

Chai~Lights



January 1 - February 28, 2023

8 Tevet - 5 Adar, 5783

World Jewish Report — Pages 13-15

Photo Gallery — Pages 16-20

A Look Back at KJCC Chanukah — Pages 23-29

Joyce and Yardena Explore Jewish Greece — Pages 32-33



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 JAN	2 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Joe Shabathai <i>Barney Coltman</i> <i>Lucinda Kurtz</i>	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	9 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Erica Lieberman Garrett, Linda Pollack & Art Itkin <i>Barb Knowles</i>	14 Havdalah Service and Dairy Potluck 5:30 p.m.
15 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	16 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	17	18	19 Book Talk with Rabbi Agler on Zoom 7:30 p.m.	20 Barney Coltman & Joyce Peckman <i>Sisterhood</i>	21
22	23 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz & Art Itkin <i>Sisterhood</i>	28
29	30 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	31 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	1 FEB	2	3 Advertisers' & New Members' Dinner 5:30 p.m. Shabbat Service 7 p.m. Cantor Jodi Rozental, Ken A. & Steve H. <i>Beth Horowitz</i>	4
5 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. Tu B'shevat Planting 11:30 a.m.	6 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Erica Lieberman</i> <i>Garrett</i>	11
12 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Annual Meeting 12:00 p.m.	13 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Sisterhood & Rabbi Ed Rosenthal <i>Jane Friedman</i>	18
19	20 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman <i>Rita Conklin</i>	25
26 Hamantaschen Bake at KJCC 5 p.m.	27 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	28 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	Services every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.			

2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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Keys Jewish Community Center
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



When I first started writing my columns, I gave some history of my Jewish Background. This time, I want to change gears a bit, and tell you more about myself outside of religion.

I'm 47. I'm a tennis player, pilot, huge Trekkie (the actors who played Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock were both Jewish, so I'm in good company). Most of you know, my penchant for jokes is matched only by my appetite. My favorite food is of course Pastrami. However, these days, I have latkes on my mind.

By the time you see this, Chanukah will have come and gone. I must say, I'm very excited about Chanukah. I expect the dinner on December 23rd to be another great event.

And speaking of Chanukah, I cannot say enough about the quality of the Sisterhood gift shop

display. I really look forward to lighting the sports themed menorah I purchased. The other great thing I noticed is how reasonable the prices are.

It also now occurs to me, as we approach the January/February threshold, I've almost reached the one year mark in my current role. I must say, it's been a lot more enjoyable than I thought it would be.

I'm trying to tie everything together, I'll end with this: when this issue arrives, we will be approaching another party. This upcoming Purim will be a pastrami party.

Happy Chanukah, and let's now set our sights on the Jewish side of 2023. ◇

Shabbat Service Leaders

January 6 – Vayechi.....	Joe Shabathai
January 13 – Shemot.....	Erica Lieberman Garrett, Linda Pollack & Art Itkin
January 20 – Vaera.....	Barney Coltman & Joyce Peckman
January 27 – Bo.....	Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz, and Art Itkin
February 3 – Beshalach.....	Cantor Jodi Rozental, Ken Atlas, Steve Hartz
February 10 – Yitro.....	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
February 17 – Shevat.....	Ed Rosenthal & Sisterhood
February 24 – Terumah.....	Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

January & February 2023

Most of our activities are on-site at the KJCC.
Please check the weekly announcements for details.

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Contact us to be placed on e- list.
Friday, Jan.6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat services led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday Jan. 8	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Jan. 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Erica Lieberman Garrett, Linda Pollack & Art Itkin
Saturday, Jan.14	5:30 p.m. Havdalah Service and Dairy Potluck – at the home of Linda Pollack
Sunday, Jan. 15	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 19	7:30 p.m. Book Talk with Rabbi Agler on Zoom – A God We Can Believe In
Friday, Jan. 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Barney Coltman & Joyce Peckman
Friday, Jan. 27	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz & Art Itkin
Tuesday, Jan. 31	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – at the home of Rita Rzepka
Friday, Feb. 3	5:30 p.m. Advertisers' & New Members' Dinner – Dairy Potluck 7 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Cantor Jodi Rozental, Ken A. & Steve H.
Sunday, Feb. 5	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting 11:30 a.m. Tu B'Shevat Planting
Friday, Feb. 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Feb. 12	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting 12 p.m Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Friday, Feb. 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Sisterhood and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
Friday, Feb. 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman
Sunday Feb. 26	5 p.m. Hamantaschen Bake at KJCC
Tuesday, Feb. 28	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – at the home of Linda Pollack

NOSH

Back By Popular Demand – Rabbi Agler’s Book Talk

Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 on Zoom

In the 21 st Century, can we believe in the same God that was worshipped hundreds or thousands of years ago? Can there be a concept of God that does not violate modern logic, to help us understand life’s journey? The book *A God We Can Believe In*, compiled by Rabbi Richard Agler and Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, addresses this question. During the High Holy Days Rabbi Agler led a book talk that ended with overwhelming requests for more. So he has agreed to continue the discussion on Zoom Thursday night, January 19 th at 7:30. The book is available to purchase at tragedytest.com or you can buy or borrow it at KJCC. Join us even if you haven’t read the book for a thought-provoking discussion.

Sisterhood Book Club

Before Covid (the new BC), Sisterhood Book club met in various restaurants around the Keys, and later in ladies’ homes, to discuss books over lunch. During the pandemic we discovered the advantages of Zoom, especially to a community with many snowbirds and members who have moved away yet remain a part of us. Now we are trying to combine the best of both with a hybrid model when possible. The next meeting, Tuesday,

January 31 at 12:30 will be at the home of Rita Rzepka, discussing Mitch Albom’s “The Stranger in a Lifeboat.” We will meet at Linda Pollack’s house at 12:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 28th to discuss Fredrik Backman’s “Anxious People.” A zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting. Contact Joyce Peckman joycepeckman@gmail.com or Linda Pollack Lindap4000@ymail.com for the addresses or to be put on the book club’s email list.

January New Member & PotLuck Dinner

Friday February 3rd , Medina Roy will work with Sisterhood to present the New Members/Advertisers Dinner. It is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. to allow for a special early 7:00 p.m. musical Erev Shabbat service. Thank you, Michael and Lorena Kaufman for sponsoring this dairy potluck dinner. It will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome our newest members and invite others who may want to become part of our community. You can RSVP to Medina at hiitsmedee@gmail.com.

Friday Night with the Ladies

Mark your calendar for February 17th, when ladies of Sisterhood will lead the Friday service. Rabbi Ed plans to be there with his students, and has offered to deliver the Torah Talk, so it should be a lively evening. We will need readers of English or Hebrew, the more the merrier. Contact Susan Gordon to let her know in which language you want to participate – Susangordon424@yahoo.com. ◇

ONEG SPONSORS

January 6	Barney Coltman Celebrating KJCC Fellowship	February 3	Beth Horowitz Celebrating her birthday
January 6	Lucinda Kurtz Celebrating her 75th Birthday	February 10	Erica Lieberman Garrett Celebrating Medicare Birthday
January 13	Barb Knowles In Memory of her Mother Ethel Hankin	February 17	Jane Friedman Celebrating her Mom and Harry’s Birthdays
January 20	Sisterhood	February 24	Rita Conklin Celebrating her Birthday from Australia
January 27	Sisterhood		

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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 Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

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

CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429 or email lindap4000@ymail.com, for rates.

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305-393-1351, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: : To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Erica Lieberman Garrett, 305-393-1162, or email her at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

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.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225. The Caring Kehilah Committee is calling and checking in on our socially distant members. Call Lonie Padden, 305-772-2584, or email dr.padden@yahoo.com if you wish to request that someone be contacted.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 305-587-7429 or lindap4000@ymail.com.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022

Yahrzeit

Rosalyn Kofler.....	David Kofler	
	Sam Kofler	
	Lillian Kofler	
	Rebecca Goldfaden	
	Robert Goldfaden	
	Sam Goldfaden	
Karyn Zoren.....	Pauline Roller	
Joan Boruszak.....	Julius Kohlenbrener	
Michael Krissel.....	Deborah K Cannon	
Robert Temkin.....	Kenny Temkin	
Meredith Cline.....	Harriette T Cline	
Mel & Joyce Ruthen.....	Pauline Roller	
Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis.....	Charles Margolis	
	Harris Warren	
Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	David Kaplan	
Joan Boruszak.....	Emma Kohlenbrener	
Hermine Taramona.....	Norma Robinson	
Patricia Isenberg.....	Ernest Isenberg	
Gloria Avner.....	Alex Avner	

Unrestricted

Jeff & Lisa Miller
 Jay & Nancy Hershoff
 Thomas & Renee Brodie
 La Figa Barbershop

In Honor/Memory of

Holocaust Education

Muriel Swartz..... George Swartz

Meditation Garden

Mindy & Richard Agler Eugene Agler
 Stuart & Lauren Sax George Swartz

Other

Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea..... TAGS
 Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake George Swartz
 Linda Pollack..... George Swartz
 Stephen Steinbock George Swartz
 Gary & Laurie Grossinger

— SISTERHOOD DONATIONS —

Oneg Sponsorships

Mark Avner.....	Gloria's Birthday
Susan Gordon.....	Rhett's 7th Birthday
Steve & Jan Hartz.....	Jan's 75th Birthday
Lucinda Kurtz.....	Lucinda's 75th Birthday
Donna Bolton.....	Donna's Birthday
Richard & Barb Knowles.....	Memory of Walter Hankin
Richard & Barb Knowles.....	Memory of Ethel Hankin
Richard & Barb Knowles.....	Richard & Eve's Birthdays

In Honor/Memory of

HOW CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CAN INSTANTLY BECOME PERMANENT, LIVING MEMORIALS

Yahrzeit Plaques: KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bimah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

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



Please join us for Havdalah Service and Dairy Potluck Dinner.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2023

5:30 P.M.

HOME OF LINDA POLLACK

We will watch the sunset, enjoy dinner and conversation, songs and Havdalah service, as the stars come out.



Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett to reserve your spot and coordinate your offering.

Please reserve by January 8th.

hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162



Birthdays

January

1st.....Justin Wade Gilson
 1st..... Laura Goodman
 2nd..... Sherrie Willner
 3rd Lucinda Kurtz
 4th Howard Gilson
 4th Randi W. Freundlich
 6thStanley Margulies
 8thJan Price (Karen) Shiloh
 8th Matthew Barrett
 9th Cathy Rakov
 11th Michelle Zinner
 12th Alex Dutton
 13th Amy Nobil
 15thCharlie Horowitz
 15thHeather Gilson
 15th Jamie Goodman
 16th Brieze Levy
 16thDonald Zinner
 17th Andrea Kluger
 17th Neal Rakov
 17thSuzi-Sarot Feder
 19th Benjamin Friedman
 19th Mark Kanarek
 19th Sandy Seder
 24th Bev Strumor-Blitzer
 24thRandy Klein-Gross
 26th Marshall Kaplan
 27th Beth Hudson
 27th Pat VanArtsdalen

28thArthur Itkin
 28thYardena Kamely
 29thBeth Kaminstein
 29thJeffrey Boruszak
 30th Kristen M. Schur

February

1st.....Libby Shapiro
 1st..... Roy Pollack
 2nd.....Jaxson Brandon Lebofsky
 3rdBeth Horowitz
 5th Rebecca Smith
 6th Evan Harvey
 7th Erica Lieberman Garrett
 9th Linda Pincus
 9thRon Garrett
 9thRosemary Barefoot
 12thJohnny Knowles
 12th Paul Roberts
 13thDavid Levi
 13thHanna David
 15thJudith Weber
 18th Beth Hayden
 18thEvan Daddona
 22nd.....Harry Friedman
 22nd.....Tomar Gross
 23rd Sienna Rose Lebofsky
 24thMuriel Swartz
 25th Rita Conklin
 26thJohn D. Schur

Anniversaries

January **Years**
 4th Steve & Amelia Kasinof 40

February **Years**
 14th David & Loni Padden 13

In Memoriam – January 2023

Talia Agler

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Bernice Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Annette Bitton

By Michel Bitton

Muriel Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor- Blitzer

David Pearlman

By William & Donna Bolton

Emma Kohlenbrener

By Joan Boruszak

Irving J. Kulick

By Thomas & Renée Brodie

Betty Weinstein

By Rita Bromwich

Yetta Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Lola Rosenberg

By Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

Larry Daddona

By Hanna David

Jimmy Gottesman

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Lester Singer

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Marvin Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Judy Lombardi

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Alvin S. Gross

By David & Patti Gross

Ernest Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg

Dinah Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Bernard Kaminstein

By Beth Kaminstein

David M. Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Anita F. Katz

By Melissa Katz-Fusco

Walter Hankin

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

Goldie Schweitzer

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

John Evans

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Daniel Harvey

By Linda Perloff

Clayton Allan Rakov

By Neal & Cathy Rakov

Ruth Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

Mr. Samuel Roth

By Joel & Mary Roth

Nat Gulkis

By Elaine Schulberg

Bea Gulkis

By Elaine Schulberg

Paul Kaminsky

By Elaine Schulberg

Joan Kaminsky

By Elaine Schulberg

Joseph Cohen

By Jules & Nettie Seder

Jacob Menahem Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Joseph Shapiro

By Libby P. Shapiro

Steven Garfinkel

By Betty Small

Janet Garfinkel

By Betty Small

Peter F. Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Karen Hayhurst

By Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

Adele Siegel Bayer

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memoriam – February 2023

Sue Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Beatrice Avner

By Gloria Avner

Lou Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Harvey Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Sunnie Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Joshua Daniel Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor- Blitzer

Judy Strumer Hartman

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor- Blitzer

Eve Greenstein

By Barnet O. Coltman

William Brooks

By Lynn Dils

Nathan Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Robert Kinney

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Sheldon Paul Frankel

By Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Herbert Frankel

By Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Rose Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Charles Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Eugene Greenstein

By Scott & Sharon Greenstein

Nella Gross

By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein- Gross

Louis Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

Chalom Haviv

By Leo Haviv

Ida Ratchik

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Fannie Phillips

By Patricia Isenberg

Pinchas Kaboli

By Yardena Kamely

Rachamim Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Joseph Krissel

By Michael Krissel

Linda Sugarman

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Joseph Kaufman

By Jeff & Lisa Miller

Sara J. Cohen

By Lynn Nobil

Irene Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

William Pollack

By Linda Pollack

Malka Frank

By Linda Pollack

Maria Quesada

By Orlando Quesada

Bianka Kirschenbaum

By Medina Roy

John A. Schur

By Lee Schur

Miriam Blinder

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Hedy Kopecky

By Adam & Judy Starr

Mr. Harry Miller

By Shirley Stein

Sally Sussman

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Sara J. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Ann R. Kapulskey

By Muriel Swartz

Morris I. Estrin

By Lillian Tallent

Sheldon Paul Frankel

By Nadine Thompson & Miriam Frankel

Herbert Frankel

By Nadine Thompson & Miriam Frankel

David C. Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner

Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Samuel Wolfe

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Sydney Zinner

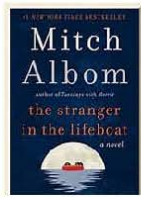
By Donald Zinner



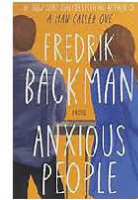
Sisterhood Book Club



- Tuesday, January 31, 2023** ~ *The Stranger in a Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom
12:30 p.m. Home of Ritz Rzepka and Zoom
- Tuesday, February 28, 2023** ~ *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman
12:30 p.m. Home of Linda Pollack and Zoom



A group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be “the Lord.” And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.



Before long, the robber must decide which is the more terrifying prospect: going out to face the police, or staying in the apartment with this group of impossible people.

We will always Zoom and sometimes meet in person as well. An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.

Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman



Sisterhood ran a successful hybrid meeting in November, using a computer attached to a speaker. We did a lot of planning and hope to see many of you at our events, listed below. We also nominated the slate of officers who will be voted on and installed at the next meeting. The names will be familiar: Presidents Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman, Vice Presidents Loni Padden & Jane Friedman, Treasurer Erica Lieberman Garrett and Recording Secretary Susan Roberts. They all deserve not only our thanks, but our support. Here is what we can look forward to:

The festive Chanukah potluck dinner on Dec. 23rd, sponsored by Linda Pollack, coordinated by Loni Padden with help from Donna Bolton, is sure to be lots of fun. It's not just about potato latkes!

On Saturday January 14th we are planning a dairy potluck and Havdalah service beginning 5:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Pollack. We come on time to watch the sunset, then enjoy dinner and conversation, finishing with songs and Havdalah service as the stars come out. Erica is the RSVP contact and food coordinator. Reach her at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Friday February 3rd, Medina Roy will work with Sisterhood to present the new members/advertisers dinner. It is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. to allow for a special early 7p.m. musical Erev Shabbat service. Thank you, Michael & Lorena Kaufman for sponsoring this dairy potluck dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome our newest members and invite others who may want to become part of our community. You can RSVP to Medina at hiitsmedee@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar for February 17th, when ladies of Sisterhood will lead the Friday service. Rabbi Ed plans to be there with his students, so it should be a lively evening. We will need readers of English or Hebrew, the more the merrier. Contact Susan to let her know in which language you want to participate – Susangordon424@yahoo.com

On Sunday, Feb. 26th at 5 p.m. we will have

a hamantaschen preparation party at KJCC. We will bring our own baking pans, make the hamantaschen and bring them home to bake. Then many of us will bring back some of the finished products on Monday night March 6 for the megillah reading. Thank you, Jane, for offering to lead this endeavor. I am sure Nettie has some great recipes.

Sisterhood Book Club has been meeting on Zoom, but we are trying to move to a hybrid model. The next meeting, Tuesday, January 31 at 12:30 will be at the home of Rita Rzepka, discussing Mitch Albom's "The Stranger in a Lifeboat." December's meeting was cancelled in deference to the activities of holiday vacations. Instead we will meet at Linda Pollack's house at 12:30 on Tuesday, Feb. 28th to discuss Fredrik Backman's "Anxious People."

Rabbi Agler's continuing discussion of "A God We Can Believe in" will be on Zoom Thursday evening Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Books are available for purchase or loan at KJCC.

It is never too soon to think about Passover. We have scheduled the Women's Seder for Sunday, March 26th. Sisterhood will again hold a First Night Seder at KJCC on April 5th. Stay tuned for details... space will be limited.

Until then, come and join us every Friday night for Coffee and Conversation after services. Thank you to all who have sponsored onegs. The cost is minimal, and the camaraderie is priceless. Because the Friday groups have been small, we have been preparing the coffee and setting out food without hired help. It is important for our KJCC family to clean up after themselves, just like any other family. We still need sponsors for Dec. 30, and January 20 onward. Cost is only \$60. Contact Erica to honor an event or memorialize a loved one .

Wishing everyone a good and healthy 2023. ◇



**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
ADVERTISERS & NEW MEMBERS
SHABBAT DINNER**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023

5:30 P.M.

SERVICES TO FOLLOW AT 7:00 P.M. WITH CANTOR JUDI

~DAIRY~

Once again, we are inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to join us for dinner to thank them for their support. We are also extending a special invitation to our newest members. And we are encouraging you, our members, to encourage prospective members to join with us also.



Contact:

**Medina - hiitsmedee@gmail.com - 305-394 -1702
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.
Please reserve by January 30th.**

**Sponsored by the Kaufman Family -
Thank you!**

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



A Tribute to RBC

The U.S. Postal Service recently announced an upcoming “Forever” stamp featuring the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The stamp will be released in 2023, thirty years after she was nominated to the court by President Bill Clinton. The Postal Service cited her as “a passionate proponent of equal justice and an icon of American culture.” The stamp shows Ginsburg wearing her “dissent collar,” the white-laced collar with an intricate geometric pattern, the one she always wore when signaling her opposition on a key issue. When the new stamp was announced, the Postal Service noted Ginsburg’s legacy of fighting particularly for equal rights that advanced equality on even socially controversial rulings. Ginsburg will be the first Supreme Court justice to get a solo stamp issue since 2003, when Thurgood Marshall was given the honor. U.S. stamps have featured a number of other justices over the years. (www.npr.org, 10-26-22)

Ranked Number 3

Matricelf, the Israeli regenerative medical company that is developing a revolutionary, first-of-its-kind solution to spinal cord paralysis, placed third in the 2022 Startup World Cup, the world’s biggest startup competition. This particular world cup is sponsored by Silicon Valley-based Pegasus Venture Capital Fund. The competition was held in San Francisco in October and attended by some 17,000 applicants from about 70 geographical regions.

Matricelf’s core technology, developed by Professor Tal Dvir’s regenerative biotechnology lab at Tel Aviv University, is a 3D printed tissue implant made from the patient’s own cells. Using the patient’s own cells helps prevent rejection, a major stumbling block for any kind of transplanted tissue. The implant has allowed paralyzed lab mice to walk again. (www.israel21c.org, 10-19-22)

Slivovitz Gets UNESCO Protection

Slivovitz, the plum brandy that is often associated with Passover by many Ashkenazi Jews, has recently been added to the United Nations’ list of items with “intangible cultural heritage,” giving it UNESCO World Heritage protection. The decision was made at UNESCO’s conference in Morocco. And it wasn’t a Jewish group pushing for the brandy to be included. It was Serbia, where the beverage is a mainstay, as it is across much of the Balkans, eastern and central Europe. According to Martin Votruba, a Slovak studies professor who has researched the history of Slivovitz, those geographic areas were the areas where Jews were introduced to the drink. “Jews would acquire this local drink after moving into European kingdoms,” Votruba said. “They would simply pick it up as part of the culture.” The beverage became associated more with the Jews of Poland in the 19th century, as they became more involved in alcohol production and their interest in keeping the laws of kashrut. Unlike wine, traditional brandy is made from plums (the root “sliva” means plum in several Slavic languages.). This meant that slivovitz was not subject to the same strict rules that apply to grape-based alcoholic beverages. And unlike beer, whisky and various types of vodka, it has no wheat or other grains and so it is permitted on Passover. And, it was also relatively inexpensive. When masses of Polish Jews arrived in America, they brought Slivovitz with them and it rapidly became associated with the Jewish community. Today, much of the slivovitz sold in the United States is specifically marketed to Jewish consumers, especially around Passover. (www.jta.org, 12-2-22)

The Dream of Every Amateur Archaeologist

A 3,000-year-old scarab (an ancient amulet and impression seal) was discovered in Azor, a short distance southeast of Tel Aviv, on an 8th grade school field trip. According to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), a picture of an Egyptian pharaoh is carved into it. "We were wandering around when I saw something that looked like a small toy on the ground," Gilad Stern, leading tour guide of the IAA's Educational Center said. "An inner voice said to me: 'Pick it up and turn it over.' I was astonished: it was a scarab with a clearly incised scene, the dream of every amateur archaeologist..." And IAA Bronze Age expert Dr. Amir Golani said, "This scene basically reflects the geopolitical reality that prevailed in the land of Canaan during the Late Bronze Age (1500-100 BCE), when the local Canaanite rulers lived (and sometimes rebelled) under Egyptian political and cultural hegemony. Therefore, it is very possible that the seal is indeed from the Late Bronze Age when the local Canaanites were ruled by the Egyptian Empire." Scarabs were a symbol of power and status to Egyptians. They were often worn as a necklace or on a ring. (www.jpost.com, 11-30-22)

Einstein's Legacy Preserved

The Israeli government recently approved a plan for an \$18 million museum in Jerusalem dedicated to the legacy of Albert Einstein on the campus of the Hebrew University, which he helped found. The museum will be the new home for Einstein's comprehensive collection of materials, including some 85,000 documents. Benyamin Cohen is writing a biography of Einstein. He claims that this is the largest collection of papers and objects related to Einstein in the world. It includes his Nobel Prize and the original notes he produced while developing the general theory of relativity in 1916. (Imagine...Einstein was imagining the essence and secrets of the universe at the same time, not far from him, the rest of Europe was engaged in close-quarters medieval warfare during World War I.) Naftali Bennett, Israel's former prime minister said, "Albert Einstein is...the biggest brand name in the world for intelligence, science and genius." Bennett expects the museum to become "a pilgrimage site for anyone who wants to become familiar with Einstein, Jewish intelligence, and intelligence in general." Einstein was one of the earliest and most important supporters of Hebrew University and managed to raise huge amounts of money for the institution. In 1954, he spoke

at a fundraising conference, where he said that the university would be critical to Israel's trajectory as a young country. "Israel is the only place on earth where Jews have the possibility to shape public life according to their traditional ideals...To what extent this goal will be reached will depend significantly on the growth and development of the Hebrew University." After Einstein died in 1955, the university inherited his papers, letters, medals and, according to his will, "all other literary and property and rights, of any and every kind or nature whatsoever."

Einstein's support for the university and for Israel was so deeply appreciated that he was asked to become the country's president in 1952, which he declined. (www.jta.org, 10-24-22)

An Unprecedented Apology

An ultra-Orthodox news site in Israel has recently agreed to issue an apology, an unprecedented acknowledgment of wrongdoing, to a group of women whose faces were blurred out of a photo it published. Each woman - leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel - will receive compensation. Also included were representatives of "Women of the Wall," the multidenominational prayer group who advocate for an egalitarian area to pray at the Kotel (Western Wall), the holiest site in Judaism. In May, the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) filed a lawsuit against Behadrei Haredim for publishing the photo, claiming gender discrimination. (After the lawsuit was filed, the two sides agreed to enter into arbitration and an out-of-court agreement was reached.) The photo shows a meeting last December between Israeli President Isaac Herzog and leaders of the non-Orthodox movements attended by both men and women. Only the faces of the women were blurred. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to move forward with implementing the Western Wall deal. The apology was published on the homepage of the popular ultra-Orthodox news site right before the start of Shabbat and it ran for only an hour and then stopped after Shabbat ended, assuring that not many would read it. Lawyers representing IRAC complained, saying this was not enough time for it to get proper notice, and so Behadrei Haredim agreed to publish the apology again for two hours on a Monday morning. This is the first time a lawsuit has ever been filed against a Hareidi publication for blurring out the faces of women, which is a common practice in ultra-Orthodox media. It is also the first time a Hareidi publication

has ever issued an apology to the women offended by this practice. “This is a very significant achievement for us,” Ori Narov, one of the IRAC lawyers representing the women, said. “I hope it will deter ultra-Orthodox publications in the future from blurring out women...” The women represented by IRAC issued the following statement: “Especially at a time like this, when women’s rights are under attack, we attribute great importance to this agreement, which establishes that the exclusion of women is illegal and that exclusion will require compensation. Regretfully, there are many places in Israel, including the Western Wall, where women are subjected to exclusion and discrimination. The liberal Jewish denominations will continue to stand at the forefront of the struggle for women’s rights and against the exclusion of women in the public space.” (www.haaretz.com, 12-4-22)

An Attempt at Extraplanetary Agriculture

Israeli scientists are working to grow a variety of seeds into plants on the moon, hoping to pave the way for self-sustaining lunar bases. These experiments are being conducted at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research at the Sde Boker campus of the Ben Gurion University. The facility is in the Negev, a region that is famously inhospitable to agriculture but, as most of us know, Israeli efforts have helped over the years turn the Negev and other arid areas fertile. The researchers are working with universities in Australia and South Africa to create a very small greenhouse with a variety of seeds and plants that will head to the moon in 2025. The mini greenhouse will be sealed, retaining the earth’s atmosphere, but will be subject to the moon’s microgravity. The greenhouse will automatically water, heat and photograph the seeds and plants and will contain enough atmospheric gases for the duration of the experiment. It will travel aboard Beresheet 2, the second attempt at an unmanned moon landing by the Israeli SpaceIL nonprofit. (The first Beresheet spacecraft crashed into the moon’s surface in 2019.) The project will have a strong citizen component, including high school students who will be encouraged to grow the same seeds and plants as those sent to the moon. These will serve as control groups and will be compared with those on the moon. These experiments – if successful – could be crucial in the discussion of humans expanding beyond earth. “People ask me why we spend money on space if we’ve got problems that need addressing here on earth,” Professor Simon Barak

of the Blaustein Institute said. “I reply that earth is finite, its resources are finite, and if we care about the future, we may need the means to leave the planet and reach for the stars.” (www.timesofisrael.com, 10-22-22)

Did You Know...

- According to data on the 50 most popular destinations which were reviewed by The Swiftest analytics startup for its Travel Safest Index, Israel is the fifth-safest country in the world for tourists to visit. The top-ranked country was Singapore, followed by Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The deadliest travel destination was South Africa. It was followed by India, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Brazil, Cambodia, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. The index is based on seven risk factors: death rates from homicide, traffic accidents, poisoning and poor hygiene conditions, life years lost from communicable diseases and injuries and a natural disaster index. (www.vinnews.com, 12-12-22)
- A 62-year-old man traveling from his Jerusalem home to a pilgrimage site in Meron, in northern Israel, was seriously injured in a bombing in November. What saved his life? He was carrying a book of Tehillim (Psalms), which was in his pocket and absorbed a potentially fatal piece of shrapnel when the explosion occurred. Though he was injured by several fragments of shrapnel, he later discovered that one of the fragments tore through the back cover of the book, making its way through many pages. The fragment came to a full stop at Chapter 124, verse 7, which reads, “Our soul has escaped like a bird evading the grasp of its captors. The grasp is broken and we have escaped.” (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-27-22) ◇

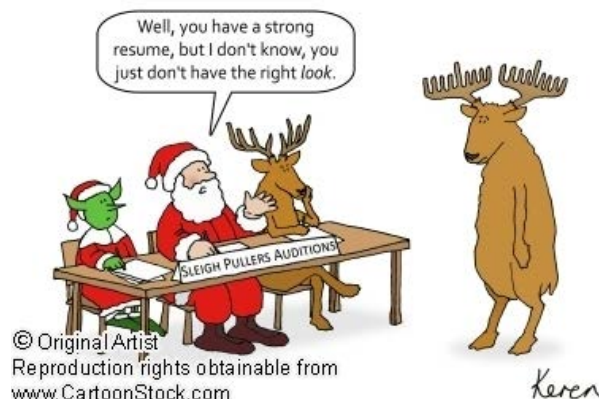


PHOTO GALLERY

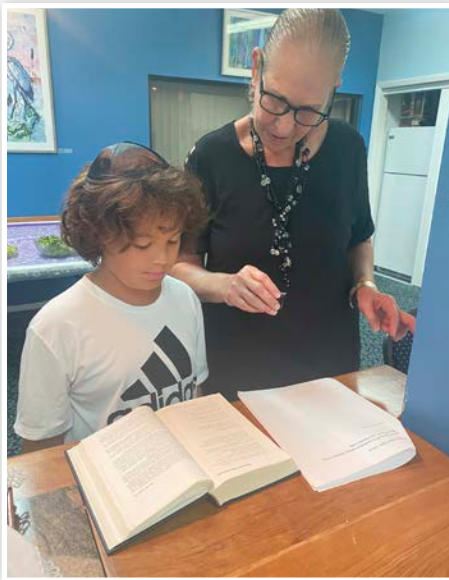


Joyce and Yardena enjoying the wonders of Greece on their tour with Hebrew University's Melton School.

Susan and grandsons wish us all good first night.



Congratulations to Gerri Emkey on another spectacular first place finish with her dragon boat racing team. Breast Cancer survivors are a powerful force.



Erica Lieberman Garrett and Sean Kaufman do a great Hamotzi blessing together.

These cute young people are Gloria's brother and sister, taken a zillion years ago. But as of a few weeks ago, brother Mark Avner is also a member of KJCC and Congregation Ohr HaYam. Mark, a highly respected dealer in antique jewelry, lives in Ocala with his wife Anthea and has been coming to services via zoom. You will meet them in person at our New Members Dinner early in February.





We are so delighted to have Max and Rivka join our Congregation Ohr HaYam! Love their energy and enthusiasm. And if Max looks familiar to you, you probably have shopped at KLI, where Max, the man in suspenders who has answers to all your questions, is the Assistant Manager. Welcome.



A hearty welcome to Judge Carol Rose, our newest prospective member, all the way from California, neatly settled in the Florida Keys. Sit with her at an Oneg and you may hear some fascinating stories.

Skip Rose celebrating Hannukah at his new home.



Joe Shabathai in Zurich



Gloria Avner just welcomed twin great grandbaby boys into her extended family and the world. Overflowing with joy and hope for the future.

Rich and Mindy Agler have been cruising down the Amazon. We're grateful for these photos of two beautiful Synagogues, one in Manaus.



Isn't it interesting, having the bimah in the center of the room?

Nes gadol that Yardenia is recuperating from her fall.



KJCC's Chai-Lights editor has a new ride! This beautiful 2 wheeler was presented to Gloria at a heartwarming birthday party; she is immeasurably grateful to all who contributed. Mobility in ones "golden years" is a great gift.



Susan Gordon and Linda Pollack lead us in Kiddush after their lovely service.

Joyce, Donna and SuperJane look very ready for challah after leading a sweet and meaningful service together



Susan Gordon celebrates grandson Rhett's 7th birthday in Tennessee

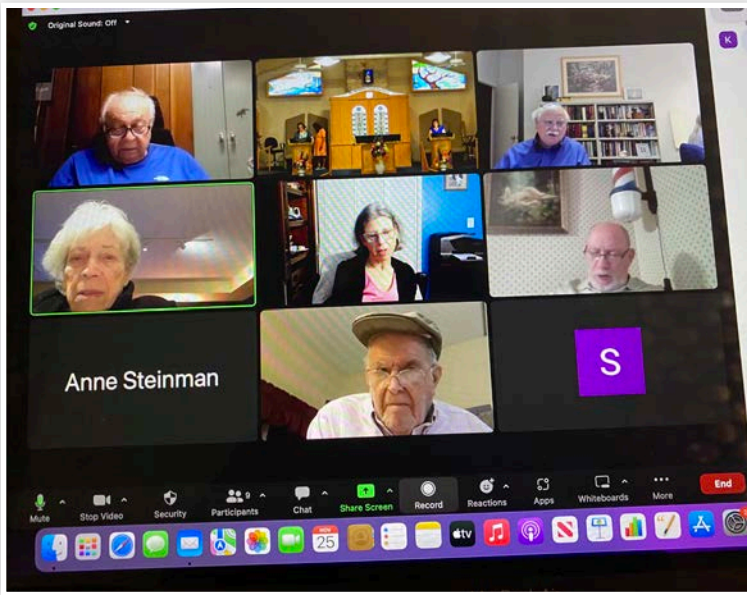


What a pleasure to welcome back the Brodies to the Keys and in-house services!



Erica is having a wonderful time in Portugal





Another Upgrade in the Ohr HaYam KJCC Sanctuary. We can now see and feel with the wonderful Zoom participants at in house services. Thank you Dave Feder, Susan Gordon and all those who made this technological advance possible. And many thanks to Art Itkin, who has stepped up and offered to prepare torah talk d'vars whenever a service leader requests the help.

Winter months are always all about welcoming back people who are gone to other places for the summer (hurricane) season. But this year we are especially glad to welcome Barney and Jacob and Medina back because we're so happy to see them live within KJCC sanctuary and Social Hall walls!



Joyce leads Kiddush after leading excellent service.



Jeff and Lin Dils look so happy and relaxed as their cruise through the Panama Canal comes slowly to an end.

Ohr HaYam/KJCC Celebrates Tu B'Shvat: The New Year for the Trees

By Gloria Avner

Happy New Year, dear mishpocha! We will soon be on Jewish celebration number two, the first one having come amid great fanfare in September, the 1st of Tishrei, Rosh HaShanah, while we were still reeling from the effects of Covid but determined to return live to the synagogue in as many ways as we could! This second of our four Jewish New Years is also called the Birthday of the Trees, the day on which the trees' value was set for purposes of just taxation in ancient times. We all lost significant trees to Irma. Some of them fell on top of our houses. One fell across my driveway and missed crushing me by a foot just last month; we won't hold it against them. We will still celebrate. Trese, more than ever, are under siege; Brutal wildfires and flash flooding are taking them down!

Anyone who has ever planted a flower or tree or vegetable from seed knows how magical the moment is when that fragile white neck of a stem pushes up through the earth. It quickly changes from bowed to upright; it defies the laws of gravity. Growth is its own law, a law of levity, an act of happy rebellion against inertness. Buds want to flower, fruit wants to ripen, seeds want to burst their shells.

Every ancient culture, people who lived close to the earth, honored trees for all they contributed to the lives of man and animal. The prayer that we read on Shabbat about taking care of the planet because there are none to repair it after us if we destroy it, rings especially potent in this time of struggle between those who would

conserve and those who would use up.

Legends about the power of trees cross cultural boundaries. Druids worshiped in oak groves. The Kalpa tree in India was prayed to for its connection with the divine. Even Alexander the Great went searching for this tree, thinking it would fulfill his wishes. Judaism, to its credit, has always paid attention to trees. Our ancestors created rules about when and how the fruits could be eaten (not until the tree's fourth year), and prohibited tree destruction even in time of war when in enemy territory. We take the longer view. We've had 5777 years to practice and observe the effects of our actions.

So now, in 5783, let's take some time to celebrate our slow growing fellow creatures, so like us in structure but so much larger, their trunks analogous to our bodies, their roots our legs, their branches our arms, their fruits our head. Let's thank the trees for all their gifts to us, of oxygen and



shade, medicine and food, paper goods and lumber, amber and frankincense. No one has said it better or more simply than Shel Silverstein in his moving story, "The Giving Tree." It is worth re-reading and looking at the simple, lovingly rendered drawings. How unselfishly that tree provided for toddler, boy, young man, adult, and, finally, the elder!

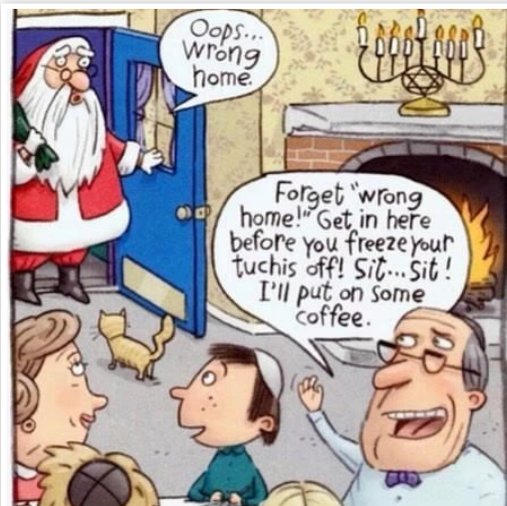
We won't be celebrating with our customary sit-down family metaphysical Tu Bish'vat seder this year, the ceremony invented by the mystics of Ts'fat in the 16th century (Tu refers to the 15th day of the month of Sh'vat, adding the numeric values of the Hebrew letters). We won't be drinking four cups of wine, from white to blush to rose to red, mimicking the seasons of growth, or blessing and ongoing miracle of our Synagogue's relatively unblemished survival, our prayers will seem more meaningful than ever, as will our understanding of the metaphor comparing Torah as Tree. "It will be as a tree of life to those who hold tight to it and everyone who upholds it is happy. Its ways are pleasantness and all its paths are peace (proverbs 3:17-18). Etz Chaim Hi. Jews around the world chant



this verse in every Shabbat morning Torah service. Our voices soar.

Jane Friedman, our super gardener extraordinaire will make sure we plant a meaningful fruit tree in our KJCC "orchard" in February, and we will celebrate with a special oneg in the social hall: It may take years, but the younger among us will reap the fruit of our labors, just as we reap the benefits of those who came before us. ◇

**I heard Netflix and
Yahoo are merging .
They're moving their
headquarters to
Jerusalem and calling
it Net 'n' Yahoo.**





KJCC Revives Chanukah Dinner Parties

The parking lot was impressive. So many cars, it felt like old times. And the inside was lovely. Loni Padden gives a great party. Donna Bolton gives great support. The women in and out of the kitchen worked tirelessly. And the glow on people's faces told how happy we all were to be celebrating together again and seeing both old and new.



Desserts at our Hanukkah party.



Thanks so much, indomitable relaxed party giver Loni Padden.



Keith Peckman's family, celebrating Chanukah with both grandmothers. We hope Joyce is staying warm.



Rabbi Zucker and his young family had a good turnout at Cheeca Lodge for an Upper Keys Chanukah lighting. Lovely. Their happy faces shine with even more light.





So good to have Linda Perloff back among us. We were so happy she brought the newlyweds with her, her son Eric Freundlich and his bride. Sweet. We have missed her (and her famous cucumber salad as well as those amazing homemade rugelchs).



Randy Gross leads Kiddush with David Padden after an excellent service with mini dvars about Chanukah throughout.



Linda Pollack, sponsor of the Chanukah dinner, was happily accompanied by her nephew, Evan.

Stella and Mary did an excellent job from the kitchen. Many thanks from Sisterhood and all who attended for your hard work. and good humor.

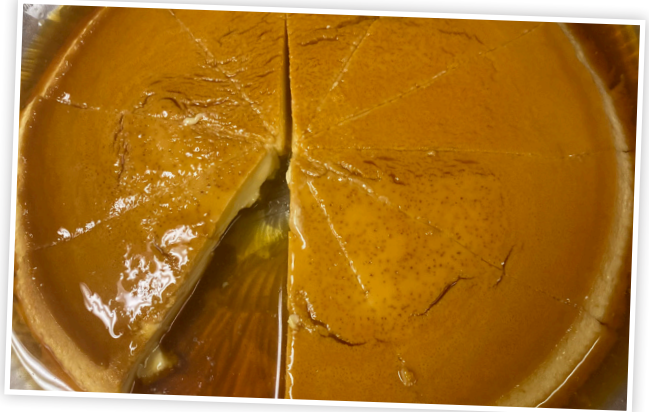


Humorous and true.





This sumptuous display of Chanukah gifts, beautifully put together by Susan Gordon, filled a lot of people's needs and wants these last few weeks. By the end of our Chanukah party, the tables were looking appropriately sparse. Thank you, Susan, And your elf/helper Donna.



Delicious pretty flan by master Baker Maria.



Medina Roy and Linda Perloff light their candles.



David Padden lights his six candles while a dear friend looks on.





The girls in blue (all consummate cooks and bakers) must have gotten a dress code memo that escaped the rest of us. Thanks for all your hard work preparing for this party, Donna Bolton and Jane Friedman. And thank you Luz for your gorgeous cake and bringing Rachel, our next generation.



It's been a long time since we've seen you. Welcome back MaryLee Singer.



New friends, Molly and Jonathon, here for the winter. Looking forward to seeing them again at other events!



Good to see the Rzepkas back among us. Harry sings the blessings with fervor. And look at this gorgeous Chanukiah from Israel.





Erica and her family celebrate Chanukah while exploring food and nightlife in Portugal.



Donna's creative veggieturkey





Jonah Klein Gross joins us despite a recent injury, supporting his mom, Randy, who led an excellent service. We so appreciate the participation of our younger generation way beyond their Bar and Bat Mitzvah year. Thanks for coming Oshi and Jonah and Rachel Levine.



Skip Rose's family celebrating Chanukah.



Lynn and Jeff Dils celebrating a most meaningful holiday season with family.



December 2022 - Tevet 5783
Invitation to the Inner Realm

by Lucinda Kurts, M.A.

Nine candles flicker into darkness
Finale of the Festival of Lights
Eight days, thirty-six lights shining a path forward.
Now, an invitation to the inner realm
In this new moon of Tevet.

Mysteriously sliding through the silent portal,
Is there light to guide us
through these interior spaces?
Or is there an ancient route we must discover
Marked by ancestors seeking truth in the darkest night.

Penetrating encrusted spirals of emotion
I uncover old wounds
that flare into unexpected conflagrations
Revealing old traumas
Secrets that exile me into dangerous dead ends
Until I embrace myself with love
Daring to break through the doubts
And find hope.

Releasing anger that destroys,
I refuse the red path of fire
And slide cool water down my throat
to purify and transform the darkness with the light.
Seeing the God spark in each soul
I choose compassion for our longing, our pain.

Barely lit by the sliver of the new Tevet moon,
I uncurl and unfurl
Breathe in and breathe out
Release the tight holding, the unseen specter of fear
Stretch to my fullest length
And claim my birthright
Of wonder at this beauty before me.

Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year.



EYE ON THE ARTS

There is a lot going on here during winter besides fishing, so we have added a piece to the Weekly Message called “And More” that lets us know what’s happening in the community. If you know of an upcoming event, whether an art exhibit or performance send a note to President@KeysJewish-Center.com and we will try to let everyone know. We will not publicize Friday night events unless they take place at KJCC! Here are a few ongoing experiences you might enjoy:

First Friday Concerts at Key Largo Library

From 6–7 p.m. the first Friday of each month, these free concerts end early enough for you to go straight to 7:30 p.m. Shabbat services. Concerts are outside if weather permits, or in the Community Room. January 6th – Grant Livingston tells Florida stories in song, inviting laughter and sing-along. February 3rd – The Kennedys are a New York based duo that mixes 60’s style pop-rock with Americana. March 3 – Reckless Saints are an energetic duo whose self-named CD made the top 50 on roots Music Reports. Their music embodies acoustic folk, blues and hints of bluegrass.

Thursday Night Jam at the American Legion

From 6 – 10 p.m. every Thursday under the stars, this jam features local bands and guest performers. The music varies from blues to pop to country. Dog and dance friendly, the vibe is very laid back. There is no admission charge, but it is appropriate to tip the band. Drinks are available for purchase.

Florida Keys Concert Association

FLKCA has been around for over 40 years, bringing high quality classical and jazz music to Marathon and the Upper Keys. The series presents six concerts during January and February – Mondays at Marathon HS and Tuesdays at Coral Shores Performing Arts Center. The series costs \$110, with individual concerts costing \$30–\$45. Here is this year’s series: January 16 & 17 – Glenn Miller Orchestra; January 23 & 24– Fred Moyer Jazz Trio.; January 30 & 31 – Escher String Quartet; February 13 & 14 – Rising Star pianist Derek Wang; February 20 & 26 – Spanish Brass; February 27 & 28– Violinist William Hagen. Children are admitted free with paying adult. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to Floridakeysconcerts.com

Art Under the Oaks

Saturday, January 14 from 9–4 at San Pedro Catholic Church, MM 89.5. This is a great place to wander among the trees, listen to music, sample baked goods and admire the wares of vendors selling all kinds of lovely things from paintings to jewelry, pottery, plants and more. You’ll see lots of friends there including Gloria at the “Our Place in Paradise” booth, which will also feature work by Jan Hartz.

Garden Walk

Visit the Francis Tracy Garden Center at MM94 on Saturday February 18th for home-made goodies and plant sales, then follow the map to explore spectacular private gardens from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. In honor of its 70th year, the Garden club has reduced the price for the map and admission to the gardens to \$25. For information and tickets go to Gardenclubupperkeys.org.

History of Diving Museum – Dive Into Art: Edge of the Sea

January– April 2023, This limited-time exhibit is a collaboration with the Art Guild of the Purple Isles and eleven schools in the Keys. It is a celebration of the plants and animals that thrive where land meets the sea. Enjoy artist interpretations of mangroves, tidal zones, and their wildlife. Go to Divingmuseum.org to learn more about this wonderful, unique attraction located at MM85. Open from 10–5 every day with many interesting interactive exhibits.◇



JEWISH GREECE

by Joyce Peckman

When I was about 8 years old, I had my first part as an actress in a play. It was for Hannukah, and I had the bit part of a little Hebrew girl. I still remember my one line, called out as I ran onto the stage; "Father, Father, the Greeks are coming!" Recently, when Yardena Kamely and I traveled as participants in the Melton School trip to Greece, I learned that the history is much more nuanced than presented in Hebrew School.

Greek/Roman/Jewish history goes back to the second temple period. There were Jewish traders and Jewish slaves, some of whom became free men, living in Greece. There they encountered Greco-Roman arts, natural sciences and architecture. The Maccabees fought not only against the soldiers of Antiochus, but against those Jews who embraced Greek culture. During and after the second temple era, Greek style mosaics and architecture beautified much of the land of Israel. In Athens the Agora, or public

market/gathering place for politicians, tradespeople and philosophers like Socrates and Aristotle, has been rebuilt. The Agora in the old city of Jerusalem, built by the Romans near the

Roman Agora in Athens



2nd Temple, was the exact duplicate of the one in Athens. (Some of us have walked in its excavated remains.)

During the Second Temple Era, Saul of Tarsus, now known as St. Paul, went to preach to the established Jewish communities of Greece. Among them were the large and prosperous northern port city of Thessalonica, the smaller port of Volos and Ioannina, on a lake. The Jews who lived in those cities were called Romaniote because they had been there since Roman times and spoke the same language as their neighbors. Romaniote Jews survive today in communities in New York City and Jerusalem, with tiny communities in Greece.

At the time of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Portugal, Greece was under the control of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which welcomed them, knowing they were educated and industrious. The Ottomans refused to allow Western style clothing, or elaborate places of worship for non-Muslims, but the Jews prospered under their rule. For hundreds of years, half of the residents of Thessalonica spoke Ladino. They overwhelmed the Romaniote Jews in numbers and education.

Greece suffered during the depression, and many Jews left for Palestine and the



Thousand year old Roman and Ottoman walls of Thessalonica



Joyce & Yardenia in Mountain village outside of Volos

Jews joined the partisans fighting in the nearby mountains, and the people of the mountain villages hid their families. They could blend in because they all spoke the same language. Victor's uncle joined the partisans and died falling on a grenade, saving seven comrades.

The modern story of Thessalonica, the "New Jerusalem" of Greece, is tragic. First came the economic collapse after WW1. Then a fire in 1917 destroyed much of the

United States. Most of those who remained were killed by the Nazis. The exceptions were the Romaniote Jews of Volos and Ioannina. We went there to hear their stories. In Volos we spoke to Viktor Sakis. He said that many of the

Jewish community. The city took the opportunity to create a modern commercial boulevard, displacing the Ladino speaking inhabitants. Many left for Palestine or elsewhere. A terrible fate awaited

those who remained. Their leaders did not believe that the people were in danger. In the spring of 1943, fifty thousand Jews were deported by train to Auschwitz Birkenau.

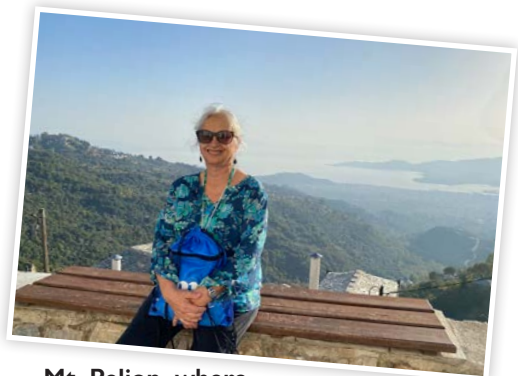
When WW2 ended, Greece erupted into a civil war. Many of the surviving Jews left for Israel and the US. Now the synagogues are struggling, surviving with help from Israelis and lay leaders. Inter-marriage and emigration take a large toll of the younger people. There is a summer camp and other organizations that try to bring young Jews together from around the country. The future of Jewish Greece, in existence for 2000 years, remains unknown.◇



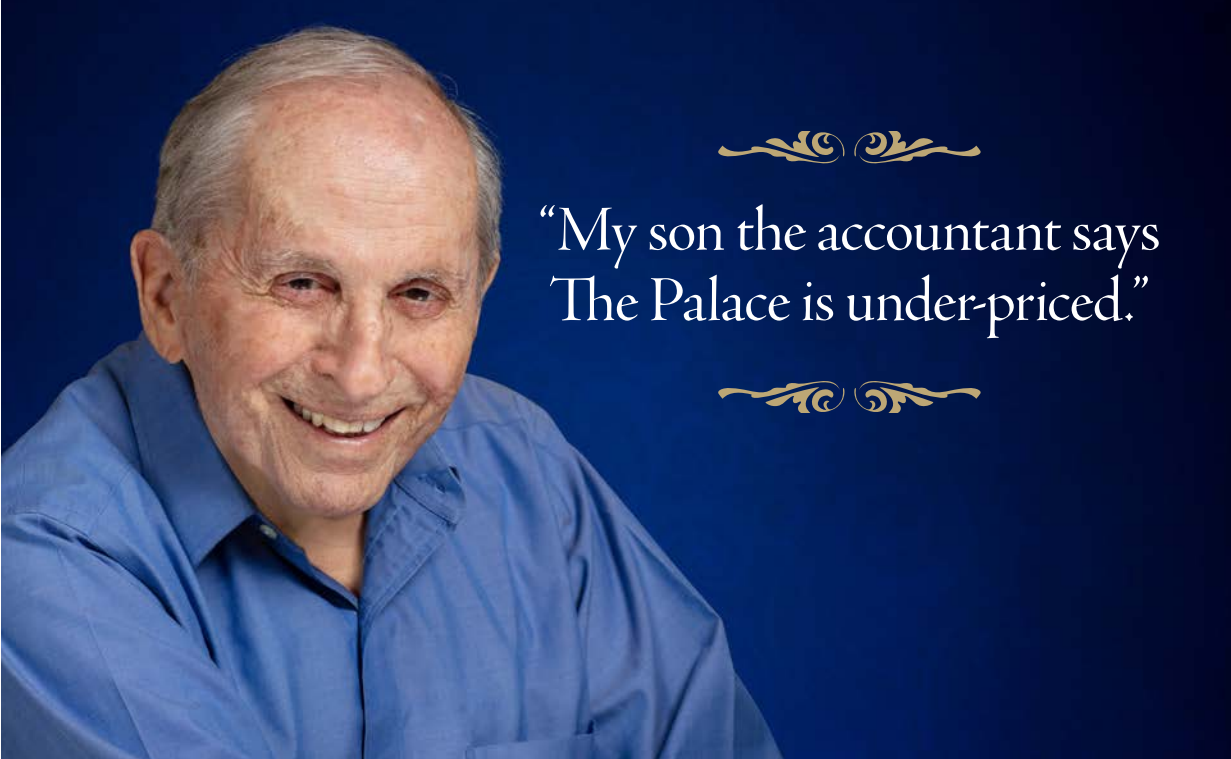
Ottoman era clothing at Jewish Museum in Athens



Viktor Sakis speaking in the synagogue in Volos



Mt. Pelion, where partisans and Jews hid



“My son the accountant says
The Palace is under-priced.”

“It should cost you more,” he says. “They are giving you way too much for your money.”

I say, who cares? I love that I have a great bunch of caring people, who give me all the help I need. That I don't have all the worries of living on my own. And that I am living in a very beautiful place that makes every day feel like first class.

Assisted living at The Palace is really more like “complete” living. Everything I need is here and life is full. Maybe it should cost more. But if you look around today, The Palace is probably the choice everyone will love... especially your accountant.

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Happy
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The image features the text "Happy New Year 2023" written in a dark blue, elegant cursive script. The words are arranged vertically, with "Happy" at the top, "New" in the middle, "Year" below it, and "2023" at the bottom. The text is surrounded by a festive pattern of dark blue five-pointed stars and small grey dots. The overall design is clean and celebratory.