gloria Avner

This has been a year in which the KJCC could just as well have been known, without even changing our initials, as the Keys Jewish Community College. More than ever, we have become a house of learning and Jewish enrichment. Gratitude goes to those making this possible – enthusiastic presidents, members of Education and Ritual committees, cooks and bakers (we must have refreshments) and, most of all, to a whole host of generous rabbis.

Yes, suddenly rabbis abound in our intentionally lay-led congregation. We get a request for shelter from a gaggle of youths; we say yes, and Ed Rosenthal, rabbi for all the Hillel groups in the Tampa Bay area, brings his “Scubi-Jews” to live under our roof while they engage in “*Tikkun HaYam*” (Ed’s own term), repair of the sea. Rabbi Ed leads *Havdalah* services in our Meditation Garden, his students work on reef repair and spirituality, and we get more learning and the joy of interacting with an upcoming generation.

That’s just the beginning. For the first time in KJCC history, we have regular, monthly, rabbi-led Shabbat morning services, with in-depth, informal Torah study thanks to the generosity of KJCC member Rabbi Richard Agler. The attending congregation grows each month as word spreads about the positive, inspiring experience. Our own lay-led services have been enriched as well by a series of workshops Rabbi Agler taught on “How to Lead a Friday Night Service” and “How to Prepare a *D’var Torah*.”

The list goes on. Rabbi Agler generously shares his exceptional friends with us. Anyone who attended the “Brunch and Learn” session with Rabbi Stephen Wylen this past winter was fascinated by the insights he shared with us on the topic of “Jews in the Time of Jesus,” just one of his particular fields of expertise. (He authored a book on the subject, a copy of which now resides in the KJCC library.) We trust that Rabbi Agler will continue to invite his friends to visit and that we will get to learn from them as well.

Moving on to the present, we just experienced a well attended, learning evening led by Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz – scholar, author, teacher and storyteller extraordinaire. If you were there you were introduced to the basics of Jewish Meditation (yes, many wanted more), you sang *niggunim*, learned what an extraordinary *siddur* we have, physically played the *Sh’ma* on our bodies, and were initiated into the multiple levels of the unpronounceable name of God as a device to grow deeper spiritually. Stories were Rabbi Chefitz’s vehicle, and the silences were as important as the words. He took us, along with a

little girl who wanted to know why she was not allowed to say God's name, out of our bodies, through the roof of a synagogue, high above her village, to the far reaches of the earth's atmosphere, past our own galaxy to the heights, depth, and silent dark of the universe, and brought all of us safely back, gifting us with the twin lessons that nearly unspeakable awe and intense love are at the heart, the core, of readiness to say God's name.

The KJCC's by-laws, our statement of purpose, lay out a pretty specific and deceptively simple set of goals: *"The nature and goals of this organization are to improve, encourage, and enrich the religious, educational and social life of Jewish people in our community."* It looks like we are right on target for goal achievement.

June is the traditional time for graduation. We look back on what we've achieved. We look forward to what's next. Commencement. Get ready for more learning, and welcoming in the New Year with a new spiritual leader for High Holy Days, Rabbi Richard Agler. When the time comes this summer for Membership Dues packets to arrive in the mail, honor the man who has give to us so generously of

his time and wisdom. Add a special contribution to the High Holiday Rabbi Fund. Rabbi Agler has donated more to our enjoyment of Jewish learning and ritual than can be counted. It is our turn to give back. Thank you in advance to the members of the Board who have already pledged to contribute.

More plans are in the works. *L'Shanah HaBah b'KJCC.* ♦



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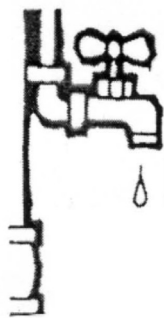
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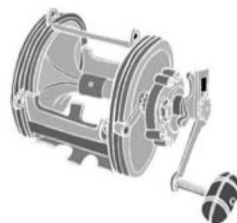
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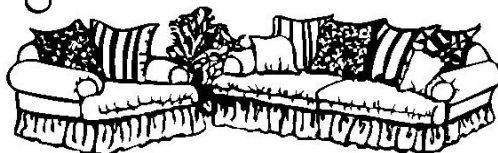
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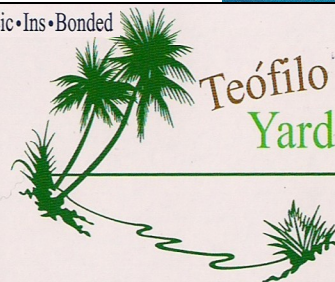
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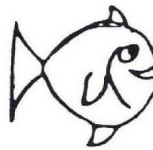
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