

Chai~Lights



December 2013

28 Kislev - 28 Tevet 5774

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

December 2013

28 Kislev - 28 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Menorah Lighting 6 pm	2	3	4 8th Chanukah candle lit Men's Club Game Nite 7:30 p.m.	5	6 Ken Atlas <i>Steve & Jane Friedman</i>	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m.	9	10	11	12 Frank Sinatra's birthday	13 Joyce Peckman	14 Westley Silverman Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Susan Ellner</i>	21
22	23	24	25 Steinbock's Open House	26	27 Bernie Ginsberg & Cantor Irwin Gelman 6:30 Service <i>Steve & Barbara Smith</i>	28 Rabbi Agler & Cantor Gelman service 10 a.m.
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

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Lisa Richardson Rutherford

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

President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



The old year of 2013 is almost gone and it's time to take stock. We have been shaken by the loss of many members and relatives, but the mood around our synagogue is brightening a little. The smiling faces of our snowbirds are starting to appear around KJCC.

Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah was wonderful in all aspects, from his performance to the amazing KJCC turnout. It made up for some of the sadder events. Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler participated in a talk at Mariner's Hospital on organ donation. It was advertised to all religious groups in the Keys, but everyone there were KJCC members who turned out to support the Aglers. I am proud of the help and sustenance we offer each other at such events and in times of need.

Sisterhood had a successful Chanukah bazaar in our Social Hall, sponsored by The Chosen, an online Judaica outlet. It was so successful that a sequel is now planned for Passover. Brava, Sisterhood.

Once again, I thank Richard Knowles, our just-appointed House chairman, for all the work he's forced to do to keep our physical plant running.

It's always a question, what do Jews do on Christmas? Of course, there's always the Chinese restaurant, but in the Keys the answer has long been Carol and Steve Steinbock's open house. There you will find good

food and drink and even better company. It'll be from 2-6 p.m. (Thank you as always, Carol and Steve.)

The weekend of Dec. 27th, I think, will be one of true and fascinating religious experiences. The service Friday night will be led by visiting Cantor Irwin Gelman, whose voice brings tears to my eyes. Rabbi Agler will lead a Shabbat morning Torah service the following day along with Cantor Gelman. Sisterhood will host a brunch afterward. Immediately after *that*, we have been invited to join our neighbor Burton Memorial Church in a peace celebration by visiting Buddhist monks, who will once again create a peace "mandala" (sand painting). I remember the monks visiting KJCC one year. When their head lama heard the story of our Holocaust Torah he bowed before the Ark and lovingly placed his forehead against the Torah mantle.

You won't want to miss any of this mini-shabbaton (Sabbath retreat) weekend.

Finally, if you want to improve your Hebrew, we will be organizing two adult Hebrew programs, both beginning and intermediate Hebrew. Please let me know if you are interested – don't be shy. We all help each other in the classes.

- With love, Bernie

Nosh

Welcome to New Members

KJCC is pleased to welcome Steve and Marsha Harris of Long Key as official members of our Mischpocha. We hope that you become an integral part of our community here.

Rabbi Agler's December Torah Service

Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Services (and discussion) are always special, memorable days. Everyone leaves with a deeper appreciation of our teachings and heritage. (Really.) His service in December will be on Saturday, December 28th, at 10 a.m. But this particular service will also have a bonus. And what a bonus. Cantor Irwin Gelman will be visiting South Florida and has agreed to join Rabbi Agler in a joint service. Those fortunate enough to have heard Cantor Gelman chant Kaddish the first time he visited us all remember the moment with awe. This will be a KJCC moment you definitely will want to be part of. Afterward, Sisterhood will be sponsoring a Kiddush brunch. Please contact Bernie or Gloria in advance if you wish to bring guests.

Notice to Military Veterans

If you are a member of the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) organization and are interested in participating in a special event that will take place in the Upper Keys in April, 2014, please contact me at hiitsmedee@gmail.com or call 305-852-3872. My husband Carl is bringing the Traveling Vietnam Wall to the Key Largo Community Park and is hoping some of our Jewish veterans will participate. The project will run from April 11-14, 2014. Thanks.

-Medina Roy

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
EVELYN O. COLTMAN
7/2/08 - 9/22/97**

Goodbye Wishes From Stuart and Lauren

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our mishpocha for ten incredible years with the Keys Jewish Community Center. We felt very much at home back in 2003 when we came to the Keys and joined the KJCC. Our love and affection for the center and its members led to increased involvement on our parts and culminated with our leading the congregation and the Sisterhood as presidents. While many of you have thanked us for our involvement and commitment to the synagogue, it is our thanks to all of you for your support and love that made our experience as fulfilling as it was.

We are now settled in our new home in Texas and spoiling our grandson as often as we can. Needless to say, the entrance to our home is blessed with the beautiful mezuzah from all of you. We see Joan Boruszak and her family on a regular basis, which makes our separation from the Keys that much easier to endure. While we are attending services here to continue our Jewish growth, we are fully aware that nothing can compare to the religious experiences we shared at the KJCC.

We wish each and every one of you good health and happiness in the years ahead and don't be surprised if we drop in occasionally to visit and maybe even lead a service! And if you find yourself heading west to Texas, y'all drop by and say howdy!

With love, Stuart & Lauren Sax

Oneg Sponsors for December 2013

December 6th - Steve and Jane Friedman to honor our newest members.

December 20th - Susan Ellner because she's happy to be back!

December 27th - Steve and Barbara Smith to honor Steve's birthday.

December Birthdays

1st.....	Paul Hudson
1st.....	Rachel Levine
2nd.....	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd.....	Marshall A. Field
3rd.....	Jackie LePree
3rd.....	Rick McNew
4th.....	Jan Hartz
4th.....	Jogi Yeager
4th.....	Judith Klein
5th.....	Joseph Beth
5th.....	Stuart Sax
6th.....	Haley Borisoff
6th.....	Kevin Gershowitz
6th.....	Leslie Boruszak
6th.....	Neal A. Jacobson
7th.....	Franklin Rose
7th.....	Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum
9th.....	George Swartz
10th.....	Harvey Robins
10th.....	Susan Greenbaum
11th.....	Sara Rose Friedman
13th.....	Robin Margulies Juenger
13th.....	Sarah Boruszak
13th.....	Susan Widrich
15th.....	Stephan Ban
16th.....	Diana Lal
16th.....	Samuel Klimpl
17th.....	Bruce Forman
17th.....	Jeffrey Schocket
17th.....	Lilian Forbes
18th.....	Emelyn Anne Juenger
18th.....	Jerome Horowitz
19th.....	Aaron Stuart
19th.....	David Gitin
19th.....	Lorena Kaufman
20th.....	Alan Schulberg
20th.....	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th.....	Teresa Kwalick
21st.....	Roberta McNew
22nd.....	Laura Molly Friedman
22nd.....	Lisa Miller
23rd.....	Roger Hernstadt
25th.....	Lori Kay
26th.....	Steven Smith

27th.....	Steve Kasinof
28th.....	Elaine Schulberg
28th.....	Emily Sherman
28th.....	Ira Krieger
28th.....	Michael Klimpl
29th.....	Joan Stark
30th.....	Ellen Bloom
31st.....	Elliot S. Schenker
31st.....	Michele Riley

December Anniversaries

	Years
8th	Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs.....60
11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner.....48
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....8
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen32
17th	Roger & Jessica Hernstadt7
17th	Larry & Stephanie Gilderman.....47
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau.....2

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
MICHAL KAMELY 2013
Our Teacher and Friend
Joel and Linda Pollack**

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN HONOR OF
YARDENA, GLORIA AND SUSAN
KJCC "Morahs"
*From the Bernsteins***

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT SCOTT COLTMAN
4/24/68 - 11/28/91**

Westley's Bar Mitzvah

December 14, 2013

Jane Silverman, Dr. Michael Berman, Cole Silverman and Peter Silverman are delighted that Westley Chance Silverman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at KJCC on Saturday, December 14th, 2013, at 10 a.m. Westley moved to Key Largo from London a year ago and felt genuinely welcomed by the KJCC family. He has worked hard with mentors



Yardena and Gloria to be ready for his big day!

Westley is an avid fisherman and loves languages, reading, computers, karate, bike riding, singing, and swimming. He is delighted that friends and family will be converging on the KJCC from London, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Texas, California, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida to celebrate!

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.

Christmas Day with the Steinbocks

Once again this year, in a now annual tradition, Carol and Steve Steinbock cordially invite all of KJCC to join them at their house on Christmas Day. (It's better than Chinese food.) The open house hours are 2-6 p.m. All manner of delightful food and drink will be available, as usual. Their address is 147 Gardenia Street, in Plantation Key Colony, almost directly across the highway from Coral Shores High School.

Annual Channukiah Lighting at Pauline's

We will have our annual Channukiah lighting ceremony at our matriarch Pauline Roller's house, Sunday evening at 6:00 on December 1st, so bring your Chanukah menorahs and candles as well as latkes and other refreshments if you can. We will light, sing, play dreidel, enjoy our own children as well as Yardená's twin granddaughters from Chile and have a wonderful time. All are invited. (We will miss Natalie, but we wish her and her whole wonderful family a grand time in Peru. Bring your channukiah, Tali, and light your candles at Macchu Picchu. We want pictures of you, Lili, Hannah and Chanukah for Chai-Lights! If llamas are in the foreground, that's fine :-)

Love, your morot - Gloria, Yardená and Susan

Our Garden Needs Volunteers

The dry season is approaching, and with less rain our wonderful Meditation Garden will need more tending. If you have some time and labor to spare, please contact Steve Steinbock at 394-0143. We really do need a full committee for this. Gardening is work, and we can't expect Steve to do it all.

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Carol and Steve Steinbock
and their family on the death of
Carol's mother Marianne Cimkowski

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
KIM FEINBERG
1976 - 2000**

**Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
BRYON STRIBLEY
1968 - 2002**

Open House at Dr. Erica's Office

As has also become her annual holiday tradition. Dr. Erica Garrett invites all of KJCC to her Tavernier Chiropractic office on Wednesday, December 11th for an Open House Holiday Party. She promises "delicious food and drinks, holiday gift bags and more." The hours are 4-7 p.m. Garrett Chiropractic is located in the Turek Building at MM 90.2 bayside. Please R.S.V.P. at 305-853-1003.

The Kamely Family Offers Thanks to KJCC

Yardená, Daphne and Uri Kamely would like to express our appreciation to the Keys Jewish Community for your support and help during the difficult period of Shiva for our mother, Michal Kamely. We have seldom seen such a devoted and close-knit community; we felt like we were part of a warm and welcoming family. Moreover, we also want to thank you for organizing a minyan every evening, and for providing us with your hospitality, and above all, friendship and comfort. Our mother always said that of all the places she has lived in the world, the Keys Jewish Community was not only the best congregation she ever belonged to, but that she also made long-lasting friendships with deep roots. She loved the KJCC.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks,
Yardená, Daphne and Uri Kamely

KJCC Gift Shop

*T'is the Time to Shop-
FREE Chanukah candles with a
\$20 minimum purchase!!*

Remember us for Chanukah



Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks
Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!

**See our new items from Israel
handpicked by our Mishpocha
on their recent tour.**



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

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>	Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Rosie Biskar
Swartz, George & Muriel		Rosie Biskar	Schur, Lee	Rosie Biskar
<i>General Fund</i>		<i>In Honor of</i>	Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	Rosie Steinberg
Nelson, Darling J.			Steinbock, Steve & Carol	Muriel Catanese
Steinbock, Steve & Carol	Stuart & Lauren Sax		Steinbock, Steve & Carol	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar
<i>General Fund</i>			Swartz, George & Muriel	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar
<i>General Fund</i>		<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Rabbi & Cantor Fund</i>	
Boruszak, Joan		Jose Cohen	Goodman, Jamie & Laura	with sincere appreciation
Hartz, Steve & Jan		Jose Cohen	<i>Religious School</i>	
Moss, Elaine		Rosie Biskar	Bofshever, Joel & Toby	<i>In Memory of</i>
Peckman, Joyce	Ron Levy, Muriel Catanese		Boruszak, Joan	Michal Kamely
Sachs, Joseph & Susan		Jose Cohen	Coltman, Barney	Michal Kamely
Werthamer, Robert & Heide	Michael Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Davidson, Daniel & Diane Schwager	Michal Kamely
<i>Holidays</i>			Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	Michal Kamely
Cohen, James & Janet			Hartz, Steve & Jan	Michal Kamely
<i>Meditation Garden</i>		<i>In Memory of</i>	Kwalick, Teresa	Michal Kamely
Avner, Gloria	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Marcus, D & M Horowitz	Michal Kamely
Bofshever, Joel & Toby	Rosie Biskar		Noorily, Morry & Sara	Michal Kamely
Boruszak, Joan	Rosie Biskar		Schur, Lee	Michal Kamely
Coltman, Barney	Rosie Biskar		Swartz, George & Muriel	Michal Kamely
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	Rosie Biskar		<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	
Ginsberg, Bernard	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Roy, Medina	<i>In Honor of</i> Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah
Gordon, Susan	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	
Graham, Bea	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Mandelbaum, Leslie & Wendy	<i>In Memory of</i> Ron Levy
Hartz, Steve & Jan	brick - Bryon Stribley		Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	Ron Levy
Hartz, Steve & Jan	brick - Kim Feinberg		Schur, Lee	Ron Levy
Hartz, Steve & Jan	Rosie Biskar		<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i>	
Kamely, Yardena	Rosie Biskar		Steinbock, Steve & Carol	
Knowles, Richard & Barbara	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		<i>Tree of Life - Leaves</i>	
Kwalick, Teresa	Rosie Biskar		Berger, Carol	<i>In Memory of</i> Rosie Biskar
Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Conklin, Rita & Wes	Rosie Biskar
Peckman, Joyce	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Dillon, Leslie	Rosie Biskar
Pollack, Joel & Linda	brick - Michal Kamely		Gould, Maryon	Rosie Biskar
Pollack, Joel & Linda	brick - Rosie Biskar		Kluger, Nancy	Rosie Biskar
Roller, Pauline	brick - Michal Kamely, Rosie Biskar		Pearlman, Richard & Maddy	Rosie Biskar
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Jose Cohen, Ron Levy, Michal Kamely		Pollack, Joel & Linda	Rosie Biskar
			Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Rosie Biskar
			Silverman, Morton & Gene	Rosie Biskar
			Singer, Mary Lee	Rosie Biskar

Yahrzeits
Boruszak, Joan
Dorf, Barry & Natalie
Isenberg, Patricia
Krissel, Michael

Kwalick, Teresa

In Memory of
Lillian Goldstein
Jack Dorf
Helene Tulskey
Joseph Krissel,
Deborah Cannon
Barry Kwalick

Riley, Michele
Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Robert
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Yizkor Book
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Abraham Travers
Samuel Tallent
Kenny Temkin
Diana Wolfe

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Shabbat Service

Saturday
December 28, 2013

10 am
followed by
Kiddush
Brunch



in the Ruth Richardson
Social Hall

Rabbi Richard Agler
and Cantor Irwin Gelman will
lead services.

Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



Now that it's almost December and the season is upon us, we have a lot that Sisterhood has been planning for this season. Some of our snowbirds are back and the others – who we really miss – are starting to trickle back.

I'd like to welcome all of our new members to KJCC. Steve and Jane Friedman will be sponsoring a special Oneg on December 6th in their honor. (We don't mean to neglect our year-round members. You're the stalwarts of our KJCC family and we're grateful to have all of you.)

We're planning for an upcoming Sisterhood Service some time in January, to be led by Erica Garrett. A "Sisterhood Service" means it will include all ladies of the KJCC who would like to partake. Contact me for further information on this.

Our Chanukah Bazaar early this month was a huge success. The Chosen Gift Shop did a wonderful job displaying all their Chanukah "goodies" and it went over great. Our gift shop was lit up and looked amazing as well, thanks to the hard work of Susan Gordon and Barbara Bernstein. It was a festive day, with lots of refreshments and a raffle to boot. We never figured out why we kept picking Paul Bernstein's name as the winner for gifts. After his first win, he decided to forgo the next five gifts and let others get their picks. It was truly a great day and we even made money. The Chosen was so happy with our turnout and hospitality that they have asked to do a Passover Bazaar here. Information on this will be upcoming in future Chai-Lights and e-mail.

As I write this, we're eagerly awaiting our Chanukah Shabbat Dinner, to be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 29th with a dairy dinner. Services will follow at 8. Erica Garrett will be our star again as she will be totally in charge of this event. Our traditional Chanukah menorah lighting will be held on Sunday,

December 1st at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Pauline Roller, our distinguished synagogue elder. Everyone is asked to bring a personal menorah to light and dairy food to share. If you haven't seen it, all the menorahs lit together create a magical effect.

Also scheduled in December is a special Saturday Shabbat Service and Sisterhood Brunch. This will be on Saturday, December 28th, 2013. Services will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a Kiddush Brunch in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall. Rabbi Richard Agler and visiting Cantor Irwin Gellman will lead services.

Additionally, as I'm sure you're all aware, the Philippines was hit by a terrible typhoon recently. It destroyed the homes of several of KJCC member Jane Friedman's family. We of KJCC are going to help provide things that her family might need. Jane has suggested bringing the following items to KJCC and she will arrange to have them shipped: light clothing; light linens and dry, light-weight food (rice and cereal); over-the-counter drugs, (aspirin, Tylenol etc.) and personal hygiene products. Checks for donations can be made to KJCC marked for the Philippines, and we will use that for shipping and additional purchases that they need.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone of the Sisterhood's "Count Your Blessings Fund-raiser" that's been appearing in Chai-Lights. The response has been so good that we're extending it. Here's an idea: we're taught that it's a mitzvah to count our blessings. Print off a few copies of the page in November's issue, then send in a small donation whenever you feel particularly grateful, either for something on our list or anything else that makes your life a little sweeter or richer.

Let's make December "A Great Month"! ◇

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Journey of Spiritual Healing

Heroes to Heroes is a New Jersey-based non-profit organization that brings groups of former U.S. soldiers to Israel, most suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). New Jersey native Judy Schaffer founded the organization in 2011, convinced that a trip to Israel could help them recover quickly, both emotionally and spiritually. "There are a lot of great veterans' organizations in America, and they are doing great things," said Schaffer. "But it's very hard to restore someone's faith and spirit...in New Jersey or Montana. I think that Israel is the only place where that can be done...quickly." Schaffer envisioned a Birth-right-type trip designed specifically for non-Jewish American veterans of the Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan wars. To date, the organization has financed three ten-day trips. The most recent trip, which took place in October, saw ten participants who: were baptized in the Jordan River, planted trees in memory of fallen comrades, walked the Stations of the Cross and prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The most meaningful experience for them was a visit to *Yad Vashem*. They understood the message that the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust were people and not just numbers; it really resonated with them. Disabled Israeli veterans, also suffering from PTSD, accompanied the Americans during their ten days of intensive touring. The Israeli soldiers found it therapeutic to spend time with the Americans. Schaffer hopes that her organization will strengthen the bond between the two countries that have long been connected militarily, but whose people have very different relationships with their soldiers. In Israel, every Israeli has either served in the IDF or is likely to be related to someone who is in the army or has served. Many Americans don't personally know a single soldier.

(www.haaretz.com, 10-31-13)

A Nazi Buried in a Jewish Cemetery

According to a report in the German newspaper *Bild*, Heinrich Müller, the notorious head of the Gestapo, was buried in a Jewish cemetery in Central Berlin. Documents found in various archives indicate that he was buried in a mass grave during the last days of the war in 1945. It remains unclear exactly why such a prominent Nazi was buried there. Western intelligence agencies long maintained that Müller did not survive the war, but newly revealed documents show that his body was clearly identified. He was found wearing the uniform of a general, and in it there was a Gestapo pass with his photo. In 1963, a gravedigger told police that he personally had buried Müller, and that he had seen Müller's face. While his statement was not confirmed at the time, it turns out now that he was telling the truth. Müller had become Gestapo chief in 1939. He was involved in planning and executing the Holocaust, with Adolf Eichmann his immediate subordinate. The two men together planned key components of the deportation and extermination of Europe's Jews. Müller was last seen in Hitler's bunker in Berlin in May of 1945. To date, he is the most senior figure of the Nazi regime who was either never captured or positively confirmed to have died.

(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 10-31-13)

And The Winner Is.....

The 2014 *Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature* is Matti Friedman's "The Aleppo Codex: A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible." The Jewish Book Council announced the winner for the prestigious award (Friedman took home \$100,000) inaugurated in 2006 by the family of Jewish philanthropist Sami Rohr to

“recognize emerging writers who articulate the Jewish experience...as well as the author’s potential to make significant ongoing contributions to Jewish literature.” The Award switches yearly between fiction and non-fiction. “The Aleppo Codex” traces the thousand-year history of the codex, a copy of the Hebrew Bible written around 930 CE and preserved in Jewish communities throughout the Middle East. (www.tabletmag.com, 11-7-13)

For Your Netflix Queue

Academy Award-winning film director Quentin Tarantino has called the new Israeli movie “Big Bad Wolves” the best film of the year. At the end of the film’s screening at the South Korean 18th Busan International Film Festival, Tarantino said, “Not only is this the best film in Busan, this is the best film of the year.” It is the story of an act of revenge against a cruel murderer of children. Last month, the film won five awards, the second largest number at the prestigious Ophir Awards. Another Israeli film to look for is Yuval Adler’s “Bethlehem,” which won six Ophir Awards. That film was selected to represent Israel at the upcoming Oscars in the foreign film category. (www.haaretz.com, 10-13-13)

First-Ever Israeli Face-Off

Five years ago, a young Omri Casspi made basketball history by becoming the first Israeli to play in the NBA. Last month Casspi and another Israeli player faced each other for the first time when Casspi’s Houston Rockets went up against Israeli Gal Mekel of the Dallas Mavericks. (The Rockets beat the Mavericks 113-105.) The two have been playing together since they were young but now are pitted against each other in the NBA. (www.haaretz.com, 11-2-13)

Ebay Apologizes

Ebay, the online auction house, has apologized for listing Holocaust-related memorabilia on its website. They removed about 30 items saying, “We don’t allow listings of this nature, and dedicate thousands of staff to policing our site and use the latest technology to detect items that shouldn’t be for sale. We very much regret that we didn’t live up to

our standards.” Items that were offered for sale included a complete uniform worn by an Auschwitz inmate, yellow Stars of David armbands worn by Jews during World War II, a Holocaust victim’s suitcase and a pair of shoes belonging to a death camp victim. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 11-4-13)

“Politics has No Place in Sports”

Tunisia has been suspended from the 2014 Davis Cup competition after the country’s tennis federation ordered its number one player not to compete against an Israeli and thus default the match. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) imposed the suspension. ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti said, “There is no room for prejudice of any kind in sport...The ITF Board decided to send a strong message...that this kind of action will not be tolerated by any of our members.” Israel and Tunisia do not have diplomatic ties. Relations were severed by the Tunisians in 2000 following the outbreak of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (www.reuters.com, 11-2-13)

Marriage Law Changes in Israel

Following a fierce debate that split members of the Knesset, the Israeli government raised the country’s legal marriage age from 17 to 18. The bill was passed (55-11) and infuriated ultra-Orthodox members of Parliament because the bill’s intention was targeted at the strictly Orthodox community. *Hareidi* members of the Knesset had argued that the law would violate the rights of religious teenagers. Violation of this new law will lead to a prison sentence of up to two years. (www.thjc.com, 11-5-13)

Update on the Jews of Dothan

Larry Blumberg, a wealthy Jewish businessman, was worried that his Dothan, Alabama synagogue was dying, and so five years ago he put up \$1 million to fund a program to recruit Jewish families to move to his corner of the Deep South. The plan was successful. The synagogue now has religious classes filled with children and a temple bowling team is in the works. Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith

moved from Connecticut to Alabama to lead the reform Temple Emanu-El about a year before the program began. When she arrived in 2007, she saw maybe 15 elderly people attending services. (There are now 30 and the average age is a lot younger.) The once thriving congregation, formed in 1929, was vanishing because young people were moving to larger cities. Blumberg, who owns a chain of hotels, came up with the plan to offer Jewish families \$50,000 in relocation assistance in exchange for moving to Dothan – a city of 65,000 people known for peanut production – and getting involved at Temple Emanu-El and committing to staying in Dothan for at least five years. According to Stuart Rockoff of the *Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life* in Jackson, Mississippi, other small-town Jewish congregations could benefit from adopting the Dothan plan. The Institute is helping to promote Southern Judaism by raising funds in places like New York and California to support congregations located in the Deep South. (www.ap.org, 10-13-13)

Another Update

In the November issue of *World Jewish Report*, we told of the late Mohamad Helmy, an Egyptian doctor recognized by *Yad Vashem* as “Righteous Among the Nations,” the first Arab to be so designated since the award’s establishment in 1963. It turns out that Mervat Hassan of Cairo, wife of Helmy’s great-nephew, said that the family would refuse the award because it comes from Israel’s Holocaust Memorial. “If any other country offered to honor Helmy, we would have been happy with it,” Hassan was quoted as saying. *Yad Vashem* has decided to search for other Helmy relatives so it can go ahead with a recognition ceremony. (www.jta.org, 10-31-13)

Did You Know...

- Mindy Pollak, 24, has become the first Hasidic woman to hold public office in Quebec, Canada. Her district, Outremont, outside of Montreal, is home to an estimated 5,000 Hasidim. Montreal has had Orthodox Jewish

councillors in the past, but all have been men. Pollak has been working to alleviate tensions in her neighborhood between the Hasidic community and the general population. She is a volunteer with *Chai Lifeline*, an organization that works with sick children and their families. (www.tabletmag.com, 11-4-13)

- Shimon Pepper recently returned “While Six Million Died,” a book about the Holocaust, to his hometown library in Fall River, Massachusetts. It was due some 40 years ago. Pepper, who now lives in New York, found the book when he returned to his home town to retrieve Torah scrolls and religious books from his childhood synagogue which were no longer being used. He was planning to donate them to synagogues in Israel, New York and New Jersey. In 1971, library late fees were 2 cents a day – at that rate he owed \$271 in fines. Pepper’s fine was waived. He did make a donation to the library. (*The Forward*, 10-15-13)

- Sergio Bergman, 51, has won a seat in Argentina’s national parliament, making him the first rabbi to be elected to national legislative office. Bergman is a prominent reform rabbi. He is the founder of the Judaica Foundation, a network that includes various organizations including synagogues, educational institutions, charitable and social programs. (www.thejcc.com, 10-31-13)

- Amir Lehavot, 38, a native Israeli now living in South Florida finished third in the *World Series of Poker*, taking home close to \$3.7 million. The tournament began in Las Vegas on July 6th, with 6,352 competitors who each bought in for \$10,000. (Lehavot, who plays under the Israeli flag, had asked the World Series organizers to play “Hatikvah,” the Israeli national anthem, if he won the tournament.) An engineer, Lehavot began playing poker in 2007. (www.jta.org, 11-5-13)

- “Heartbeats,” a youth orchestra comprised of both Israeli and Palestinian musicians, performed at the U.S. State Department in early November. The goal of the orchestra is “to build trust between Israeli and Palestinian youth through the power of music.” (www.jta.org, 11-6-13) ◇



On the Celebration of Chanukah: Jews and the Greeks

The story of Hanukkah, with the festival's laws and customs, is missing in the Mishna; it is told in the books of the First and Second Maccabees. These books are not part of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The story of the one-day supply of oil miraculously lasting eight days is first described in the Talmud, written about 600 years after the events described in the books of Maccabees.

Religiously, Hanukkah is a minor holiday. Except on Shabbat, restrictions on work do not apply. Aside from lighting the candles of the Chanukia, (Hanukkah menorah), formal religious observance is only in the changes in liturgy; we read in the Siddur: "On Chanukah add..." Our annual celebration tends to be informal and based on custom rather than law.

The interesting part of this holiday is its historical background, the internal civil war between the traditionalist Jews and the Hellenized Jews in Jerusalem. The dispute was over who would be the High Priest, traditionalists with Hebrew/Aramaic names like Onias competing with Hellenized High Priests with Greek names like Jason and Menelaus. What began in many respects as a civil war escalated when the Hellenistic kingdom of Syria sided with the Hellenizing Jews in their conflict with the traditionalists.

Before we get to the end of the Hanukkah story, let's explore how it began. It's about the Greeks and Hellenism. What were the cultural changes that Hellenism brought to the Near East? How did it influence the Jewish religious, political and cultural life of those

times? The historian Max I. Dimont gives us some interesting interpretations on these themes. In his book "Jews, God and History" he writes: "Though Greek thought dominated the Near East for 600 years, no original native contribution to art, letters, or philosophy ever grew out of this fusion between Occident and Orient. There was one exception – the Jews. Though most of them rejected Hellenism itself, Greek philosophy fell on fertile soil." The Jews absorbed everything intellectual which the Greeks had to offer. "To everything intellectual they borrowed, they added a Jewish touch. The Greeks then took these retouched ideas back from the Jews. The result was something neither had foreseen. The Greeks emerged in a Jewish-made mantle known as Christianity; the Jews wore a Greek philosophic tunic labeled 'Talmudism.' But in spite of this extensive borrowing from each other for six centuries, the Greeks regarded the Jews as barbarians without manners, and the Jews viewed the Greeks as heathens without morals."

When the Jews came under Grecian rule, their real enemy was Hellenism. The fight between Greek and Jew was the fight between two ideas, Alexander The Great's Hellenic culture, and the Judaic religion of the Prophets. The Prophets won. Hellenization of the Jews brought changes in their language, manners, and customs; then it "encroached upon their morals, ethics, and religion." But in spite of the strong influence of the attractive hedonistic Greek culture on Jewish culture, most Jews remained anti-Hellenistic. Dimont mentions two ideological reasons: one was the prestige and

power of the Mosaic Law, still considered divine by the people; the other was the firm belief that the Davidic line of kings would be restored. "Slowly these sentiments forge the anti-Hellenizers into a political party, whose members became known as the Hasideans, or pietists" (not to be confused with the Hasidists, Chasidim, the Jewish religious sect that appeared in 18th century Europe). As more Jews joined the Hasidean party out of protest against Hellenization, it gained political strength and came to play the dominant role in the events to come.

For 125 years the Seleucids (rulers of Asia Minor and Syria) and Ptolemies (rulers of Egypt and Palestine), each inheritors of one-third of Alexander's empire, fought over the control of Palestine. Finally the Seleucid king, Antiochus III, succeeded in taking Palestine from the Ptolemies. He continued the tolerant policies of its former rulers. Under the Ptolemaic kings, the Jews were left alone as long as they paid their taxes; they enjoyed self-government and complete cultural and religious freedom. Antiochus gave them even greater internal freedom because they showed how good they were with self-government. Matters changed with his son Antiochus Epiphanes, who inherited the throne in 176 B.C.; he decided that the Hellenization program, which included putting statues of Greek gods and the king everywhere, should be more intense. Dimont: "Antiochus Epiphanes has been so entrenched in Jewish history as a villain that few Jews can see the war which ensued for what it really was – not an uprising against tyrannical Seleucids, but a revolt by Jewish anti-Hellenizers against Jewish Hellenizers. Nothing anti-Jewish was imposed on the Jews by the Seleucids. The same laws, just or unjust, had been applied to everybody. All complied, except the Jews." The rebellion was started by the Jews. Dimont notes that it was the rebellion that brought the reprisals of the Greeks, not Jewish noncompliance with the Hellenization program.

*Under the
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What followed was a bloody period of brutal killings and slaughter from both sides, the Hasidean party leaders and Antiochus Epiphanes. A new set of statues was installed in the Temple and a new set of High Priests was appointed to tend to them. And pagans were invited to come and settle in Jerusalem as a way to dilute the Jewish population. Dimont points out that when Antiochus then repressed religious practice, outlawed the Sabbath day and forbade circumcision, "a second uprising was inevitable, and again a totally unforeseen event sparked it." In a little town outside Jerusalem, a Greek official attempted to force an elderly Jewish priest to sacrifice to Greek gods. The name of the priest was Mattathias, of the Hasmonean

house. Rather than commit this sacrilege, Mattathias killed the official. Antiochus ordered new reprisals, and the Jewish population rose en masse to the defense of Mattathias, who with his five sons now took leadership of the war. They became known as the Maccabees (from the Hebrew word for hammer). It was the beginning of a new kind of war, the world's first religious war.

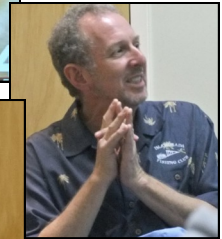
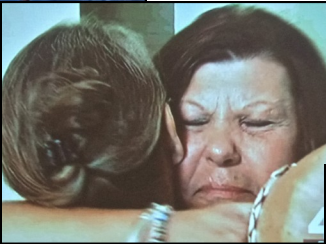
Dimont summarizes: "With amazement, the Seleucid Greeks watched how this people stoically and heroically died for ideas, not possessions. Their disdain for the 'barbarian' Jews changed to respect and awe. They could not understand this kind of war." Other people, when their capital was occupied, its king captured, its temple and gods destroyed, would submit. But these Jews did not submit; each Jew carried his temple in his heart. The legend of the Maccabees spread throughout the Hellenic world. The war with the Seleucids lasted 25 full years. Antiochus Epiphanes died without realizing his dream of selling the Jews in the slave markets of the world. His successor offered the Jews religious freedom and full independence, and the Jews, worn out by the long war, accepted. "Simon, the only survivor of the five sons of Mattathias, signed the peace treaty in 143 B.C. After an incredible war, the impossible had been achieved – a new Jewish Kingdom of Judah had again been established." ◇

Photo Gallery



Some photos from the monthly chai-yaking expedition for KJCC members and their guests run by Dave Mont, this one on Saturday,

October 26th. You don't even need your own kayak, since loaners are available. Contact Dave if you're interested.



Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler are working with Rev. Pam Feeser of Mariners Hospital to sign up organ donors. On November 6th they spoke at Mariners (to a crowd of mostly KJCC supporters.) Organ donation was a cause of their daughter Talia; after her death, five people received her organs. The woman hugging Mindy at top is alive because she has Talia's heart.





Many of you likely remember The Chosen Book Store in Miami. They're now strictly online or by appointment. On Nov. 3rd they came to KJCC to

stage a Chanukah Bazaar in conjunction with KJCC's Sisterhood. It was such a success that

plans are underway to hold another bazaar for Passover.



A Joyful Baby Naming

by Gloria Avner

Wouldn't it be wonderful if history books a hundred years from now revealed that a Jewish man named Sean Suarez was responsible for bringing the Jewish people to the cusp of a Messianic Age? It is a possibility, as we learned with Rabbi Agler on November 16th. We celebrated in advance with the family of Michael and Lorena Kaufman on that bright Shabbat



Hebrew name, *Simcha ben Mordechai*. Rabbi Agler pointed to the empty chair carefully placed

in our Sanctuary's center aisle. If one had not attended many circumcisions, how would we know

that there always is a seat for *Eliyahu HaNavi*, the prophet who, according to tradition, will announce the coming of the Messiah?

Over fifty people, family and friends of the Kaufmans from as far away as Texas and New York, as well as

many supportive KJCC *mish-pocha*, listened as Rabbi Agler spoke elo-



morning in mid-November as we gave their grandson his

quently of the hope and commitment involved in welcoming a new being to the tribe. When we give a Hebrew name, he explained, we are vowing to pass on shared Jewish values, ethics, rules of right behavior and passion to make the world a better place.

The photographs tell the story. A beauti-



fully behaved baby boy, embraced by loving extended family, held center stage – while being held alternately by his mother and grandmother – in a story of commitment to Jewish upbringing. After a typically stimulating, Rabbi-Agler-led discussion around Jacob's wrestling with an angel and his encounter with brother Esau, the Torah was paraded down the aisles, carried like our own new child, both bundles precious. Grandparents, great-grandparents, and mother Jessi were all congratulated.



After the service at KJCC, a delicious luncheon was served, hosted by the Kaufmans at their beautiful oceanfront home in Key Largo. A highlight of the afternoon was the meaningful candle-lighting ceremony honoring key people in the baby's life, including our president, Bernard Ginsberg, representing on-

going connection with the KJCC. Michael's words about *tzedakah* and repairing the world, *tikkun olam*, were inspiring. The baby-decorated cake was adorable. Music, by a Miami Sound Machine founder, was so dance-able



Pauline nearly threw away her cane. (She was also the baby's favorite "auntie" – look at his twelve-week-old expression as our 98-year-old matriarch holds him in her arms, at bottom.)

It is a pleasure to wel-

come *Simcha ben Mordechai* (Sean to his friends and family) into our lives and the world. May he, his family,



and the message of joy his name proclaims be frequent visitors to our synagogue and shining lights to our people. *Mazel tov!* ♦

Our appreciation to Barbara Knowles for most of the photographs here, but also to Gloria Avner, Erica Garrett and Susan Gordon.

Coping With Holiday Stress

A professional offers tips on managing non-joyous feelings.

by Mindy Agler

This time of year we seem to be bombarded with messages telling us to be happy, and to spend a lot of money on gifts to make others happy. But what happens if we aren't feeling happy or we need to stick to a budget that doesn't seem to be working? What if we're grieving someone or something important that we lost in the past year? How can we get through the holidays in a way that honors our true feelings and doesn't add to our daily allotment of stress?

- Just admitting out loud that this is a difficult time of year for you can be beneficial. You're not the only one who is struggling, and it helps to share the struggle. Tell a friend or a family member your true feelings. You might be surprised to learn that they are also having a hard time. Together, you can get through it!

- Start a journal, or diary, about your thoughts and feelings. Writing about what's going on with you can help organize your thoughts, ease decision-making, and decrease depression and anxiety.

- Keep a daily gratitude list. It's easy to focus on what's missing or wrong in your life. Remembering what's present and right will help balance the pain. Research shows that cultivating an "attitude of gratitude" leads to better health, sounder sleep, less anxiety, higher long-term satisfaction with life, and kinder behavior toward others! And it doesn't cost a cent or take a great deal of time or energy.

- If the stress of shopping and choosing the "perfect" gift for everyone from your family members to your dog sitter is overwhelming, consider making contributions to your favorite charities in their honor. Better yet, choose causes that would be meaningful to them!

- Don't spend too much time alone. Join a

club, volunteer, come to services, call old friends. But keep things in balance; don't over-schedule yourself!

- If you're prone to drinking or over-using medication when you're stressed, be careful. Alcohol is a depressant, and will not ease those holiday blues. Pills are also not the answer.

- Exercise and eating well are tried-and-true tools for managing stress any time of year. Make sure you're attentive to your body's needs and honor them.

- If you know you're going to have a hard time on a particular night, such as the first night of Chanukah, or New Year's Eve, practice acceptance and don't celebrate this year. Go to a movie, buy a book, eat a nice meal out, but don't get caught up.

- If your usual holiday rituals are too painful this year, create new ones. If lighting your *Chanukiah* is painful, perhaps counting the first stars in the sky each night, the right numbers for each night of the holiday, could be the way you fulfill the *mitzvah* this year.

- Remember that the message of Chanukah is miracles. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the Keys, and the miracles that are so abundant here. A good prayer to help with this is: "Help me to see wherever I gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed." (Or this time of year, the oil in the Maccabees' *menorah* burns unconsumed!) Allow this beautiful place we call home to bring you peace and healing; visit the Wild Bird Center, go kayaking, watch one of our beautiful sunsets.

- Remember to breathe. We humans tend to hold our breath when we feel stressed or anxious. This only adds to the anxiety! Catch yourself doing this, and take a deep, calming breath.

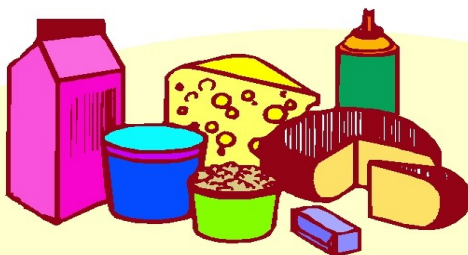
- If the stress becomes overwhelming, consider seeking professional help.

Wishing everyone in my KJCC family a holiday season filled with peace, blessing, and whatever healing you might need. I am grateful for this welcoming congregation!

Mindy Agler is a Licensed Mental Health

Counselor. She has a private practice, and is the primary therapist at ABC's for Success in Islamorada. To contact Mindy, call her confidential number: 561-866-9066, or send her a confidential e-mail: maglerlmhc@gmail.com. Further information about her services can be found at www.mindyaglerlmhc.com.

KJCC SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17,
2014**

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH

~DAIRY~

*Contact Joyce @ 305 451-0665
joycepeckman@gmail.com to reserve your
spot and coordinate your covered dish.*

Sponsored Dinner - no charge

-This Month in Jewish History-

December

519 B.C.E. – Supported by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the foundations for the Second Temple are laid during the second year of the reign of Persian ruler Darius The Great. It will take four years to complete the project.

220 C.E. – Rabbi Judah Hanasi (Judah the Patriarch) dies. Born in Eretz Israel in 138 (three years after the last rebellion against Rome, the one led by Bar Kochba), Judah's greatest claim to fame is as the compiler of the Mishna, the compilation of Oral Law, which will serve as the basis for both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds. It served, and still serves, as a code for regulation of all Jewish life. Some of his more famous sayings include: "Be as punctilious in observing a light as a weighty commandment, for you do not know their relative reward." And the favorite of all who teach: "I have learned much from teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from pupils."

321 C.E. – A letter from Emperor Constantine the Great regarding special taxes provides the first evidence of Jews living along the Rhine in central Europe.

771 – Charlemagne becomes sole Frankish king upon the death of his brother, King Carloman. Contrary to typical historical patterns, the consolidation of political power in the hands of one monarch actually helps the kingdom's Jews. Charlemagne is favorably disposed to his Jewish subjects, even to the point of defying edicts of powerful prelates.

1254 – Pope Innocent IV dies. During his papacy, Innocent denounces Blood Libels against the Jews as "unfounded." In 1247, Innocent issues a declaration on behalf of Jews stating that the Talmud is an absolute necessity for the Jews, if Judaism is to continue to exist as a separate religion; and that

burnings of the Talmud are to cease. This is not a position taken by many medieval Popes.

1655 – Oliver Cromwell convenes a gathering of English notables at Whitehall to decide if the Jews should be readmitted to England. Cromwell is a strong proponent of readmission, as are most of Cromwell's military and government leaders. Opposition comes from merchants and the mainline Christian clergy. The council is stalemated, and eventually disbanded. But conferees do agree that there is no legal reason not to re-admit the Jews since they had been expelled by royal decree and not by an act of Parliament.

1787 – Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It abolishes all religious tests for public office in 1792.

1847 – Solomon Schechter is born in Rumania to a Chabad Chassidic family. His Chassidic upbringing does not satisfy him, and in 1879 he goes to study at the *Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums* at the University of Berlin. He quickly rises to prominence as a rabbinic scholar and spokesman for Jewish traditionalism, gaining international fame as a scholar when he discovers and brings back to London more than 100,000 pages of rare manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza. In 1913 he is instrumental in founding the United Synagogue of America, the umbrella organization of all Conservative congregations. Though a staunch traditionalist, Schechter admits that there can be change in modern Judaism. He is supposedly quoted as saying, "Gentlemen, in order to be a success in the American rabbinate, you must be able to talk baseball."

1861 – An edition of the *Louisville-Nashville Courier* gives the following details concerning the burning of a bridge at Whippoorwill on the Memphis Branch Railroad: "A detachment

of fifty or sixty federal soldiers under the command of a Dutch Jew peddler named Netter fired a volley of over one hundred rounds from Sharp's revolving rifles" at the Confederates guarding the bridge. "Netter" is probably Gabriel Netter, a French-born Jew (not Dutch) living in Kentucky, who within a year would rise to the rank of Lt. Colonel before being killed in fighting near Owensboro.

1864 – A meeting is held in Philadelphia, which results in the establishment of the first Jewish theological seminary in America. The seminary is established under the joint auspices of the Hebrew Education Society and the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, and is named Maimonides College. The school begins operations in 1867. It ceases operations in 1873 due to lack of support and funds.

1864 – William Tecumseh Sherman's Union Army reaches Savannah, Georgia in what history will call "Sherman's March to the Sea." Fighting alongside Sherman is Major General Frederick Knefler, a native of Hungary who is the highest-ranking Jewish officer in the Union Army during the Civil War.

1875 – Father Bernhard Lichtenberg, anti-fascist German priest and outspoken defender of the Jews of Germany, is born. After *Kristallnacht*, Lichtenberg is the only prominent Church figure to raise his voice publicly and fearlessly against Nazi brutality. "We know what happened yesterday, we do not know what lies in store for us tomorrow. But we have experienced what has happened today: Outside burns the temple. This is also a place of worship." He is arrested in 1941, but continues to speak out. In 1943, Lichtenberg asks to accompany the Jews being sent to the Ghetto at Lodz, Poland. The Church refuses, but the Gestapo orders him sent to Dachau. Not yet seventy, Lichtenberg dies while awaiting shipment to the concentration camp.

1889 – Poet Robert Browning dies. Browning's poem "Rabbi ben Ezra" is based on the life Abraham ibn Ezra, a leading figure in the

Golden Age in Spain and second only in fame to Rashi as a Torah commentator. The poem begins with the famous line "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be..."

1891 – Rachel Sasoon Beer, granddaughter of David Sasoon and daughter of Sasoon David Sasoon, is named editor of *The Observer* in London, making her the first female editor of a national newspaper. During her tenure *The Observer* achieves one of its greatest exclusives: the admission by Count Esterhazy that he had forged the letters used to condemn innocent Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus to Devil's Island. The ensuing international outcry leads to the release and pardon of Dreyfus and court-martial of Esterhazy.

1915 – Albert Einstein publishes the general theory of relativity, from his seat as Director of Theoretical Physics at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. He is 36.

1917 – British troops under General Allenby fight their way into Jerusalem, defeating the Ottoman Turks and freeing the ancient Jewish homeland from hundreds of years of Ottoman rule. The whole city turns out to greet the General, as do the Chief Sephardic and Ashkenazi Rabbis. The Jaffa Gate is opened after years of disuse to enable Allenby to enter on foot, but also to enable him to enter the city without having to use a gap in the wall created for Kaiser William in 1898.

1917 – Corporal Louis Isaac Salek, a Gallipoli veteran from New Zealand entering Jerusalem with General Allenby, hoists and flies the first Jewish flag to fly over Jerusalem since the city's fall to the Romans almost two thousand years ago. The flag is made by an Egyptian-Jewish department store owner named Moreno Cicurel with the assistance of a tailor from Alexandria named Eliezer Slutzkin. Salek's flag design is blue and white – the top half blue, the bottom half white – with a Magen David in the center. Salek plants Moreno's flag atop the Tower of David – the Citadel – where it flies for twenty minutes before being removed by the British. ♦

To See the Light

The opposite of darkness and other meanings

by Gloria Avner

Have you noticed? Sunset is coming earlier every night. We retire to our caves. In a few weeks we'll reach a pivot point, the Winter Solstice, a day held sacred and mysterious by tribal peoples for thousands of years: longest darkness, shortest light. And then everything will change. Sun will begin its journey back to equilibrium of light and dark. For the next half a year the light in our lives will increase, and at the Summer Solstice we'll turn, turn and turn again. We've talked about life cycles and Ecclesiastes before. This year, one verse, "a time to be born, and a time to die," looms especially large for us.

We've lost many good friends this year: wives, husbands, fathers, moms; some in sudden, unexpected, startling ways, others after lingering illness. My father left on New Year's Eve fifteen years ago, a year in which Chanukah came late. He went out with the last candle. When December 31st comes this year I will do as Jews have done for at least the last hundred years and light a *yahrzeit* candle in remembrance of the light he shined on me, my world, and his community. I will make a donation to KJCC, giving *tzedakah* in his honor. Our rituals and tradition help us find light in loss that could otherwise send us into darkness of despair. (There are many reasons why the syndrome for seasonal affective disorder is called SAD, describing peoples' reaction to lack of light.)

In Judaism, we talk about our people as shining lights. We celebrate the "*ner tamid*," the everlasting light, weaving stories about miracles into time-appropriate Chanukah ritual, beating back the dark. We re-dedicate ourselves as well as an ancient Temple, when we put special menorahs, *Chanukiah*s, in our windows to remind ourselves and others that light equals survival when we fight for the right to pray and practice as our heritage re-

quires.

Every artist knows what makes a good, true, and lively painting – light against dark, dark against light. We see and appreciate all things by recognition through contrast. Light illuminates and dispels what is hidden in shadow. Light equals holiness, creation, life itself. How do we deal Jewishly with darkness, life and death? We console the bereaved, visit the sick, sit *shiva*, perform acts of kindness and *tzedakah* as memorials to our departed. We plant trees in a meditation garden, create places of comfort and beauty.

We notice and are grateful for signs of light and life. When we celebrate Tu B'Sh'vat (the birthday of the trees) in another month we will celebrate our mystical seder with a pure white first glass of wine, acknowledging the cycle of death symbolized by winter. Slowly we will add drops of red until light and life rebound in full swing.

Familiar customs help, but there are untapped sources, too. One rich possibility is guided conversation using ancient Jewish texts and modern poetry, taking turns reading, similar to our activity in the middle of Yom Kippur this year, when the balance of contemporary materials and traditional texts was inspiring.

A future program is in the works. Rabbi Steven Sager, friend and colleague of KJCC member and High Holy Day leader Rabbi Rich Agler, will be instrumental. Founder and facilitator of a website called sichaconversation.org, he will help us tap a deep well, our legacy of tools, words of wisdom, insight and inspiration. It will happen on a special day, the Vernal Equinox, March 21st, when dark hours and light for one day are in balance, equal. Let's keep each other company in a guided process as we deal with each new stroke of grief, each burst of joy.

We offer condolences to all who've suffered losses in these last months. We say Mazel Tov to the Silvermans on Westley's upcoming Bar Mitzvah and to the Kaufmans on their baby naming. Our "*simchas*," or joys, like hours of daylight, may sometimes seem outweighed by loss, but they can lead to balance. There will always be shifts, twists and turns, "a time for every season under heaven."

Here in the Keys, the livin' seems easy. It's not just that fish are jumping. Our trees have

leaves and flowers all year, we don't fill furnaces with oil, and our bodies don't require layers beyond a few rare 50-degree days. No matter the weather, though, we all have to deal with light and dark, joy and loss, even if we're not talking about the outer world but the development of our inner souls.

Let's mine our tradition, get through the dark, and welcome more light. Bless Chanukah candles, welcome miracles, and save the weekend of March 21, 2014 for learning, fun, and shared exploration. ◇

To our KICC Family -

Our sincere thanks to all of you for lending us your love and support during our recent mitzvah. Will's Bar Mitzvah was attended by family from near and far, and by KICC mishpocha from near and far as well. Our boy was so very happy to see you all and to have your congratulatory wishes. What a wonderful demonstration of love from our community!

Special thanks to Rabbi Agler, Gloria, Stuart, Susan, Bernie, Barbara, Richard and to all who helped to make this destination event a meaningful one.



The Pollack Family



Our Cruise in Central Europe

We started in Vienna, sailed west on the historic Danube into Germany and then motored overland to Prague.

by Gene Silverman

We thought we'd planned everything. But little did we know that our trip would start with the airline losing all of Mort's checked luggage. It didn't turn up in Vienna (Austria, not Virginia) for three days. It was hysterical (to everyone but Mort) to watch him having to go shopping there. (All he had were the clothes he'd worn on the plane; no extra anything.) Not only were we working against a falling U.S. dollar, but Vienna in itself is very, very expensive. Take, for example, trying to buy Levi's, which Mort purchased at home right before we left: two pair for \$80. When we started to shop we very rapidly learned that Levis, with *buttons* on the fly and not zippers, were the equivalent of \$160 U.S., *PER PAIR*. So much fun. But now on to our travels and no more travails!

Alan and Elaine Schulberg (our partners in travel) met us at our Viennese Hotel a few hours after we arrived. The weather was sunny and cool, so we all (well, three of us) unpacked and started out to investigate the local neighborhood. Our hotel, The Hollmann Beletage, was strategically located in the heart of the old Imperial City, which made it convenient to wander and explore on our own. We had tours booked for Friday and Saturday but *really* wanted to investigate Vienna. And since this was just Thursday, off we went. We didn't have a clue



In Vienna, shortly after the adventure began. Of note: cobblestone streets, heavy wooden doors, and a French (!) café.

where to go first, but we did have a hotel map. And we did find out what time our hotel served complimentary wine and *hors d'oeuvres*, so what more did we need?

What a beautiful city. It's charming, old, graceful and full of history - but not everything is talked about. We found our way to Mariahilfer Straße, which is the main shopping avenue in the Old City. What a beautiful street.

We walked for what seemed like miles and then back to our new hotel home. Just in time for cocktails and little bites. Then a change of clothes (for three of us, anyway) and back out for a light dinner. Then we all crashed because we had to be up and ready by 9:30 for our tour of Jewish Vienna.

Wow - what an experience. Our guide, Christian, is half-Jewish (a surprise for us, considering his name) and very informative. We were off, in his van, to see the memorials at Helmut Zilk Platz and Morzinplatz (once the headquarters of the

With the half-Jewish guide Christian (only in Europe), just outside the Judenplatz Holocaust Museum, at one of many large sculptures.



Gestapo) and the Holocaust memorial in Judenplatz as well as the Jewish museums and the Eskeles Palace (once home to the noble Jewish Eskeles family, and now the world's oldest Jewish museum) plus a drive to Leopoldstadt to see a few Jewish modern sites. This was supposed to be for four hours, but we took Chris to lunch so it ended up being much longer.

Jews have a mixed history in Vienna, one ranging from prosperity to persecution. The children of Israel began arriving in Vienna late in the twelfth century. By the early 1400s we comprised about five percent of the city's population. But in 1420 we were expelled by Duke Albrecht V, who destroyed the synagogue and confiscated all Jewish property. In 1451, we were allowed to return and given special protection by the Hapsburg emperors.

In 1624 we were granted our own quarter, which became known as Leopoldstadt, and two synagogues were built there. In 1669, we were again thrown out, but that caused a great economic depression, so the emperor invited wealthier Jews to return. That started a third wave of immigrants and in 1683 Mr. Stamson Wertheimer and Samuel Oppenheimer became Jewish Imperial court agents; their task was to provide financial support for the Austrian army, which at the time was fighting off an invasion by the Turks.

The Judenplatz, in the heart of Vienna, was the main square of the Jewish community for nearly 500 years. The museum we visited there has the remains of the synagogue that

was destroyed more than 500 years earlier. Ten minutes away is the Sigmund Freud house with memorabilia, books, cigar boxes, letters, photographs, etc. From there we walked to the memorials at Helmut Zilk Platz and Morzinplatz and then to the Eskeles Palace.

We stopped at a seemingly randomly chosen house and Christian asked us if we knew who had lived here. Without thinking, I re-

plied, Mozart. He wanted to know how I knew and the only thing I could tell him was that I must have been here in a former life. We all laughed at that.

Under the reign of Maria Theresa, who was a rabid anti-Semite, many laws were passed that worsened both lives and business prospects for Viennese

Jewry. Finally, in 1782, tensions once again eased under her son and successor, Joseph II, who considered her policies toward the Jews "unjust, impious, impossible, harmful and ridiculous." (Maria Theresa was also the only female sovereign of the Holy Roman Empire. Her youngest child – of a total of sixteen – was Christened Marie Antonia, but when married by proxy to the French dauphin she became known to history as Marie Antoinette.)

The Jewish renaissance in Vienna began in 1848 and lasted until the start of World War II, at which point the Jewish population had



At left, the entrance to Vienna's Judenplatz (Jewish Square) Holocaust Museum, in an area that was the center of Jewish life since the Middle Ages. Above, we didn't think all four of us plus our luggage could fit into this small cab, but somehow we did.



grown to 185,000. Today, Vienna has fifteen synagogues, but only one survives from the pre-war period; it re-opened in 1963, after extensive renovations.

There were many Jewish Viennese who became famous in many fields and made lasting contributions. Baroness Fanny von Arnstein hosted the grandest salon of her time, attracting important personalities that included the emperor and Mozart. Vienna also produced Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Theodor Reik and Wilhelm Reich (all physicians and pioneers in psychoanalysis); Zionists Theodore Herzl and Max Nordau; Theologian

Martin Buber; composers and theater luminaries Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schönberg, Oscar Straus, Emmerich Kalman, Max Reinhardt, Fritz Kortner, Lili Darvas and Elisabeth Berner; and writers Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Kafka, Stefan Zweig and Felix Salten.

We saw a lot, and there was a lot to absorb and remember. By mid-afternoon our guide brought us back to the Hotel and we literally fell apart – until dinner. Since we had been walking all day, dinner around the corner of the hotel sounded, and was, perfect. Tomorrow we had to be ready for eight hours of sightseeing the Schoenbrunn Palace, The

Hofburg with the Treasury and the fine arts Museum.

Wow - what a palace and treasures. I had the feeling that some of the displayed "treasures" had been confiscated, from people who didn't give them up willingly. Just a feeling.

The rooms are mostly decorated in a "Roccoco style" and most of the walls and ceilings are decorated with white-lacquered surfaces and gold leaf ornamentation. There are Bohemian crystal chandeliers, white porcelain stoves and lavish living quarters, with rooms like the round Chinese room, the Blue Chinese Salon, and the room of Millions, which is paneled with rosewood and decorated from floor to ceiling

with priceless Indian and Persian miniatures. In 1772, a precocious six-year-old prodigy by the name of Mozart gave a concert in the palace's Hall of Mirrors.

Since we weren't checking into the ship until the early afternoon, Alan, Elaine and myself took off for the Viennese subway.

That was a great experience, especially trying to get Euros in the subway with our credit/debit cards. Hooray for Alan, who finally mastered the buttons. I hadn't had my strudel yet and was determined to get some. So we stopped for coffee. After a visit to the Albertina Museum, we stopped at a grocery store, where Alan bought wine for our cruise. We were now ready to leave for the ship. Great day.

Once aboard the cruise ship, we got to see Vienna again, this time from the water. We saw the Ringstrasse, the parks, the Art Nouveau clock, which each hour offers one of



We'd been walking for several days in Vienna, but the cruise ship had a private cocktail party waiting for us. It was time to sit and relax with a glass of wine and watch Vienna go by while drifting on the Danube.



twelve historical figures, ranging from Marcus Aurelius to Joseph Haydn.

Our next stop would be Melk. We cruised the Wachau Valley, which is 19 miles, and is a stretch of the Danube that

cuts through a rocky gorge in the Bohemian Forest between Krems and Melk. Melk is an interesting town with a very old history that starts with the Romans. It was founded in 1089 when Leopold II gave one of his castles to the Benedictine monks, who converted it into a fortified abbey. This 900-year-old abbey sits very high atop granite cliffs. It was one of the most important learning centers in the Middle Ages; the monks created more than 1,200 manuscripts, which are still there. Today, that library has some 100,000 volumes, among them more than 80,000 works printed before 1800.

Next onto Passau, where the three rivers – the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz – all meet.

Passau is famous for its ornate baroque cathedral and is relatively well preserved, as it was spared from the heavy Allied bombing during World War II. It is also famous for St. Stephan's Cathedral, which used to house the world's largest organ. It is now the second largest after the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles.

Next stop Deggendorf. Also known as Theresienthal, it is in the middle of the Bavar-



Above, Alan and Elaine on the balcony of the 900-year-old cliff-top abbey in Melk. Below, a sign in Regensburg commemorating Oskar Schindler's rescue of 1,200 Jews from that ancient Danube city.



ian Forest, so naturally we had to have a ride on a horse-drawn wagon. After the short ride we were treated to home-baked bread (from an outdoor oven) and a glass of Blutwurz (blood root) schnapps. That certainly seemed to warm us up.

Onto Regensburg tomorrow, where we will see "Jewish Regensburg." It'll be interesting to see who will be on the tour with us.

Surprise - there are about 25 of us on this tour, but not all are Jewish. Jews lived in Regensburg from the 8th century until Feb. 21, 1519 when they were driven out of the city. Excavations were done between 1995-1997 and the layout of the old Jewish quarter revealed itself.

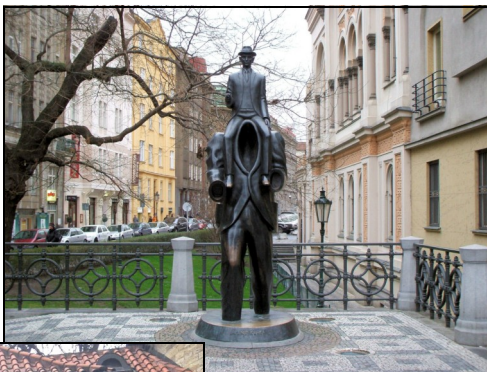
There had been 39 houses, the synagogue, a mikva, meeting house, hospital, bath house, bakery and a butcher shop. Scattered throughout modern Regensburg were brass plaques, set in the sidewalks, with the names of people who had perished in the camps. The plaques included names, addresses and dates of birth, plus the date of the last time the

person was seen alive. That way no one ever forgets. It seems that Germany, unlike Austria, reminds and teaches about the Holocaust so no one will ever forget or deny that it happened.

Next was Nuremburg. Wow - we thought we were prepared for it, but really nothing

can prepare you for reliving the worst memories of history. Nuremberg is the second-largest city in Bavaria (after Munich) with about 500,000 inhabitants. It has a history that goes back to 1050. Our first stop was to the grounds of the Nazi Party Rally which has an exhibition called "Fascination and Terror," which deals with the causes, relationships and the consequences of the Nazi era. On the grounds we were able to go directly in front of the stage where Hitler gave his infamous speeches, and learned that anyone who stands there and does the "Heil Hitler" salute is immediately arrested.

Next: Prague. Our



At top, the modern sculpture in Prague honoring Franz Kafka: a headless male figure in a suit with a smaller figure of Kafka on his shoulders. In the center is the Klausen Synagogue, built in the late 17th century. It was the largest synagogue in the Jewish Quarter, commissioned by one Mordechai Maisel, one of Prague's richest Jews. It is very close by the Jewish cemetery. Today it serves as Prague's Jewish Museum. (Note the Kosher catering truck in the photo's foreground.) At right is a weekly service schedule (in German) at the New/Old Synagogue nearby.

journey via motor coach took about four hours. We had a private tour scheduled for the next morning and were really looking forward to it.

We were supposed to be met at the Hotel by 9 a.m. Since it was

raining, we all waited inside for our guide and car. Lo and behold, the guide arrived a half-hour late and with no car. It was still raining but the Hotel supplied the four of us with umbrellas.

After walking for about 25 minutes toward the Old Town of Prague the rain eased up. We were headed to see the Prague Jewish Museum, The Maisel Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Klaus Synagogue, the Spanish Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery and the Old/New Synagogue.

There is, to say the least, lots of Jewish history in Prague. After four hours of being immersed in the Jewish history and

seeing five Synagogues and the Jewish Cemetery plus the Jewish Museum, I was finding it very difficult to remember which synagogue was built in which century. And at each synagogue we, of course, deposited some

Parashat Toldot	
Schabbatsbeginn, Mincha	- 16:21
Kabbalat Schabbat, Ma'ariv	- 16:35
Schacharit	- 9:00
Mincha	- 16:00
Seuda Schilshit	- 16:30
Schabbatsausgang	- 17:28

tzedakah and visited their gift stores; at one we bought a book on The Prague Golem for our library. And then there was the Kafka

statue. When we asked our guide about the story, all we received was a blank stare and then a very made-up story. I had to wait until we returned home to learn the history of this statue.

This bronze statue was unveiled December 2003 by Jaroslav Rona next to the Spanish Synagogue in the Jewish quarter. This little square, in the middle of Prague's Dusi Street, is what Franz Kafka probably saw each time he looked out his window. The image of a young man riding on another one's shoulders appeared in one of his early short stories, "Description of a Struggle."

Jews began to settle in Prague in the tenth century. Because the sovereign offered them relative safety and prosperity, Jewish Prague flourished. The Talmudic School was founded here in the 11th century and the Hebrew printing shop started in the early 16th century. The Old-New Synagogue was built in the last quarter of the 13th century, the Pinkas Synagogue was built in 1535, the High Synagogue in 1568, the Maisel Synagogue in 1592 and by the end of the 16th century the New Synagogue, which was later on known as the Wechsler Synagogue and in 1613 as the Cikan Synagogue and in 1627 as the Grand Court Synagogue and in 1694 as the Baroque Klausen Synagogue. A little confused? Now you can start to understand how overwhelmed we were.

Though they had internal autonomy and, by pre-Renaissance standards, a fair amount of freedom, Jews were still considered the property of the King. The second half of the sixteenth century is instructive. Jews enjoyed relative peace, because they helped finance

the Hapsburg empire's wars, and there was a long war against the Turks to the east plus the usual difficulties of keeping captive peoples quiet throughout their large central European empire. So they borrowed more and more from the Jewish bankers. Not long before, in 1541, the Jews had been expelled, but that proved to be a very bad business decision, so the Jews, at least the wealthier and more useful ones, were re-admitted.

Today there are about 3,500 Jews in Bohemia and Moravia, of which about 1,000 live in Prague. The Old Jewish Cemetery was started in the first third of the 15th century and is done in layers. There are now about 12,000 headstones, but because of the layers (yes, one buried on top of another), there are probably 50,000 interred there.

In the Pinkas Synagogue there are walls with the written names of the 77,927 Jewish Holocaust victims from Bohemia and Moravia written, by hand, and this is the most moving and heart-wrenching exhibit we had ever seen. Their names, biographic dates and last known residence (mostly the names of concentration camps) were written in alphabetical order.

We found out, by the way, that Czech beer is delicious. More of it is consumed there, we were told, than even water. We didn't even try to find out whether that's true or just a great story they tell

tourists. We did thoroughly enjoy the beer, and the local eateries, and even the strolls back to our hotel after each evening's dinner.

Tomorrow we say our goodbyes and leave Prague for home. Remembering Mort's luggage experience on the flight over, we all crossed our fingers about the return flight home. ♦



Look closely at this old clock. The numbers are all in Hebrew. This is on the Old/New Synagogue in Prague's Jewish Quarter, built in 1270 and the oldest active synagogue in Europe. The clock still works, too.

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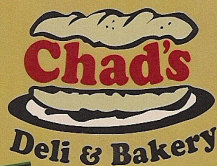


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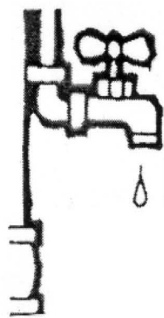
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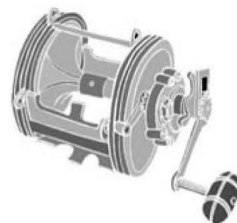
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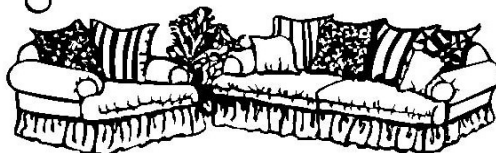


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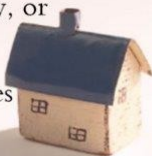
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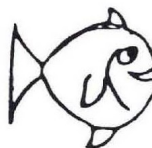
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