

Chai~Lights



September 2010

22 Elul 5770 - 22 Tishrei 5771

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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President's Message Alan Beth



Welcome back! September is here and that means the High Holidays. As I write this many things are going on: Gloria is working hard to organize the High Holidays and Joyce is working hard preparing our upcoming Onegs and Sisterhood events. What strikes me as wonderful is that both are currently over a thousand miles away, preparing the season for us here at KJCC. Many of us who leave the Keys in the summer feel the same way; however far we travel we always keep KJCC with us.

We have had a busy and active summer. For the first time we will have a rabbi, Rabbi Danny Young, lead High Holiday services along with Cantor Mark Halpern (see page 27). There have been larger-than-usual turnouts for Friday night services all summer. Erica has been giving health and exercise classes (but we men are not allowed!).

We extend our special thanks to Rabbi Richard Agler, who led two interactive Shabbat morning services in July. A visitor to the KJCC, Helen Chuckrow—a cantorial tutor—honored us by working with the Rabbi: both read and chanted directly from our Holocaust Torah. Thanks to Bernie, Stuart and Mark Wasser for their work at our annual July 4th Shabbabacue, including cooking outside in the pouring rain. Last year our grill finally rusted out and we had to toss it. Then along came superheroes

named Steve, Jane and Harry Friedman, who presented the KJCC with a gorgeous (and better) replacement grill.

Many people also came that day to help our founding matriarch Pauline Roller celebrate the 30th anniversary of her 65th birthday! What a great day. There were so many people there, I was sure they all thought it was Kol Nidre. (A little seasonal Jewish humor!)

Sisterhood has kept the place alive and thriving; special thanks to Erica, Gene, Georgia, Kathy, Sofy, Carol and Zoe. I have to confess that last week I overate at the Oneg hosted by Joe and Kathy Shabathai (the best challah I have ever had).

By now, you should all have received your membership renewal packages. (Please re-join). Preparing, packaging and mailing is the type of work that quietly goes on behind the scenes, like the monthly Yahrzeit reminder letters. Thanks to Linda and Joel, and our Corresponding Secretary Roberta McNew, for this vital work.

We can all look forward to a unique High Holiday experience, beginning KJCC's next 30 years with both Rabbi Young and Cantor Halpern. My family and I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year.

B'shalom,
Alan

September 2010

22 Elul - 22 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</p>			1	2	3 Alan Beth	4 S'lichot At KJCC— 5:30 pizza and movie; 8:30 service
5	6 Labor Day	7	8 Erev Rosh Hashanah <hr/> Dinner at KJCC 6:00	9 Rosh Hashanah 1st Day Tashlich 4:00	10 Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Steve Steinbock & Gloria Avner	11 Shabbat Tshuvah service 9:30 a.m., Havdalah 7:45 p.m.
12 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	18 Yom Kippur Yizkor Service
19 KJCC Sukkah construction 9:00 a.m. (a mitzvah)	20	21	22 Erev Sukkot	23 Sukkot	24 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur 6:30 Service	25
26	27	28	29	30 Shemini Atzeret	October 1st: Shemini Atzeret Observed at KJCC Yizkor service	

Nosh

Brian Smith, Moving Up

Brian Smith has recently been promoted by his employer, the New England Patriots. (For the non-sports-minded among us, that's a pro football team.) After serving the last three seasons as a pro scout, Brian now becomes assistant director of college scouting.

Brian originally joined the Patriots in 2000 and assisted the coaching staff for his first four seasons. He was then the team's director of operations from 2004-2005, before serving as a special assignment scout in 2006 and a pro scout from 2007-2009. He is also, of course, one of KJCC's own, a former Bar Mitzvah and the son of Steve and Barbara Smith.

From Bill and Freda, Moving On...

Bill and Freda Ferns, whose lentil soup and hummus and great generosity have long nurtured and delighted all of KJCC, are moving north in Florida to Ormond Beach. (Freda's new e-mail: l8freda@gmail.com) What follows are excerpts of a note they sent to Alan:

We would like to thank everyone for their support, especially in patronizing the several restaurants that we had operated. It is comforting to know that the community is there for you.

...you will always be in our hearts. We feel very fortunate to have known you all. We are very grateful for the friendship...from the very first day we landed in the Keys 22 years ago, you guys took us under your wings, and we had a wonderful journey together.

*Hugs and kisses, until next time,
Bill & Freda Ferns*

To our Dear Friend Yardena

We know that although the distance between us is great, please understand you are foremost in our thoughts and close in our hearts. We wish you a complete and speedy recovery, and we miss you.

Love from all of us at the KJCC.

TREE OF LIFE

To Honor

Pauline Roller

On her 95th Birthday

July 4, 2010

By Linda & Joel Pollack

Ivan and Jean Bader

April 1, 1986—2011

25th Wedding Anniversary

Joan's Been Shopping

As most of you know, Jim and Joan Boruszak spent much of August in Israel. As a result of that trip, the KJCC Gift Shop is about to get a major new look and a major new infusion of merchandise. Look for Joan's own descriptions in the next issue of Chai-Lights, along with a new Gift Shop ad. For now, as a preview (rated G, for all audiences), in Joan's own words: "We want to call it SHOP ISRAEL. It will have beautiful new mezuzahs, purses, hand-made note paper, kepahs, matzah covers and Shabbat challah covers, and tallit (so far). We will also have a bargain table."

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of

Isaac Cohen

3/6/1956 - 8/6/2008

Beloved Brother and Friend

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

The Mann Family

on the death of

Sidney Mann

*Long-time KJCC member and resident of Ocean Reef
and Shaker Heights, OH*

September Birthdays

1st.....	Freda Ferns
1st.....	Wendy Shatz
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
8th.....	Jeffrey Kominsky
8th.....	Kurt Kluger
8th.....	Mitchell Kominsky
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
10th.....	Thomas Dillon
13th.....	Andy Tobin
13th.....	Lisha Lane
14th.....	Lili Werthamer
15th.....	Lorraine Rose
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Vippi Pollack
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
26th.....	Cory Wasser
26th.....	Joan Kay
26th.....	Melvin Prober
28th.....	Jonathan Line
29th.....	Bernard Solas

BOOK PLATE

Presented to the KJCC
By Arthur Plutzer

In Honor of Pauline Roller

On the Occasion of her 95th Birthday

Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazek

September Anniversaries

	Years
4th	Jim & Lynn Nobil.....24
8th	Ronald & Deborah Kaplan.....14
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov.....26
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith.....32
10th	Bill & Freda Ferns.....21
30th	Tom & Marsha Garrettson.....20

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of Pauline Roller

As she celebrates her

95th Birthday

July 4th 2010

By Muriel & George Swartz

Sign Up for Aliyahs

Because this will be such a special High Holidays at KJCC, the first where we'll have both a rabbi and a cantor, Alan has said he wants as many members as possible to be able to participate, to have the honor of an aliyah, or to open the Ark, or hold the Torah, or walk with the Torah, or dress the Torah, or in other ways be part of the service. If you'd like to participate, and haven't already signed up, please contact Alan as soon as possible, at his KJCC e-mail, president@keysjewishcenter.com, or call KJCC at 852-5235. He'll tell you what honors are still available and offer you your choice.

The opportunities are all first-come, first-served. So if you're interested, please act now, because the list is quickly being filled.

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to

Joan Stark and Joel Bernard

on the death of

Joan's father, Sidney Stark

KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!



WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

HOUSE GIFTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH GIFTS AND CARDS

WEDDING GIFTS AND CARDS

Yes, we have Yahrzeit candles - Traditional or electric!

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHS, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



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 KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

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 Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities to fit your needs and can be mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 451-0665.

Meditation Garden - Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 394-0143.

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim - Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575 to make your donation.

Advertisement In Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack 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, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

In Memoriam September 2010

In Memory Of

Art Begam

By Delores Begam



In Memory Of

Molly Feldblum

By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Sarah Sandberg

By Murray & Claire Cooper



In Memory Of

Hannah Improta

By Alvan & Carol Field



In Memory Of

H. Melvin Berkon

By Jamie & Laura Goodman



In Memory Of

H. Robert Walters

By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Abraham Kaplan

By Frank & Sandy Kaplan



In Memory Of

Sam Roazen

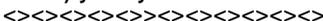
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Lillian Goldstein

By Jim & Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Phyllis Silvera

By Bill & Freda Ferns



In Memory Of

Morris Kornbloom

By Erica Garrett



In Memory Of

Nettie Gorson

By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Solomon Caspi

By Mollie Gross



In Memory Of

Minnie Kaplan

By Frank & Sandy Kaplan



In Memory Of

Goldie Berman

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Ronald Repka

By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Albert Improta

By Alvan & Carol Field



In Memory Of

Louis Gitin

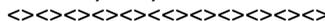
By David Gitin



In Memory Of

Paul Gould

By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Isadore Hurowitz

By Melvin Jacobson



In Memory Of

Jerry Spero

By KJCC





Sisterhood Joyce Peckman

Summer began with a bang-up 4th of July Shabbabaque. We celebrated the 234th birthday of our country, along with the 95th birthday of our own Pauline Roller. (Who not only was one of KJCC's founders, she almost single-handedly managed the kitchen for years.) Men's Club got the Hebrew National hot dogs and manned the grill (Mark Wasser and Bernie braving the occasional rain), Sisterhood provided the veggie burgers and birthday cake, and a capacity crowd celebrated the double occasion. It was also the first use of our beautiful new red propane grill, donated by Steve and Jane Friedman.

The Sabbath bride was welcomed in style every Friday night, with thanks to Gene Silverman, who was supervising hostess the entire month of July, and to Erica, Bea and Nancy, who shared the responsibilities during August. Thanks also to Georgia, Kathy, Erica and Marc, who were there almost every week helping, and thanks to everyone who assisted with clean up.

When we had the opportunity to hold Saturday morning services with Rabbi Agler, Zoe and her crew provided two wonderful brunches for those who attended. Marc Bloom sponsored a pizza party before the July 30th service, in honor of his and Molly's and Rachel's birthdays. Joe and Kathy Shabbathai sponsored the Oneg Shabbat on August 6th, and provided a double-sized, Kathy-made challah that was (I hear) probably the most delicious one the lucky people who were there had ever tasted.

On a recent Sunday morning, Erica, Carol, Georgia and Kathy got together in a marathon session of organizing the kitchen – a

long overdue and much-needed task. Everyone who helps in the kitchen, at least for a while, will owe them a debt of gratitude when we can actually find what we're looking for!

We will be working hard to make the High Holiday celebrations a good start to a sweet year. In the spirit of *mishpacha*, Sisterhood will organize a real family Rosh Hashanah meal before Wednesday evening (Erev Rosh Hashanah) services. We have enthusiastic and experienced cooks who will prepare a traditional *fleishich* meal of soup, brisket, chicken, farfel, and *tzimmis*, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more. Erica Garrett is coordinating with Zoe's help, and RSVP is a must. Since this takes a lot of planning, we request that everyone let Erica or Zoe know by Sept 2nd whether or not they will attend. Erica's office phone is 305-853-1003 and e-mail is hippiejap@hotmail.com. There is no set charge, but to offset the many costs involved we request a voluntary donation of \$18 for each person over 12. Please try to get your checks to Nancy Kluger by Sept 6th; you can give them to Nancy, drop them off at KJCC or mail them to KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Lauren Sax is organizing the other High Holiday onegs and the post-Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Please give her a call to let her know how you can help. Whether it's bringing a dish or dessert, or helping set up, or making phone calls, she'd love to hear from you. Reach her at sljjsax@aol.com or on her cell at 305-753-7623.

So, *Shana Tova*, and my best wishes for a safe, healthy, and prosperous year to all of you and your loved ones. I'll see you after Sukkot.

The first Sisterhood meeting of the New Year will be Sunday, October 3rd. I'm giving you plenty of notice, and I hope to see everyone there! ◇

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>Book Plates</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Holocaust Education Fund</i>
Plutzer, Arthur	Pauline Roller's 95th birthday	Alter, Barry
Swartz, George & Muriel	Pauline Roller's 95th birthday	Roy, Medina
		Smith, Steve & Barbara
		VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
<i>Book Plates</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>KJCC 30th Anniversary</i>
Schwaid, Harvey & Susan	Dr. Howard Glazer	Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
		Gross, David & Patti
<i>Chai-Lights</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	Hartz, Steve
Kwalick, Teresa		Jacobson, Melvin
Pollack, Joel & Linda		Kaplan, Ronald
Smith, Steve & Barbara		Krissel, Michael
		Line, Jonathan & Arlene
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	Solas, Bernard & Elaine
Alter, Barry	Rabbi Young	VanArtsdale, David & Pat
Anonymous	Pray for us, please	Wohl, Milton & Joan
Begam, Delores		
Chuckrow, Helen		
Gross, David & Patti	Rabbi Young	
Hayden, Beth	Rabbi Young	<i>Meditation Garden</i>
Kahn, Lawrence & Bette	Boruszak granddaughter	Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake
	Hayley's wedding	
	Rabbi Young	<i>In Honor of</i>
Kluger, Kurt & Nancy		KJCC 30th Anniversary
Line, Jonathan & Arlene		KJCC
Miller, Steven & Tonia Sledd		Louis & Shirley Boxer
Pearlman, David & Audrey Family Fund		Stan & Jenny Margulies
Rakov, Neal & Cathy	Rabbi Young	Will & Madelyn
Rubin, Myron & Myrna	Best regards to all	Pollack Family
Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce	Aunt Pauline's 95th birthday	Rakov Family
Silverman, Mort & Gene	Rabbi Young	Sax Family
Solas, Bernard & Elaine		Schwaid Family
Terner, Salomon & Mary		Their 55th Anniversary
Tobin, Andrew		Pauline Roller's
Wiener, Steve & Joyce	Pauline Roller's 95th birthday	95th birthday
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna		
		<i>Meditation Garden</i>
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Biskar, Rosie
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Sidney Stark	Cimkowski, Carol & Marianne
Sachs, Joseph & Susan	Irving Bernard; William Folks	Stephen Cimkowski
		& M. Susan Cimkowski
		William & Sylvia Kay
		Irv & Cele Rosen

Kwalick, Teresa
 Peckman, Joyce
 Roy, Medina
 Roy, Medina
 Roy, Medina
 Sheinker, Miltra
 Stein, Ira & Shirley
 Steinbock, Steve, Rose & Karen
 VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
 Vinicur, Dale's sons: Matt, Jason & Gabe
 Vinicur, Sam

Bill Kwalick
 Leslie M Peckman
 Laurie Beth
 Leon Kirschenbaum
 Dale Vinicur
 Warren J. Sheinker
 Freda Shipman
 Ben Steinbock
 Dick Jacob
 Dale Vinicur
 Nathan Miskin

Scholarship Fund
 Kwalick, Teresa

Scholarship Fund
 Steinbock, Steve & Carol

Alter, Barry
 Boruszak, Jim & Joan
 Gould, Maryon
 Peckman, Joyce
 Pollack, Joel & Linda
 Roy, Medina

Mishaberach for Yardena Kamely

In Memory of
 Bill Kwalick

In Honor of
 Pauline Roller's
 95th birthday

S'lichot

Saturday, September 4, 2010
 5:30 Pizza and Movie in Social Hall
 8:30 S'lichot Service

SLICHOT SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE. SERVICES WILL BE LED BY JOEL POLLACK AND DAVE MONT.

Movie: A SERIOUS MAN

Academy Award winning directors Joel and Ethan Coen return to their comedy roots with this original and darkly humorous story. Physics professor Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlborg) can't believe his life. His wife is leaving him for his best friend, his unemployed brother won't move off the couch, someone is threatening his career, his kids are a mystery and his neighbor is tormenting him by sunbathing nude. Struggling to make sense of it all, Larry consults 3 different rabbis and their answers lead him on a twisted journey of faith, family, delinquent behavior and mortality.

Nominated for Best Picture and Best Writing 2010 Academy Awards

The evening is sponsored by Sisterhood and there is no charge. Come and enjoy!

POP CORN

Tree of Life
 Pollack, Joel & Linda—in honor of Pauline Roller's 95th birthday

Bader, Ivan & Jean—To honor their 25th Wedding Anniversary

Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund
 Boruszak, Jim & Joan
 Goldberg, Joseph & Susan
 Smith, Steve & Barbara

Note: due to space limitations, the Yizkor Book and Yahrzeit Listings do not appear this month as scheduled. They will run next month. KJCC is very grateful to have so many contributors, who all get an extra half a mitzvah for having to wait a month to see their names.

Contact
 lindap4000@earthlink.net
 for information

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A Natural Solution

Two scientists from Tel Aviv University have developed a “bioremediation” technique that may hold the key to the final cleanup of the BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The two biologists identified a naturally occurring variety of sea-borne bacteria, grown in their lab, which digests oil. Following decades of research, the scientists have developed a solution to clean the small percentage of residual oil left behind, under rocks and forming a thin film on the water, after the majority of the spill has been sucked up and contained. “Even when cleanup crews reduce the amount of oil at sea, there will probably be enough left behind to kill birds and wildlife,” said Professor Eliora Ron, adding that at this point in the process, the only solution is bioremediation – using nature itself to do the final cleanup. (www.israel21c.org, 8-5-10)

If I Were a Rich Man...

Israel ended 2009 with 8,419 millionaires, nearly 43 percent higher than 2008, according to Merrill Lynch Israel. Worldwide, the number of millionaires reportedly increased in 2009 by slightly more than 17 percent. Israel had the third highest rate of increase behind Hong Kong, at 104 percent, and India at 51 percent. The number of multimillionaires in Israel also rose in 2009 by 14 percent. (www.jta.org, 6-28-10)

JNF’s Emergency Campaign

At the end of June, 300,000 trees were destroyed as fires raged across Israel. Over 750 acres burned. Arson is suspected and, because of Israel’s severe heat wave, conditions worsened. A Jewish National Fund (JNF) spokesperson said that “it marked the single largest day of fires in Israel since the 2006 war with Hizbollah, and that it would take 50 years to restore the forests.” JNF has

launched an emergency relief campaign and hopes to raise a million dollars to help reverse the damage done by this recent forest fire. JNF, Israel’s national foresters, has planted more than 240 million trees since 1901 to “protect the land, green the landscape and preserve vital ecosystems.” To join in this effort, contact Nancy Kluger, 852-4353, to participate in KJCC’s Trees for Israel program. (www.jnf.org, 7-1-10)

In Memoriam

Reginald Levy, the pilot praised for keeping his cool during a 1972 hijacking by Palestinian militants, died August 1st. He was 88. Levy flew for Sabena Airlines when he took off from Brussels bound for Tel Aviv on May 8, 1972 – his 50th birthday – with 90 passengers aboard. Midflight, the plane was hijacked by four armed members of the group Black September, who ordered Levy to land at Israel’s Lod (now Ben Gurion) Airport and threatened to blow up the plane if Israel did not release more than 300 Palestinian prisoners. Even though Levy’s wife was among the passengers – it was their anniversary and they planned to celebrate with dinner in Tel Aviv – he managed to keep the hijackers calm. Levy was able to give the Israeli authorities detailed descriptions of the attackers, including their weapons and positions. Israeli commandos disguised as airplane mechanics stormed the plane, killing two of the hijackers and capturing the others. (Who were among those commandos? One was Ehud Barak, now Israel’s defense minister, another was Benjamin Netanyahu, the current prime minister.) Although several passengers were injured, none were killed. (www.washingtonpost.com, 8-6-10)

A Message From the King

According to researchers at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a tiny clay fragment, estimated to be 3,300 years-old, was recently discovered outside Jerusalem's Old City walls. It is believed to be the oldest example of writing ever found in the city. The fragment is most likely part of a message from the court of Abdi-Hefa, mentioned in Egyptian letters as the King of Jerusalem, to his counterpart in Egypt and could prove the Jerusalem mentioned in ancient writings actually existed in the same location as the Jerusalem of today. The fragment, less than one square inch in size, was discovered during sifting of fill from beneath a 10th century B.C.E. tower, the period of King Solomon. It is inscribed in cuneiform, or wedge-shaped symbols, in ancient Akkadian. Philology professor Wayne Horowitz and his colleagues deciphered the text. Tablets with diplomatic messages were routinely exchanged between kings in the ancient Near East. (www.haaretz.com, 7-12-10)

The Latest ADL Audit

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States remained at a "sustained and troubling" level in 2009, according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which annually compiles statistics of anti-Semitic assaults, vandalism and harassment. The 2009 audit, released at the end of July, counted a total of 1,211 incidents against Jewish individuals, property and community institutions across the United States. "The fact that Jews continue to be singled out for acts of hate on an average of three times per day in this country is a disturbing reality that we have to confront," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. (www.adl.org, 7-30-10)

In the Name of Stephen Tyrone Johns

A program to provide fifty outstanding high school students from the Washington, DC area with an intensive seven-week educational internship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has been established in memory of Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns. Officer Johns died in June 2009 while protecting museum visitors and staff from an armed

attack by an avowed racist and anti-Semite. The program, The Stephen Tyrone Johns Summer Youth Leadership Program, is "designed to help young people develop skills to become leaders in their communities who will stand against hate. Those chosen to participate study the lessons of the Holocaust, lead tours and discussions, and work closely with their peers from around the country, creating a network of young people who will reach out to others and promote human dignity." R.I.P., Officer Johns. (www.ushmm.org, 7-16-10)

Citizenship Granted

Israel will grant citizenship to the Indian woman who saved the life of Moshe Holtzberg, the two-year-old boy whose parents were murdered in the terrorist attack on the Chabad House in Mumbai, India, in November 2008. Six people – four Israelis, an American Jew and a Mexican Jewish woman – were killed in the attack on the Chabad center. Sandra Samuel, the boy's Indian nanny, managed to escape with the child. Following the attack, Samuel came to Israel with the boy and continued caring for him at his grandparents' home in Afula. Interior Minister Eli Yishai called the decision to grant citizenship to Samuel a humanitarian step that "must be taken for somebody who saves a Jewish life." (www.haaretz.com, 7-11-10)

A Pledge From the U.S.

Pending Congressional authorization, the United States will donate \$15 million to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. The announcement was made by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Schindler Factory Museum in Krakow, Poland on July 3rd. The contribution will go to "preserve the site of the concentration camp and demonstrate America's commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance and research." The U.S. is encouraging other nations to contribute to the fund to preserve the site for future generations. Some 1.1 million people perished at Auschwitz, about 30 miles west of Krakow in south-central Poland. More than 1.3 million people visited the site in 2009. (www.cnn.com, 7-5-10)

Happy People

In a Gallup World Poll four-year survey of 155 countries that measures well-being, Israel tied for 8th place with Australia, Switzerland, and Canada as the “happiest” country. Denmark, Finland and Norway led the list and the United States tied with Austria for 14th place. “The Scandinavian countries do really well,” said Jim Harter, a chief scientist at Gallup. “One theory is that they have their basic needs taken care of to a higher degree than other countries.” The highest-ranking Arab country, the United Arab Emirates, came in 20th. Israel’s neighbors ranked as follows: Egypt and Syria tied at 115th; Jordan was 52nd; and Lebanon 73rd. The survey was taken between 2005 and 2009. (www.forbes.com, 7-14-10)

PunkTorah

PunkTorah, a non-profit organization, has recently launched 3xdaily.org, a website which aims to explain the traditional three daily prayers – *Shacharit*, *Mincha*, and *Ma’ariv*. Also included are blessings after meals, the psalms, and the *Shema*, among others. The site was created in order to “give unaffiliated and progressive Jews a chance to learn more about and participate in the Jewish daily prayers.” The website claims that “most of the time, when we approach Jews who may not be involved in an ‘orthodox’ movement, they have no idea that we are called to pray three times a day. We are invited to keep this connection with G-d open and flowing throughout the day.” (*The Forward*, 5-19-10)

Saving the Olive Trees

Ancient olive trees in the Hebron area of Israel – some of them up to 2,000 years old – have been saved by a group of volunteers from both the Jewish and Arab communities of the city. The trees were endangered by a parasitic plant that was quickly multiplying, threatening to devastate the area. The volunteers went from tree to tree and pruned off the invaders. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-12-10)

Did You Know...

-The unofficial song of America’s once-favorite pastime, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” was the product of a Jewish-Episcopalian collaboration: Jewish songwriter Albert Von Tilzer (born Gumbinski) wrote the melody and Jack Norworth wrote the words. The song is believed to trail only “Happy Birthday” and “The Star-Spangled Banner” as America’s most performed songs. Von Tilzer died in 1956. (www.jta.org, 7-6-10)

-Cpl. Elinor Joseph is the first Arab female combat soldier in IDF history. She is a Christian Arab born and raised in an integrated neighborhood of Jews and Arabs in Haifa. She believes that being a combat soldier means that she is granting all Israeli citizens, including Israeli Arabs like her parents, a better, quieter life. “There was a Katyusha [rocket] that fell near my house and also hurt Arabs. If someone would tell me that serving in the IDF means killing Arabs, I remind them that Arabs also kill Arabs.” (www.dover.idf.il, 7-26-10)

-Some 1.6 million tourists visited Israel in the first half of 2010, setting a record. It represents a 39 percent increase over the same period in 2009 and 10 percent above 2008, Israel’s previous record year, according to a news release from the country’s Tourism Ministry. (www.jta.org, 7-12-10)

-Jerusalem was voted the number one Best City in Africa and the Middle East and Tel Aviv No. 3 by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* magazine. Jerusalem reached the top spot for the first time since 2000. Tel Aviv made it to the top three for the first time. The results are published annually in the magazine’s August issue. (www.jta.org, 7-11-10)

-After \$100 million and three years of renovation, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem has reopened, firmly reestablishing itself as Israel’s national museum and the most important repository of Jewish culture in the world. The museum’s holdings include some 500,000 objects, most significantly the Dead Sea Scrolls held in the Shrine of the Book. (www.jewishjournal.com, 7-26-10) ◇

Photo Gallery

On May 22nd, Teresa and Medina co-sponsored a Havdalah, the last of the season, at their neighborhood park on the Bay. It was, if you'll remember, a breezy, chilly spring, which made candle-lighting a challenge, but the setting was beautiful and Gloria's service, as usual, was warm and moving and brief.



May 23rd saw the awarding of certificates to the Sunday School students for completion of their school year. Prez Alan, Education Director Susan, Morah Yardena and Morah Gloria led the ceremony. (Photos continue next page).





As usual, parents played a large part in the festivities. All the photos are courtesy of Moira-the-shofar-blower's dad, Richard Knowles.



The two top photos are courtesy of Stuart Sax. On Sunday, May 30th, as he does every Memorial Day, Stu joined the Jewish War Veterans as they placed flags in Miami's Mt. Nebo Cemetery at the graves of veterans. At left in the lower photo is Josh Siegel, an active-duty Marine on leave who, as Stu said, "was helping to honor those who served before him." Those present represented six decades of Jewish veterans from six different wars.

The photos below are from one of many parties celebrating Pauline's 95th birthday, this one on June 26th. Think herding cats is hard? Try getting thirty Jews to leave their food and pose for a picture. But a wonderful time was had by all, and everyone loves Pauline.





At top is a table shot from the June 26th party for Pauline. Joyce and Candy, left below, had taken Pauline to lunch earlier because both would be leaving town for the summer before the round of parties.

The Pauline-fest continued at the July 2nd Shabbabacue at KJCC, which was also the debut of our beautiful new propane grill, a generous gift to KJCC from the Friedman family: Steve, Jane and Harry.



The Shabbabacue this year was sponsored by Men's Club. As you see, Mark Wasser did most of the cooking. It also rained. But Bernie just happened to have brought his current med-student intern along, so she was dispatched to keep Mark and the food somewhat dry.



Yet more photos from the July 2nd Shabbabacue at KJCC. Below center, Pauline poses with family, many of whom had traveled very far just to honor her. At left below, Pauline holds Thomas Davis Smith, son of Brian and grandson of Steve and Barbara.



On July 17, KJCC was honored by the first of two Saturday services led by visiting Rabbi Richard Agler of Boca Raton. It isn't often we get to actually open and read from our Holocaust Torah.

At right, with Rabbi Agler, visitors Eric Tappert and his mom Helen Chuckrow. Helen, a cantorial tutor, chanted directly from our Torah and also performed the day's haftarah. It was her way to thank us for warmly welcoming Eric for High Holy Days last year.



After the service, at the Oneg, left, Rabbi Agler and Alan (!) sing while Zoe sees to the supply of wine.



Photos from the July 24th Saturday service led by Rabbi Agler. At top, with three ex-prezesses and our Holocaust Torah. At left, tearing the challah at the Oneg. It was a challah for the ages, hand-made from scratch by Kathy Shabathai, shown here with husband Joe.



Most challah recipes call for two. Rather than halve all the ingredients, Kathy just made one big one. The glorious result is at right.



The print below, of and from Jerusalem, was donated to KJCC by Stuart and Geri Smith. Look for it in the lobby.

Rabbi Agler had two able helpers for the Oneg prayers after the July 24th service. At left is Moira Knowles, and at right is Minnie Ruzycski, granddaughter of Joe and Kathy Shabathai. In the center bottom photo, Bea and Alan proudly display at the August 6th Oneg the new challah cover Bea brought KJCC from Israel after her granddaughter Shyella's wedding there.

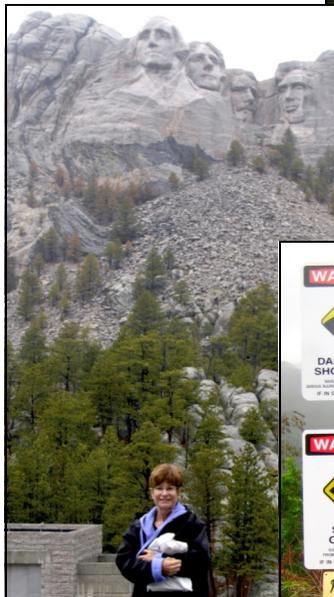
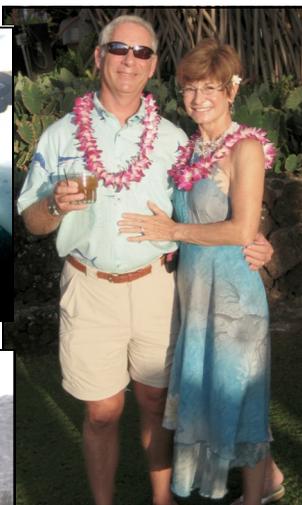


We asked for summer photos, and so summer photos it was...



At top is Erica in Toronto, Joe and Kathy (and friend Kate Garcia) and Dave and Georgia at sea in the Atlantic, Joyce on the Mediterranean at Haifa and, below, at the Red Sea, and with Keith and Rebecca in the Galilee. At right we have Alan mountain biking in Michigan's U.P. Candy is boating on Lake Superior with Mason and Bailey, and standing before the fireplace she and sister Rene built at their rustic U.P. cabin.





At top, Gloria and David in Maine, and the pond nearby. At top left, Patti Gross photographs a ray while diving in Hawaii, where she also poses with husband David. In the two center left pictures, Patti is in South Dakota's Black Hills, at Mt. Rushmore (nope, that's not a touristy fake photo gimmick, it's the real thing) and hiking in Hawaii. Plus two milestone birthdays: Maryon opens cards in Massachusetts at her 85th, and Mary Lee with her children for her 75th.



High Holidays 2010

We bring you a story, some thought food about the season's words, some words about the season's food, a touch of Sukkot, and a new rabbi.

Once again this year, Gloria Avner, the KJCC Religious Committee chair, has chosen a story for us to help illuminate the profound ideas that underlie the Days of Awe.

We are a people who love stories: telling them, listening to them, and reading them. We laugh, we cry, and in the process of enjoyment, we learn. Stories are our teaching tools, left to us in the Talmud as a legacy from our ancestors, a gift that helps define us. Last year at High Holiday time, I shared a story with you about "tzedakah," generosity to those in need, and another about "tefilah," the power of prayer.

This year we offer a story illuminating the third pillar, "t'shuvah," repentance, a word we shout out with the other two, in unison, as we sit together asking forgiveness. As we call out these words, we strengthen our community, reminding each other and ourselves that there are three ways to mitigate one's wrongful deeds, and that it is never too late to do the right thing. We thank Eric Kimmel for his retelling of a tale that came to us originally in the Talmud's "Tractate Taanit."

All three stories can be found in Eric's book, "Days of Awe," which I will leave in our KJCC library.

-Gloria

Rabbi Eleazar and the Beggar: A Story about Repentance

(No human being is perfect. We all make mistakes, and when we do it is important to set right the wrongs we have done; asking forgiveness from those we have injured is part of the process. Forgiving is difficult

some-times, especially in the case of people we dislike or those who have hurt our feelings. Refusing to forgive can be a way of getting even. The rabbis realized this. Looking at a world filled with endless hatred and violence, they understood how important it is to be able to bend, to

	High	Holiday	Sc
Saturday	Sept. 4	5:30 p.m.	
Wednesday	Sept. 8	6:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	Sept. 8	8:00 p.m.	
Thursday	Sept. 9	9:30 a.m.	
Thursday	Sept. 9	4:00 p.m.	
Friday	Sept. 10	9:30 a.m.	
Friday	Sept. 10	8:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 11	10:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 11	7:45 p.m.	
Friday	Sept. 17	7:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	9:30 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	11:00 a.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18	5:45 p.m.	
Saturday	Sept. 18		
Saturday	Sept. 18		
Sunday	Sept. 19	9:00 a.m.	

be able to forgive when we actually may not feel very forgiving. That is why they taught, "Always be gentle as the reed, never unyielding as the cedar." Forgiveness is not only for the sake of those who ask it of us. It is also for our own sake.)

In the beginning of the month of Tishri, Rabbi Eleazar journeyed from the Academy at Yavneh to his home in Migdal Gedor to spend the holidays with his family. Along the way he passed through the village of Tekoa. The people of Tekoa were honored to have such a

famous scholar in their midst. They conducted Rabbi Eleazar to the synagogue and begged him for a "d'var Torah." He obliged with a sermon. He spoke of the potter at his wheel, the weaver at her loom, the blacksmith at his anvil. He told the inhabitants of Tekoa: "Just as

these artisans shape the raw material according to their needs and inclinations, so too does the One Who Made Us All mold each of us to His purpose."

Now, among those who came to hear the sermon was a deformed beggar who lived in a ruined tower outside the village. Ashamed to enter the synagogue because of his appearance, he stood listening outside the door. Rabbi Eleazar's words touched his heart. The beggar hurried home and waited beside the road. When the rabbi rode by on his donkey, he approached and asked a blessing. Startled by the man's appearance, Rabbi Eleazar gasped without thinking, "Heaven shield me from such ugliness!"

Rabbi Eleazar blushed with shame. Not only had he humiliated an unfortunate, he had violated his own teaching to cherish all creation. He turned to the beggar with lowered eyes. "I have wronged you. I spoke without thinking. I am deeply sorry. Forgive me."

But the beggar's humiliation rankled. "I will forgive you when the One Who Made Me forgives you."

Rabbi Eleazar got down from his donkey. He took off his sandals, tore his robe, threw himself down on the ground, and heaped handfuls of dust on his head. "Forgive me. I cannot go from this place until you do."

"Come or go as you like. It is all the same to me," the beggar replied. "But as for forgiveness, as I said, I will forgive you when the One Who Made Me forgives you."

So Rabbi Eleazar remained lying in the dust at the feet of the beggar, who ignored him.

In Migdal Gedor, the hour of evening prayer was rapidly approaching with still no sign of Rabbi Eleazar. Fearing the worst, his four sons and his daughter set out to look for him. They found their father lying in the dust a mile from Tekoa, clothes torn, head covered with dust, sprawled at the feet of a hideous beggar.

"Father!" they cried, rushing toward him.

"Whom are you addressing thus?" The beggar asked them.

"Are you blind? Do you not recognize our father, our teacher, the great Rabbi Eleazar?"

Schedule 2010

Movie/Pizza S'lichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Rosh Hashanah (Day One)

Tashlich at Ocean Pointe

Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Erev Shabbat (short service)

Shabbat Tshuvah

Havdalah at Ocean Pointe

Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre

Yom Kippur

Children's service

Yizkor

Minhah Torah/Story of Jonah

Nei'ilah/Ma'ariv, Havdalah

Break-the-Fast Dinner

Sukkah construction (a mitzvah)

The beggar replied, "Are you his children? Do you follow his example? Do you mock the poor when they ask your blessing?"

"Do not speak lies. Our father would do no such thing," said Rabbi Eleazar's oldest son.

Rabbi Eleazar raised his head from the dust. "The man does not lie. It is true, every

"I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

word. I am guilty. I beg his forgiveness."

Rabbi Eleazar's second son turned to the beggar. "Why will you not forgive him?" The beggar replied, "He has not offended me. He has offended the One Who Made Me. When

He forgives him, I will."

Rabbi Eleazar's third son spoke next. "What more do you require? Our father admits his error. He humbles himself before you. You must forgive him."

The beggar turned his back. "I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

Rabbi Eleazar's fourth son scowled at the beggar. "Scoundrel! Be warned. If you think your life is miserable now, it will seem like paradise compared to what will come if you do not forgive our father this instant."

The beggar stubbornly repeated what he had already said before: "I will forgive him when the One Who Made Me forgives him."

Then Rabbi Eleazar's daughter came forward. She spoke to the beggar gently. "My friend, the One Who Made You has already forgiven our father. He is always ready to forgive. His mercy, like the rain from Heaven, falls on all who seek it. Our father requires nothing from you. Instead, he afflicts himself for your sake. He understands the bitterness of withholding forgiveness, of storing up malice like stones. He will not leave this spot until you accept his apology and drop the

bitter burden from your shoulders. Come, say with me the words 'I forgive.' Begin the new year with a clean heart."

The beggar, whose life since birth had been an endless round of abuse and misery, felt himself moved in a way he had never known before. Rabbi Eleazar's daughter offered him her hand. He took it. They approached Rabbi Eleazar together. The beggar bent low to lift the sage from the dust. "I forgive you, Rabbi," he murmured. "Can you ever forgive me?"

Rabbi Eleazar answered: "It is already done." Then he arose and called for a new robe, which he placed not on his own, but on the beggar's shoulders. He and his children lifted the man onto his donkey and together, with song and rejoicing, they continued to Migdal Gedor. ◊

Camp, Eat, Give Thanks, and Be Merry

Sukkot – A Holiday of Joy

by Gloria Avner

Autumn, early or late, can be a great time to be out of doors. To camp and welcome friends, families, and strangers (even our own ancestors, from Abraham to David), to share a meal in an impromptu, impermanent home whose roof is the sky crossed by a few limbs of a tree seems like a small thing, from a small point of view. But when you have just gone through 40 days of introspection, ten days of awe, intense prayer, begging for forgiveness of misdeeds, and fasting, we are feeling clean, happy to be alive, independent of possessions, and it is good to have even rain and wind in our hair. It is good to reconnect with our earth-honoring roots, and to bless and enjoy all forms of the earth's fruits.

Sukkot is called *z'man simhateinu*, the

Rabbi Young & Cantor Halpern to Lead KJCC High Holiday Services, Year 5771

As you remember, one of the questions we asked in last year's Membership survey was whether you would like to have a rabbi officiate our High Holy Day services. A healthy percentage of you said yes, so we actively researched what it would take to obtain a part-time rabbi. Those of you who were there will surely remember the service last spring when Stuart and Lauren Sax, through the good offices of Gloria Avner, our head of ritual, invited Rabbi Danny Young to come to KJCC to lead a service, specifically a Shabbat service. The service was very well received, and Rabbi Young was well liked by all who attended. To our great pleasure, Rabbi Young was available this fall. So this year, these High Holidays, I am thrilled to announce that Rabbi Danny Young, along with Cantor Mark Halpern, will be conducting the High Holiday services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at KJCC.

Obviously, hiring a rabbi, even part-time, is expensive for the KJCC. We did not want to increase the membership dues, so several of our members stepped forward and agreed to underwrite the rabbi's charges. I would like to personally thank and recognize the following individuals for their most generous contributions:

Paul & Barbara Bernstein
David & Toby Goldfinger
David & Patti Gross
Beth Hayden
Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein

Kurt & Nancy Kluger
Neal & Cathy Rakov
Stuart & Lauren Sax
Mort & Gene Silverman

*Thank you,
Alan Beth*

time of our joy, and the activities, rituals, and foods we choose should focus on happiness. Serve everyone's favorite foods, wear new clothes, and even exchange some presents. The Pilgrims (the ones recently debarked from the Mayflower in Massachusetts) were so impressed with the holiday of Sukkot, they based their Thanksgiving celebration on it.

Often we tend to think that the most "important" holidays are the more serious ones, such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Sukkot reminds us that *mitzvah gedolah l'hiyot b'simcha*: it is a great mitzvah to be happy. Shake your lulav in all sacred directions; admire the beauty and aroma of your etrog. Help build your Synagogue's Sukkah (Sunday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m. at KJCC). *Hag Sameach*--have a joyous holiday! ◇

What's in a Word?

by Gloria Avner

A bit of Hebrew learning came to me this summer as I listened to a talk by Rabbi Darrah Lerner in a temple member's home on Mt. Desert Island, Maine. Her topic was "Fifty Words Every Jew Should Know." As the sun set over Beech Mountain and Somes Sound, the giant floor-to-ceiling windows filled with mauve, gold, and purple, a background worthy of the richness of the topic, even though we barely covered fourteen words.

The more I study Hebrew and become familiar with the roots of words, the more I see how each of our words contains not one but many layers of meaning. One three-letter

root (or “shoresh”), with tiny changes, endings, and prefixes can fill a whole page in a dictionary. We are nothing if not subtle and complex. Within our roots is our story.

The Rabbi started with the word Torah. Yes, it means Jewish law. But new to me was the fact that it also means to aim, as in archery—to direct, to throw, to seek direction. Torah, our foundational document, literally points us in the right direction and sets us on the correct path.

Her second word, “Halacha,” we understand to mean Jewish law. Seventy percent of the Talmud is spent interpreting “Halacha.” Within the word for law, however, is the same root, “Holech,” as for the verb “to go” or “to walk.” “Lech Lecha” says God to Abraham: “Go away from here.” So begins God’s covenant with the Jewish people. Monotheism and the laws relating to proper human conduct are not just the law. The laws are also the “way,” the way to walk a fruitful life.

We talked about “avar,” “avayra,” and “ivri” (Hebrew), all coming from the same three-letter root meaning “to cross over.” As a people we are called the “Ivrit,” or Hebrews, because we are the ones who crossed over from worshipping myriad idols to practicing monotheism; we are also the people who crossed the Sea of Reeds, with God’s help, from slavery to freedom.

Words four through eight are words that will be on our minds and in our mouths frequently in the coming “Days of Awe.” Most of them refer to different ways in which we “stray” from the “path.” “Chet,” sometimes translated as “sin,” really means we “missed the target,” another archery metaphor; we failed to achieve our highest potential. Usually such an error is unintentional. When we stray off the path, even unintentionally, we miss our goal. “Pasah” is deliberate transgression, trespass, or rebellion. “Avon” is the heaviest leaving of the path, an act of deliber-

ate iniquity. “Kippur” refers to the Divine covering over or cleaning up the mess.

There are consequences for getting off the path—punishments inflicted by self, others, and nature. But what a generous religion we have! There is always a way to get back. The very word for redemption, “T’shuvah,” comes from the root meaning “return.” We return through prayer, acts of kindness, and asking forgiveness of those we have wronged. We come together for “Selichot” the week before Rosh HaShanah (Saturday, September 4th at 5:30 p.m. at KJCC). “Selicha” means “I’m sorry.” On this night we ask together for Divine pardon. With sincere prayer and acts of generosity we can return to the path, the way of Torah.

We talked last about the four-letter, all-vowel word that is the unpronounceable name of God. The Rabbi posited something intriguing. What if the four-letter word really is pronounceable, and it is a form of the verb “to be” in a tense that is beyond our determination? What if God is Breath, a state of being without specificity?

The other roots, both nouns and verbs, will have to wait for another time. I am more than willing to share the fifty-word list. Ask. For now, I will end with “sefer,” the word for “book.” We are the People of the Book, but in this same root, with tiny permutations, are found the words “story,” “relate,” “telling,” “counting,” and “census.” We are always telling ourselves and our children our story. It is how the People of the Book survive.

We have such an audacious theology. What we put in the Divine Mouth is what we want God to say. Our telling. Our story. Does God pray? What would we want God to pray for? I was moved by Rabbi Darrah’s suggestion: we would pray, “that God’s mercy is greater than God’s justice.”

L’Shanah Tovah. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year. ◇

***“Kippur” refers
to the Divine
covering over
or cleaning up
the mess.***

Finding Meaning in High Holy Day Services

The rabbi who will lead KJCC services this year gives us a brief glimpse of who he is and the rich experience we can look forward to.

Every year as the High Holy Days approach I am reminded of a powerful lesson I learned at my first student pulpit in Victorville, California. After my initial year in Israel I was sent to lead services in Victorville, a small desert town on the way from Los Angeles to Las Vegas. The congregation boasted some fifty families, most of whom turned out for the High Holy Days. As a young student rabbi I desperately wanted to prove my competence and show them that I had mastery of, and knew how to lead, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

After several calls back and forth with the soloists to discuss the music and the pacing of the service, we developed a “running sheet”—a plan for how the services would flow. I diligently followed the running sheet and presided over what I felt was a complete and well-executed service, for I had followed all the cues.

The following year I returned to Victorville, no longer a new face, no longer a stranger to their customs. Yet a strange thing happened: in leading the services I found myself making more mistakes. I was not always on the right page; I was not necessarily ready with the next page instruction. I felt like the services my second year were less polished than my first!

I must confess that I was surprised when congregant after congregant came to tell me how much more meaningful that year’s services had been than the prior year’s services.

As I reflected, I realized the reason why the services didn’t run as smoothly: now comfortable with the liturgy and the community, I allowed myself to pray.

Getting lost in the moment provided a more meaningful High Holy Day experience for me, and it inspired a more meaningful journey for the congregation. I carry that lesson with me as I work every year to find an appropriate balance between form and substance, between structure and spontaneity.

Lest you think this is all about me, however, I want to make explicit my reason for sharing this lesson. When we gather for services we participate in a communal experience. We may not feel the freedom to linger over a particular passage that resonates strongly with us. We may not give ourselves permission to “opt out” for a while and share a moment or two of personal reflection.

If the worship experience is just about keeping up, it will fall short of its potential to reach and inspire. It is only when we allow ourselves to be touched by the words, the ideas, the melodies of the Days of Awe that the worship experience can be deep, reflective or transformational.

I look forward to sharing this search for meaning and inspiration with you during the High Holy Day season!

*L’shanah Tovah Tikateivu,
May you be inscribed for a good year,
Rabbi Daniel Young*



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner A Good Start to a Sweet Year

On Wednesday, September 8th, at 6 pm before evening service, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, farfel and tzimmis, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Voluntary donation is \$18 per adult.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Dr. Erica Garrett by September 2nd at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-853-1003 if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood at PO Box 116, Tavemier, FL 33070.



The Making of a Bar Mitzvah Boy

“/

feel great,” said a beaming Max Schrader-Grace as a stream of friends, family, and KJCC *mishpocha* filed out of the sanctuary to congratulate his parents, Eric and Ruth. He was glowing and grinning, and it wasn’t just from relief that his Bar Mitzvah was over and a party lay ahead.

Called to the Torah wrapped in his new “Tallit,” Max had chanted his portion like a “chazzan,” a professional cantor, his pronunciation perfect, his timing unrushed, and his voice strong and confident. Everyone in the room was proud of him. As his coach and one of his KJCC Religious School teachers for the past five years, I could not have imagined a better outcome to all his hours of study and his family’s preparation and support.

Major thanks are due to



A proud moment for Morah Gloria.



Max carrying our Holocaust Torah, for the first time as a full member of the KJCC community.



With parents Ruth and Eric, at one of life’s momentous events for a Jewish boy.

Dave Feder for recording Max’s *parshah* as a study tool and for coordinating the Torah service. It was an unusual service for KJCC, our second Saturday afternoon “Minchah”/Bar Mitzvah service in two years. We wish Max, his parents, and all relatives and friends, many years of “nachas.”

I will not be surprised when Max, now a full member of our community, becomes one of our future service leaders. We of his KJCC *mishpocha* look forward to it.

-Gloria



More of Max's special day: During the service; signing the certificate (he said it was the first time he'd ever signed his name); at lower right, with parents, grandparents and the prototypically irreverent little brother.



A FAMILY REUNION IN ISRAEL

by Joyce Peckman

It's Sunday morning, and I'm taking the train from Tel Aviv to Nahariya, to find my way to Kibbutz Beit HaEmek in the northern Galilee, where I'm invited to lunch with a woman I haven't seen in 40 years. This is not the Long Island Railroad. Security is better than at the airport. As bags go through x-ray screening, I pass under a metal detector, then through a turnstile.

Inside is a modern station with booths selling falafel, coffee, and cold drinks. I buy my ticket, then pass through an aperture into a corridor lined with vendors of bright clothing, exotic musical instruments, artwork, and hand-worked leather goods.

Down a steep escalator are the platforms, where waiting passengers can purchase penny candy, juice, soda, bottled water or snacks from vending machines. The trains are similar to Amtrak, with a spacious bathroom in each car, and the seating in sets of four facing small tables.

My train originated in Beersheva, and pulled into Tel Aviv full. Someone got up to give a seat to an old man, and I lucked into another. Surrounding me are standing students and soldiers. Across from me, an officer--two gold bars and the weight of the border on his shoulders--leans his head on the wall and sleeps. A teen-aged yeshiva girl sits in the aisle reading, leaning against someone's suitcase. In the open area near the bathroom, more students take up the floor. People talk quietly into cell phones or to each other. Listening, I become aware that Hebrew, like English, has its dialects.

North of Tel Aviv we pass factories, stone and stucco homes, plowed fields, orchards, and, near Benyamina, grape vines. Then near

Hof HaCarmel, we approach the shore, and suddenly the Mediterranean is on my left. At Haifa, people empty out, and their seats are quickly taken. Just north of Haifa, at Lev Hamifratz, is an army base, and there is another exodus. Dozens of young soldiers pass my window, smiling, walking quickly off the platform. Several are obviously Ethiopian, and some have the look of the stereotypical Russian. In another setting, I would think them Cossacks.

After almost two hours we arrive at Nahariya, the last stop. My rudimentary Hebrew can't get me to a *sherut*, the inexpensive shared taxis, so I pay 40 shekels for a taxi to the kibbutz.

Beit HaEmek was built in 1949 in a strategic area, surrounded by Arab villages. The relationship is cordial, and their part-time clinic is manned by Arab doctors and nurses. There are lovely ancient olive trees, carefully tended gardens, schools and homes built in the 1950s, and a lovely new dining hall. In an age where many kibbutzim are having financial difficulty, Beit HaEmek is holding its own. Many of the residents work off-site. There is income from agriculture, they make medical filters and are the home of Galilee silk, which is renowned for hand-painted women's *talisim* and challah covers as well as beautiful clothing and scarves. In addition, the pool/park area is open to the public for a fee during the summer, and was filled with swimming, picnicking families.

Over home-brewed herbal iced tea and cake, Lucy--now Orit--looked at old photos and talked about life. Two American girls had been in adjoining barracks rooms in a kibbutz *ulpan* a lifetime ago. One married an Israeli and stayed. One ended up in Key Largo. ◇



Orit with the silk at Kibbutz Beit HaEmek.

On Our Dream Vacation to The Galapagos Islands

My wonderful week with Steve, sea lions and Darwin's finches

by Carol Steinbock

The days flew by. Our recent ten-day trip to the Galapagos Archipelago aboard The National Geographic Islander, a 48-passenger catamaran, was a most extraordinary adventure. The ship was small but very comfortable. (Steve would say the bathroom was too small).

The crew included four licensed naturalists, all of whom were extremely knowledgeable and wonderful to be with. You could tell they love what they do. Each evening they prepared us for the next day's events, where we were going and the wonderful sights we would see.

We had done some homework before we left the Keys. We watched videos, read some books and looked at pictures of the birds, reptiles and mammals we hoped to see. But absolutely nothing could have prepared us for the experience of walking within feet, and often inches, of a blue-footed booby (yes, its feet really are a very pretty blue), magnificent frigate bird, albatross, land and water iguana, sea lion, baby seal, giant tortoise, Sally Lightfoot crab, penguin, pelican and flightless cormorant, not to mention the Darwin finches (13 species).

We could go on forever recounting the details of all we saw, heard and learned but, for this article, we must keep it brief. (Ed.

Note - pshaw; they were under no such mandate.)

After flying first to Quito and then Guayaquil, Ecuador, we took a smaller plane to Baltra Island, where we went by Zodiac to board the Islander. Baltra was our first introduction to the unique volcanic islands and the fearless creatures that inhabit them. On the dock, we walked within a couple of feet of two sun-

bathing sea lions that ignored us completely.

That first day on board, we were the only passengers (read *fools*), as others on the ship watched, to brave the 72-degree water for a quick dip in the ocean, and I do mean quick.

We traveled to North Seymour, a tiny island, where we hiked across the lava rocks to see frigate birds and blue-footed boobies so close you would have stepped on one if you didn't look where you were going. Wonder-

fully, it was mating season so we were treated to the boobies doing their mating dance, the cutest thing I (Carol) have ever seen. Next, we cruised to Bartolome, another tiny island. There, we hiked up a winding wooden path to the summit for a magnificent view of the surrounding islands and lots of water everywhere.

This island is uninhabited except for some lizards, sea iguana and a few grasshoppers.

This is probably the right place to give some of the stats: The Galapagos Islands are 600 miles off the coast of South America and are a National Park under the jurisdiction of Ecuador, which wholly controls how many visitors can go to which islands and when. The human population of the islands is approximately 32,000, occupying only three of



Steve aboard The Islander.



Perhaps this was what Darwin first saw from HMS Beagle.



A gallery of the wildlife found on the Galapagos and snapped by Steve and Carol. Yes, that is a penguin in the center photo.

coffee, juice and fruit. It was just a great space to sit around and socialize on the rare occasions when we had free time.

As we arrived back onboard ship after an excursion, there was always a table in the “lobby” with drinks and snacks to tide us over until dinner.

The crew was always pleasant and helpful. On a personal note, the soles of my sandals separated after one of our hikes. I spoke to the Engineer and before I knew it, they were repaired better than new.

A young woman on our trip, a fellow passenger, commented about all the excursions to go on and added that you could stay on the ship, then said “but I don’t know who would want to do that.” In other words, every island had something new and wonderful to experience that should not be missed.

For those who are interested, we will be sharing our adventure with you, showing the video made from our trip, as well as photos and short clips we took ourselves, at the KJCC within the next few months. We might even supply pizza

the 29+ islands: Santa Cruz, Floreana and Isabella. The Galapagos were never part of the continental mass and lack any naturally occurring land mammal predators, one of the reasons its native species are so fearless.

On and under the water, we were treated to numerous sightings of a multitude of creatures. As we crossed the Equator, we watched a pod of dolphin (at least 150) and a whale repeatedly breaching, to our great delight. Closer to land, we saw sea turtles, large eagle rays and smaller golden or mustard rays swimming just below the surface. I will never forget the group of baby fur seals who were playing. It looked like recess at day care. And then there were the flamingos we watched feeding just yards away, reminding us of the Keys but closer than we have ever come to them at home.

We snorkeled with sharks, many varieties of cold water and tropical fish as well as having many close encounters with playful sea lions under the water.

As for the ship, not only were the cabins comfortable, but also the food served in the dining room was delicious and different every day, mostly Ecuadorian recipes (and this from Carol, one of the pickiest eaters). Of course, the desserts were out of this world. The comfortable and spacious lounge was where we had our evening meetings, our pre-breakfast



and soda.

We only hope all of you get to make this trip yourselves.

Best,
Steve & Carol

-This Month in Jewish History-

September

301 C.E. – San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world, just inland from Rimini on Italy's Adriatic coast, and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus. During World War II the 15,000 people of San Marino provide a refuge for 100,000, including a large number of Jews.

1192 – The Third Crusade ends, as English King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) and Muslim Caliph Saladin sign a peace treaty allowing Christian pilgrims access to Muslim-held Jerusalem. Saladin, the great ruler and general, had readmitted the Jews to Jerusalem in 1190.

1434 – The Council of Basle (Switzerland) institutes new measures against Jews, who are prohibited from entering universities and are forced to listen to conversion sermons. The council encourages Christian study of Hebrew in order to "combat Jewish heresy."

1485 – Pedro Arbues, the inquisitor for Spain's Aragon province, is murdered in church by a group of Marranos as retaliation. The perpetrators have their hands cut off and are then beheaded and quartered. Arbues is canonized.

1492 – In one of the signature events in all of Jewish history, Jews are expelled from Spain and its domains by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

1504 – Michelangelo's David, among the greatest of Renaissance works of art, is unveiled in Florence. The unclothed statue, however, has a slight flaw: David is uncircumcised. Oops. Historians have long wondered whether the error was from not knowing or from not wanting to offend officials of the Church.

1609 – Rabbi Judah Loew Ben Bezalel, the

Maharal of Prague, dies. His greatest claim to fame is a fictional creation called the Legend of the Golem, a medieval version of the now-familiar Frankenstein story, in which the Maharal breathed life into a human-like figure by affixing a slip of paper with the Tetragrammaton to his forehead, called forth to protect the Jews whenever they are in danger. The legend endures as a staple of Jewish literature.

1658 – Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, dies. It is Cromwell who welcomes Jews back to England after their banishment 350 years before. By 1657, the Jews of London feel secure enough to purchase a building to become their synagogue.

1789 – President George Washington appoints Alexander Hamilton as the first Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton, born out of wedlock, reportedly to a Jewish woman, receives his early education from Jews in the West Indies.

1869 – Siegmund Salzman is born in Budapest, Hungary. After visiting the Alps in 1923, he writes the children's classic "Bambi" under the name Felix Salten. In 1933 he moves to Switzerland to escape the Nazis and sells the rights to the story, making no money from the Disney movie released in 1942.

1921 – The first Moshav, Nahalal, is founded in the Jezreel Valley, an area of abundant but often-stagnant water. (Nahal was the Biblical name of a local town connected with the tribe of Zebulun.) The first fifteen years or so of settlement are spent draining the water to eliminate the malarial swamps in the region.

1945 – On Rosh Hashanah, Bess Myerson becomes the first (and only) Jew to be crowned Miss America.

An Israeli Wedding

with a KJCC Connection

by Shyella and Nissan Mayk

On Wednesday, July 14th, Shyella Mayk and Amit Shuker got married in a garden in Herzliya, Israel. Shyella, the granddaughter of Bea and Marty Graham and daughter of Israel and Nissan Mayk, agreed to share some thoughts and photos with all of KJCC.



Shyella and Amit

The Mikvah

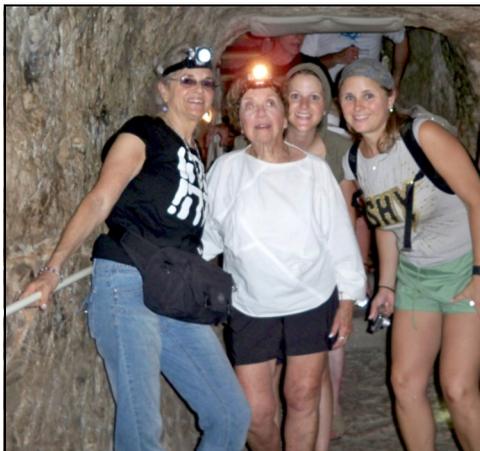
At 9:30 p.m. on the night before the wedding, fourteen women escorted Shyella to the Hilton beach where, using flashlights, Nissan led a *mikvah* service along the original “natural *mikvah* waters” of the Mediterranean. The theme was “how we measure happiness in our lives.” Aloud, to family and friends,

pose, of mind, body and soul, to sanctify the gift given to me: I am a woman.

As each woman read parts of the history and meaning of the service, and added her own thoughts about happiness, the *mikvah* ceremony unfolded, until, just before immersion, each woman whispered to Shyella her own personal prayer “request” from the bride, a special “techine” for Shy to say between her immersions when there would be no separation, either physical or spiritual, between the bride and G-d. When Shy emerged, transformed through *mikveh* and in a pristine state of one about to become a bride, everyone encircled her, singing and dancing in the warm sands of Eretz Yisrael.



Bea kvelling.



At one of the dizzying amount of activities before and after the wedding, Bea and Nissan and Shyella and sister Liati visited the Rosh Hanikra caves bordering Lebanon.

The Wedding Day

The wedding day arrived warm and sunny (it never rains in Israel in the summer). While the girls got their hair and makeup done, photographers were capturing pre-wedding scenes and friends were popping in and out of Shy’s



Shy with sister Liati, above, at right with flower girl and cousin Fayechesca, below with parents Israel and Nissan. Below right, Amit delivers an emphatic blow to the glass at the end of the ceremony.

apartment. Suddenly the elevator door opened, and a tall, dark

Guests began to arrive—almost none of whom, Israelis included, had ever been to this incredible oasis of antiques, sculptures, foliage, koi ponds, and—yes—peacocks! In the grape arbor, at a Viking-sized hand-hewn table, a group gathered for the *ketubah* signing. Two men and two women, mentors and friends of the bride and groom, were the chosen witnesses to sign the artistic *ketubah* portraying *Shivat haMinim* (the Seven Species). As the rabbi explained the significance of the marriage document, Shy and Amit signed as well. Food and drinks flowed, friends and family oohed and aahed, and as the sun set and darkness blanketed the gardens,



multi-colored lights twinkled on, setting the scene for the processional.

The service was inclusive; friends and family said and sang the *Shevah Brachas*, including Israel, the bride's father, who chanted the Sixth *Bracha*. In a surprise per-



and handsome Amit, dressed in a light beige pinstriped suit, wearing a lavender shirt and shades of purple and lavender tie, strolled purposefully down the

long hallway to snapping cameras and clapping friends. His eyes lit up with love when he saw the vision of perfection waiting for him with open arms! (*Ed. Note: Mom Nissan wrote this last sentence.*)

Then there was the dash through Tel Aviv rush-hour traffic a few kilometers north to Derech Eretz in Herzliya for the wedding.





In the garden in Herzliya, below: Doron Hai, Liati Mayk-Hai, Israel Mayk, Amit Shuker, Shyella Mayk, Bea Graham, Nissan Graham-Mayk.



The first dance.

formance, mixing traditional Ashkenazi and Sephardi melodies, Liati and Doron “wowed the crowd” (and pleased the bride and groom) with their unique, dynamic performance of the Seventh *Bracha!* Finally,



Joyce, at left with son Keith and daughter-in-law Rebecca, and dancing with Bea at right, was among the many who journeyed far to share the joy.



Amit, joyous and ever-the-athlete, leapt high in the air and—kippah flying—smashed the glass and hugged and kissed his bride until everyone rushed to the *chuppah* and the party officially began! ♦



Shy with savtah Bea, above, and at right in a photo we’re sure Amit will be looking at and smiling about for at least the next sixty years.



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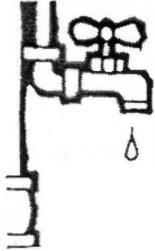
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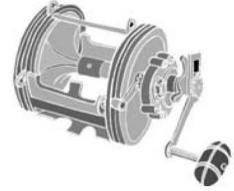
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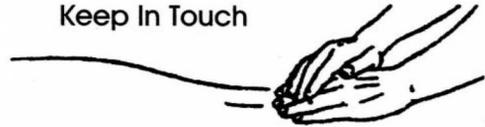


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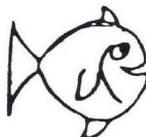
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