

# Chai~Lights



**December 2012**

**17 Kislev - 18 Tevet 5773**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

# December 2012

# 17 Kislev- 18 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</div>						1  Havdalah
2 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	3	4	5	6	7 Medina Roy  <i>Jan &amp; Steve Hartz</i> <i>Lauren &amp; Stuart Sax</i>	8 Rabbi Agler First Night Service
9 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	10	11	12	13	14 Sunday School  <i>Linda &amp; Joel Pollack</i> Chanukah Dinner and Play	15
16  Last Night Of Chanukah	17	18	19	20	21 Georgia Landau & Dave Mont  <i>Carol &amp; Steve Steinbock</i>	22  Chai- Yaking
23	24	25	26	27	28 Mark Lieberman & Erica Lieberman-Garret <i>Amelia &amp; Steve Kasinof</i> <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett</i>	29 Marc Lieberman's Bar Mitzvah  Rabbi Agler
30 Brunch and Learn	31					

## 2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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Stuart Sax

**Executive Vice President**  
Bernie Ginsberg

**Vice Presidents**  
Gloria Avner – Marc Bloom – Susan Gordon

**Treasurer**  
Linda Pollack

**Recording Secretary**  
Beth Hayden

**Financial Secretary**  
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**Corresponding Secretary**  
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Dave Mont – Medina Roy  
Gene Silverman – Sam Vinicur

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Steve Steinbock  
Alan Beth

**Newsletter**  
Lisa Richardson Rutherford

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

## President's Message Stuart Sax



Here we are facing the end of another year. I don't know about you, but it seems that the time between January and December seems to shrink a bit more each year. Do you remember when the whole world was faced with the challenge of going from 1999 to 2000? That was twelve years ago but seems like only last year. And the tiny little hand of my grandson that I touched on the day he was born, is almost three now and throwing a ball to his "Pop".

These recollections are important because they teach us that while it is comforting to remember the past we must recognize the present as the foundation for the future. The old phrase, "You can never go back" is true. We can revisit old places and remember old times, but they are never really the same as when we viewed them through younger eyes. We hope that our experiences become the tools we use to develop our lives and careers.

Here at the KJCC, it is the collective experiences of a great deal of people that makes this congregation unique. A community of Jews, from other communities, that share their knowledge to make things happen from the bima to the social hall. It is not unusual for our members to reflect on how things were done at their previous

synagogues. Some respond with a nod when they recall a similar occurrence and others respond at the thought of a new idea presented.

Time is often a factor that prevents some of our members from being more involved. The KJCC is not asking you for forty hours a week. If you can give a couple of hours a month to attend a Shabbat service led by a member who has devoted the time to prepare a meaningful service, then you have done your part. If you devote two hours once a month to share a Saturday morning Torah experience with Rabbi Agler, you will be the better for it. If you can volunteer one hour once a month to assist our Sisterhood in preparations for our Shabbat onegs, you will be doing a mitzvah.

As we approach the New Year, please resolve to add your synagogue to your priority list. Please join your mishpocha in making the beautiful tree that we know as our KJCC continue to flourish and grow. And, hey, if you'd rather take out your checkbook and make a financial donation to make all of the above continue to happen, that also works!

# Nosh

## Thank You Barbara Knowles...

and Barbara Knowles Photography for the photos generously submitted to Chai-Lights for the November issue, especially those used in the remembrance of Jim Boruszak. Your photo credit was overlooked, but your contribution was not. Thank you.

## And Thank You David Gitin

You supply so many photos of so many of the KJCC events, and you don't always get recognized. But you are appreciated, as are your photos. Thanks!

## Congratulations to KJCC member

and Chai -Lights advertiser Stuart Grossman on being selected to the Florida's Best Lawyers 2013 Edition. This prestigious honor is extended to a select group of law firms each year. The firm of Grossman Roth, with five Florida locations, is celebrating its twenty-fifth year of service to its clients and the community.

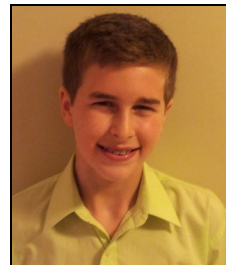
## Brunch and Learn

Sunday, December 30th at 11 a.m. in the Social Hall, the Adult Education Committee will conduct a very special "Brunch & Learn" presentation with Rabbi Stephan Wylen, who is a close friend and colleague of Rabbi Agler. The topic of discussion will be "The Jews In The Time Of Christ." A light brunch will be served and everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Gloria for additional information.

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to  
The Schocket Family  
on the death of  
Bradley Schocket*

## Mazel Tov!

The congregation is invited to attend the Bar Mitzvah of Mark Lieberman, nephew of Erica Lieberman-Garrett, on Saturday December 29th, 2012, at 10 a.m. Please join in celebrating this simcha with the entire Lieberman family from Toronto as Mark is called to the Torah. Kiddish following.



## Anniversaries

	Years
5th	Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein.....23
8th	<b>Lawrence &amp; Pearl Jacobs.....59</b>
11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner.....47
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....7
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen.....31
17th	Roger & Jessica Hernstadt.....6
17th	Larry & Stephanie Gilderman.....46
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau.....1

## BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Audrey Bloom**  
by Muriel & Goerge Swartz

## Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of  
**Claire Lempel**  
6/19/1930 – 12/9/2008  
Loving Wife, Mother & Grandmother  
*Linda Lempel Pincus and Family*



## December Birthdays

1st.....	Bob Freundlich
1st.....	Paul Hudson
1st.....	Rachel Levine
2nd.....	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd.....	Marshall A. Field
3rd.....	Jackie LePree
3rd.....	Rick McNew
4th.....	Jan Hartz
4th.....	Jogi Yeager
4th.....	Judith Klein
5th.....	Joseph Beth
5th.....	Stuart Sax
6th.....	Gerald Hirsch
6th.....	Haley Borisoff
6th.....	Kevin Gershowitz
6th.....	Leslie Boruszak
6th.....	Neal A. Jacobson
7th.....	Franklin Rose
9th.....	George Swartz
10th.....	Harvey Robins
10th.....	Susan Greenbaum
11th.....	Sara Rose Friedman
12th.....	Lilian Forbes
13th.....	Robin Margulies Juenger
13th.....	Sarah Boruszak
13th.....	Susan Widrich
15th.....	Stephan Ban
16th.....	Diana Lal
16th.....	Samuel Klimpl
17th.....	Bruce Forman
17th.....	Jeffrey Schocket
18th.....	Emelyn Anne Juenger
18th.....	Jerome Horowitz
18th.....	Lily Chen
19th.....	Aaron Stuart
19th.....	David Gitin
20th.....	Alan Schulberg
20th.....	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th.....	Teresa Kwalick
21st.....	Roberta McNew
22nd.....	Laura Molly Friedman
22nd.....	Lisa Miller
23rd.....	Roger Hernstadt

## December Birthdays Continued

25th.....	Lori Kay
26th.....	Steven Smith
27th.....	Steve Kasinof
28th.....	Elaine Schulberg
28th.....	Emily Sherman
28th.....	Ira Krieger
28th.....	Michael Klimpl
29th.....	Joan Stark
30th.....	Ellen Bloom
31st.....	Elliot S. Schenker
31st.....	Michele Riley

### Celebration of Life for Dr. Murray Cooper

On Sunday, December 23rd there will be a Celebration of Life for Dr. Murray Cooper. The service will be at 3p.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in the Social Hall with Claire Cooper and her family. The entire KJCC congregation is invited to attend.

### Holiday Open House Party

Please stop by for an open house celebration on Thursday December 6th, 2012 from 4 - 7 p.m. at Garrett Chiropractic and Wellness Center, MM 90 in Tavernier. See you there!

- Erica

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

**Jim Boruszak**

by Mary Lee Singer  
9/23/2012

### Yartzeit Plaque

Reserved

For

Ellen L. Colman

### **Oneg Sponsors for December 2012**

*December 7th* - Jan and Steve Hartz in celebration of Jan's birthday. Lauren and Stuart Sax in honor of Stuart's birthday.

*December 14th* - Linda and Joel Pollack..Happy Chanukah!

*December 21st* - Carol and Steve Steinbock...Wishing All A Happy Healthy 2013.

*December 28th* - Amelia and Steve Kasinof to celebrate Steve's birthday. Erica Lieberman-Garrett to celebrate Mark Lieberman's bar mitzvah.

### **Memorial Garden Brick**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JIM BORUSZAK  
WHOSE LOVE OF  
& DEDICATION TO THE  
KJCC HELPED TO MAKE  
IT WHAT IT IS TODAY  
ALAN, CANDY & JOE  
STEVE & CAROL

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

**David Gulkis**

by *Mary Lee Singer*  
9/22/2012

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

**Jim Boruszak**

September 23, 2012  
by *Maryon Gould*

### **We Are Going To Israel!**

June 11th - 23rd of 2013. We will be lead by the very best tour guide possible, our very own Rabbi Richard Agler.

Dave Mont is happy to report that we have ten deposits with ArzaWorld and ten to go to meet our planned group of twenty participants. Please contact Dave Mont if you are planning to go or have any questions. Call 305- 393-9883 or email to [moogoodave@yahoo.com](mailto:moogoodave@yahoo.com).

### **Hurricane Sandy Relief**

As many of our members have their Jewish roots in New York and New Jersey they have been especially moved to make a donation for Hurricane Sandy relief that will benefit Jewish Institutions as well as to all those suffering in this area. We have contacted the Miami UJA and they have a special fund for this purpose with 100% of the funds going to Sandy victims and nothing withheld locally. Sign on to the internet at [www.jewishmiami.org](http://www.jewishmiami.org), then press donation and enter the donation amount. In the "comment" box type "Hurricane Sandy Fund."

### **Contact Us**

You can send comments, story ideas, photos Nosh items and announcements and any other information for Chai-Lights to: Chai-Lights - KJCC P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier FL 33070 or to [chailights@keysjewishcenter.org](mailto:chailights@keysjewishcenter.org).

### **TREE OF LIFE**

**Honoring Bradley Schocket**

October 2012

*Joel and Linda Pollack*

## Learning With the Rabbis--Save These Dates

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, *Havdalah* Service and talk.

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, Rabbi Agler, *Shabbat* morning service and Torah discussion.

December 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 1:00, Brunch and Learn, Rabbi Stephen Wylen: *"Jews and Judaism in the time of Christ"*

If you've never been part of a Saturday morning service and discussion with Rabbi Agler or heard the talks and Shofar blowing of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, plan now to attend the above events. These men make our Torah come alive. Rabbi Wylen is an author and leading expert in his field. A friend of Rabbi Agler, he has volunteered to share his learning with us and we are grateful.

## The Unveiling for Talia Faith Agler, z"l

Talia's unveiling will take place on Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 11 a.m. Temple Beth El Memorial Gardens 4900 Griffin Road, Davie, FL. You and your family are invited. Collation will follow immediately after the service at: Old Davie School Historical Museum 6650 Griffin Rd, Davie, FL.

So that we might plan appropriately, kindly reply to Tovah at [tovagler@gmail.com](mailto:tovagler@gmail.com) before December 26th and let us know how many we can expect to attend.

We would also be honored if you brought a story about Tali to share--for smiles, laughter or tears.

If you cannot attend and wish to send a story along, we would be grateful to receive that too.

With love,

Rich, Mindy, Jesse, Tovah and Sarah

## Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

**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 Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

**ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR:** To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

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

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

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

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

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

# A Casualty of the Storm

*KJCC's Joyce Peckman sends us a first-hand account of the storm and what was lost.*

*Joyce Peckman*

As news of the oncoming hurricane was broadcast, I made the decision to weather the storm with my step-mom, in Valley Stream, Long Island. The home where I grew up had been my family's evacuation destination twice during the 22 years that we lived in Long Beach. Valley Stream was in the middle of Long Island, north of any evacuation zones. Long Beach was a lovely, lively city on a barrier island just east of the New York City limits.

As the winds rose, I was glad I had chosen to be with her. When the cable went out, taking with it her phone, TV and internet, I still had my laptop computer and Blackberry. We looked at pictures, played Scrabble and called friends. Then at 8 p.m., at the height of the storm, sudden darkness. We went to bed early, arose with the dawn and made breakfast on the gas stove. With no TV, and cell towers down, we relied on an ancient transistor radio to follow what was happening around us. Texting was our means of communication, it was



**Residents of Long Beach, a city of about 33,000 on Long Island's southern barrier islands, are dealing with massive damage from Hurricane Sandy and the aftermath.**

a life-line to family.

The next night began early when at 4 p.m. the light began to fade. The oil burner would not work without electricity, and as the temperature outside dropped to 45 degrees, it quickly got cold in the dark house. The next morning, I received a text that my kids in New Jersey had gotten

their electricity back. We packed up and left for Jersey.

There, on their large screen TV, we saw what had happened to our beloved Long Beach, NY. The block we had lived on, so close to the bay, was destroyed. Fire had taken seven homes nearby. In some places the storm surge reached 15 feet. Friends lost their homes and cars. But no one died. We began to get the details from my former shul. We heard how they came together to clean out the lower level. The oil burners were out. The sanctuary and social hall were OK. Synagogues were working together to communi-

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***Then I asked  
someone:  
What about  
our torah?***

---

cate with the National Guard and FEMA,. They were providing meals and information. People stayed to clean out and protect the property and to meet

with insurance adjusters and FEMA workers. Volunteers poured in, bringing clothing and helping to clean homes. A doctor and an IT expert came from out of town to volunteer hours of help. A group of mechanics flew in from Israel to assist. Website bulletin boards went up with pleas of "cars desperately needed," or "who has a home or room to rent? "

The local yeshiva was set up to provide information, shelter, food, clothing, emergency funds and a working laundry for those who needed it. All of the congregations joined for Shabbat services, and on Sunday arranged a community dinner followed by a concert. Water is running, and people are slowly getting back their electricity. They are exhausted and frustrated, but working together.

Then I asked someone: What about our torah? About 15 years ago my husband and his brother had rescued a small old torah from the back of an antique store in Brooklyn. It had been brought from Russia, and bore the marks of repair. The scribe they brought it to had said it was well over 100 years old, and showed how some parchments were younger than others, with a slightly different handwriting. Probably it had been damaged during a pogrom, and repaired in that small Russian town. We had it restored, bought a new mantle, and dedicated it in memory of their father. It was carried, dancing, through the streets to the boardwalk and back to the temple, where the other torahs, cradled in people's arms, greeted it at the door. In recent years it was kept in the small

Beit Midrash on the ground floor, used during week-day prayers and sometimes brought to the home of mourners. On Simchat Torah it went upstairs to the main sanctuary, where my brother-in law proudly carried it around the aisles. What about our torah?

No one expected the storm flooding to be more than a foot or two. In all of the storm preparations, no one worried about the small ark in the beit midrash. The little torah had survived pogroms and a trip to a new land. It could not survive the fury of an angry ocean. Parchment and ink cannot be repaired from salt water inundation. No one died in Long Beach, NY. But that torah, and four others, were casualties. How do I mourn?

---

*As many of our members, like Joyce , have roots in New York and New Jersey we have contacted the Miami UJA to find out how we can help with the Hurricane Sandy relief and recovery. They have a special fund for this purpose with 100% of the funds going to Sandy victims and nothing withheld locally. To donate, sign on to the internet at [www.jewishmiami.org](http://www.jewishmiami.org), then press donation and enter the amount you wish to donate. Make sure that in the "comment" box you type "Hurricane Sandy Fund."*

# Sisterhood's Count Your Blessings Fundraiser

As we begin the New Year, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, the KJCC Sisterhood wants to recognize and appreciate all the blessings in our lives, both big and small. Please support our "Count Your Blessings" fundraiser by focusing on gratitude and help our Sisterhood projects.



Please check the blessings listed and make a donation for each. You are welcome to compose your own personal blessings by adding them below.

Total number of blessings \_\_\_\_\_

@ \$2.00 per blessing     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return by  
December 31st to:  
KJCC Sisterhood  
PO Box 116  
Tavernier, FL 33070

- \_\_\_\_\_ Today my family is healthy and well.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My life is abundant and prosperous.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My friends support and love me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have a loving and supportive partner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My grandchildren bring me joy and love.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Today I have reached out to others in need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I love my job and the rewards it brings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Today I received great news.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am blessed to live in the Florida Keys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Today I took care of my body and exercised.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am not alone.

My own blessings \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, a  
Fundraiser you do  
not have to attend!**







## Sisterhood Lauren Sax



**R**eady, set, go!!! That is how I feel after a summer and fall of planning meetings. Someone asked me why I haven't made Sisterhood announcements lately. My husband would disagree with me on this but I actually have had nothing worthwhile to report. I feel that when I get up in front of an audience I should have something meaningful to say. And to announce every Friday night that we are in the planning mode, just doesn't get it in my mind. So I am happy to be able to say that after months of meetings, emails and countless phone calls, it is all coming together. We are entering that busy time of the year. Not only do we get to see our snowbird friends and hear all about their summers, but we finally get to see the fruits of our labors.

So lets get going:  
Our newest Blessings Fundraiser has generated much interest. As we approach the end of the calendar year, let us ponder what we are thankful for. If you haven't already done so, let us know your thoughts and be part of this unusual fundraiser while raising funds for your KJCC. Look for the Blessings page, fill it out and mail it in so we can count you in.

By now the gift shop should be looking very festive. Susan and Roberta McNew (we are thrilled to have you back, Roberta!) have been busy reorganizing and displaying Chanukah merchandise. Over the summer Susan was fortunate to find a few Judaica companies with small minimums which have allowed us to shop wholesale. In this way we can pass the savings on to you as well. Take a peek and see the fruits of our labors.

Erica is waiting for cooks and bakers to

sign up for the Chanukah Pot Luck. It is happening Saturday, December 14 that 6 p.m.

Our Chanukah Dinner is always lots of fun and the best part is there is no charge for members thanks to a generous donation by Linda and Joel Pollack. Any and all help is most appreciated so please contact Erica A.S.A.P.

### SISTERHOOD OFFICERS FOR 2013-2014

President	Barbara Knowles
Treasurer	Georgia Landau
Vice President	Jane Friedman
Recording Secretary	Roberta McNew

We have also been plugging away on Sisterhood's Major Fundraiser. I hope you will notice the date change. It has been moved to Saturday, January 19th at 6 p.m. at the KJCC. We have decided to bring back our wildly popular Authentic Deli Nite. Our great, great food will still be the main event along

with the ever popular schnapps and we can't forget Bingo. New this year is a very unusual auction involving temple congregants. You won't want to miss this! The full page ad in this months Chai -Lights says it all and like the previous one, it should be a sell out so R.S.V.P A.S.A.P.

Lastly, one other big happening was choosing a new slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year. Huge thank-yous go to a congenial yet effective group of women who made up our nominating committee. They are: Susan Gordon, Linda Pollack and Carol Steinbock. The slate was brought to our November meeting where it passed unanimously. Installation will be Sunday, January 6.th This is a fabulous slate and I know everyone at the KJCC will support them in the coming months. Now I have something to say! ◇

# KJCC SISTERHOOD

## 2nd AUTHENTIC DELI NITE

Saturday, January 19, 2013

6:00 pm

*Sadie, Did you hear?  
They're having  
Bingo!!*



- ✧ Really Great Food ✧
- ✧ Huge 50/50 Raffle ✧
- ✧ Deliciously Great Food ✧
- ✧ High Stakes Bingo (you may win a pickle-:)) ✧
- ✧ Unbelievably Great Food ✧
- ✧ Unique LIVE Auction ✧
- ✧ Did We Mention the FOOD!!

*Expect the  
Unexpected --*

*Schmoozing,  
Schnapps &  
Schtick!!*

Reserve Your Spot  
Contact Georgia  
(305) 393-9885  
moogoomom@gmail.com  
or  
Mail check to:  
KJCC Sisterhood  
PO Box 116  
Tavernier, FL, 33070



### SISTERHOOD MAJOR FUNDRAISER

\$25 Early Bird Member-only donation (before January 11)

\$30 donation after January 11 (Members and Nonmembers)

Note: Evening limited to the first 80 reservations

!!! Back by Popular Demand !!!



# 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.*

## *Bookplates*

Gould, Maryon  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Swartz, George & Muriel

## *In Memory of*

Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
David Gulkis  
Audrey Bloom

## *Scholarship Fund*

Sax, Stuart & Lauren  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

## *In Honor of*

Rabbi Richard Agler  
Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

## *Scholarship Fund*

Wohl, Milton & Joan

## *In Memory of*

Audrey Bloom

## *Bookplates*

Avner, Gloria Toby & David Goldfinger's anniversary  
Begam, Delores please pray for us  
Hirsch, Gerald  
Present, Marjorie  
Rutkin, Linda  
Rutkin, Linda

## *In Honor of*

Linda Pollack  
Rene Rose

## *Sisterhood Count Your Blessings*

Pollack, Joel & Linda  
Rose, Skip & Rene  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol  
Line, Jonathan & Arlene

## *Sisterhood General Fund*

Line, Jonathan & Arlene

## *In Memory of*

Jim Boruszak

## *General Fund*

Avner, Gloria  
Boruszak, Joan  
Collier, Shelby & Randie  
Conklin, Rita & Wes  
Coral Harbor Condo Assoc.  
DeLuca, Anthony & Marie  
Goodman, Jamie & Laura  
May, Robert & Karen  
McNew, Rick & Roberta  
Norris, Camille  
Pollack, Joel & Linda  
Pollack, Joel & Linda  
Pollack, Joel & Linda  
Present, Marjorie  
Rellin, Rosalie  
Sachs, Joseph & Susan  
Sachs, Joseph & Susan  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine  
Shutan, Alvina

## *In Memory of*

Jim Boruszak  
Bradley Schocket  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Arnold Greenberg  
Milton Rothman  
Audrey Bloom  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak  
David Gulkis  
Jim Boruszak  
Jim Boruszak

## *Sisterhood Oneg Fund*

Peckman, Joyce  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol  
Gitin, David  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara

## *Tree of Life*

Pollack, Joel & Linda

## *In Memory of*

Bradley Schocket

## *Yahrzeits*

Avner, Gloria  
Dorf, Barry & Natalie  
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila  
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila  
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila  
Tallent, Lillian  
Temkin, Robert

## *Perren Gerber*

Jack Dorf  
Rose T. Steinberg  
Joel S. Cohen  
Saunders G. Cohen  
Samuel Tallent  
Kenny Temkin

## *Yahrzeit Plaques*

Boruszak, Joan  
Coltman, Barney

## *Jim Boruszak*

Reserved

## *Meditation Garden*

Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake  
Rose, Skip & Rene  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

## *In Memory of*

brick - Jim Boruszak  
Bradley Schocket  
Jim Boruszak  
Bradley Schocket  
Audrey Bloom  
brick - Jim Boruszak

## *Yizkor Book*

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila



## Israel Series Part III: TVERYA – TIBERIAS

**T**verya, Tiberias, is the old historically important city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee (in Hebrew called the Kinneret), in the Lower Galilee. Established in 20 C.E., it was named in honor of the emperor Tiberius. Tiberias is Israel's lowest city at 200 meters below sea level. It is famous for its 17 natural mineral hot springs and has been attracting visitors for more than 2000 years. They came

from every part of the ancient world, and in modern times this is one of the favorite places of the Israelis because of

the fresh water of the Kinneret and the hot springs.

Tiberias played an important role in Jewish history from the middle of the 2nd century C.E. to the 16th century, when it had been considered one of Judaism's Four Holy Cities. In Jewish tradition these are the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed and, later, Tiberias, the four main centers of Jewish life after the Ottoman conquest of Palestine. Jerusalem has been the holiest city in Judaism and the spiritual center of the Jewish people since the 10th century B.C. where the Holy Temple stood on Har Moriah (the Temple Mount). Hebron is the second holiest city to Jews. It is

the burial place of the Jewish patriarchs: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca and Jacob and Leah (Me'arat Ha'machpelah). Safed (Tz'fat) came to be regarded as a holy city after the arrival of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492, and became known as a center of kabbalistic scholarship.

Tiberias was significant in Jewish history as the place to where the Sanhedrin (the High

Court of Israel during the period of the Second Temple) relocated from Seppho-

ris. In the Mishnaic and Talmudic period, Tverya was an important spiritual center. The Mishna was completed in Tverya in 200 C.E. under the supervision of Rabbi Yehuda Ha'Nassi, Judah the Prince. The Jerusalem Talmud was compiled in 400 C.E.

After his death in 1204, the great Jewish sage Maimonides was buried in Tiberias. His tomb is on Ben-Zakkai Street, a short distance from the town center. Maimonides' tomb has become one of the most important Jewish pilgrimage sites in Israel. Considered among the greatest sages of the Jewish people whose analytical abilities are admired to this day, Maimonides, known as the Rambam, was







**Maimonides Tomb**

also a physician to the Muslim ruler Saladin. He composed a special healers' prayer, the Jewish equivalent of the Hippocratic Oath, which physicians often make a point of visiting the tomb to recite. Maimonides died in Cairo and his remains were later re-buried in Tiberias. The walkway to the tomb is symbolic – seven columns on either side are inscribed with the names of the 14 chapters of his famed codification of the Mishna, the Mishneh Torah, and a stream of water flows along the sides. (Maimon, his father's name, comes from the Hebrew word "mayim" – water.) A large metal structure over the tomb complex symbolizes a crown, indicating the great respect given to Maimonides in Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Yochanan Ben-Zakkai is also believed to be buried nearby. He was the youngest and most distinguished disciple of Rabbi Hillel. He has been called the "father of wisdom and the father of generations (of scholars)" because he ensured the continuation of Jewish scholarship after Jerusalem fell to Rome in 70 C.E.

According to tradition, Ben-Zakkai was a pacifist in Jerusalem in 68 C.E. when the city was under siege by General Vespasian. Jerusalem was controlled by the Zealots, people who would rather die than surrender to Rome (these are the same people who controlled Masada). Ben-Zakkai urged surrender, but the Zealots would not hear of it, so Ben-Zakkai faked his own death and had his disciples

smuggle him out of Jerusalem in a coffin. They carried the coffin to Vespasian's tent, where Ben-Zakkai emerged from the coffin. He told Vespasian that he had had a vision (some would say a shrewd political insight) that Vespasian would soon be emperor, and he asked Vespasian to set aside a place in Yavneh (near modern Rehovot) where he could start a small school and study Torah in peace. Vespasian promised that if the prophecy came true, he would grant Ben-Zakkai's request. Vespasian became Emperor within a year, and kept his word, allowing the school to be established after the war was over. The school Ben-Zakkai established at Yavneh became the center of Jewish learning for centuries and replaced Jerusalem as the seat of the Sanhedrin. (Source: "Judaism 101".)

Another shrine in Tverya is the Tomb of Rabbi Akiva. He started out as a poor ignorant shepherd, but became a great sage with 24,000 students, and a wealthy man. His wife Rachel, who married him against the wishes of her father because of Akiva's poor prospects, supported his career of study; theirs was a great love story. Akiva, who backed the second-century C.E. rebel leader Bar Kokhba, was put to death by the Romans with the Shema the last words to pass his lips. According to tradition, his body was miraculously transported to Tiberias for burial alongside his students who had died in a plague. His tomb, located on the mountainside behind the Kiryat Moshe neighborhood, overlooks Tiberias and the Kinneret, and has been a



**Roman Theatre**



**The House of Dona Gracia**

pilgrimage site at least since the early Middle-Ages. It became a special tradition to pray for rain at Rabbi Akiva's tomb during drought years. Among those who visited here was Rabbi Isaac Luria, the Ari, which made the site even more sacred. (Source: Israel Ministry of Tourism.)

Another interesting site to visit in Tiberias is the Dona Gracia Museum, which tells the story of Gracia Nasi who used her considerable wealth to save many Jewish refugees of the Spanish Inquisition and build a Jewish city in Tiberias. (Naomi Ragen wrote a fictionalized version of Dona Gracia's life, "The Ghost of Hannah Mendes"). The House of Dona Gracia is a unique hotel, cultural center, and museum combined into one house.

Israel is one big archeological site (in my view); with every step and you find yourself standing on a historical site. In Tiberias and surroundings, examples of interesting archeological findings are the pools or baths of hot springs that date back to Roman times. The Romans were masters in building water systems like the "Spas". In Tiberias, a 2,000 year-old Roman theatre was discovered; it

seated over 7,000 people. In 2004, excavations in Tverya conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority uncovered a structure dating to the 3rd century C.E. that may have been the seat of the Sanhedrin. By 535 Tiberias had been conquered by the Moslems; it became a prosperous mixed Jewish, Moslem and Christian city. An earthquake damaged Tiberias in 1033. Towards the end of the century the Crusaders conquered Galilee, and destroyed Tiberias. In 1998 an archeological treasure unexpectedly turned up, which tells us about the advent of the Crusaders, and what life in Tiberias looked like at this time. A huge metal treasure was discovered in three buried large



**The excavation of the 4th century Galilean synagogue at Hammat Tiberias in 1920-1 exposes a mosaic floor depicting a Zodiac panel, torah shrine, and menorahs, as well as a portable stone candelabrum.**

**Roman Spas in Tiberias**



storage jars. All in all there were 1000 rare objects; candelabras, lamp-stands, scissors, bowls with ancient Arabic writing and 58 Byzantine coins. Archaeologists think the hoard may have been of an artisan who had hid his money and stock when he heard warnings about a Crusader invasion. Important archeological sites have been destroyed by earthquakes that occurred in the Middle East throughout its history. Tverya, like other towns in the Galilee, has been severely damaged by earthquakes since antiquity. In the earthquake of 1837, Tiberias was almost totally destroyed. But archeologists believe that there are many more sites to be discovered under the city of Tverya in present time. ◇



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For further information contact:

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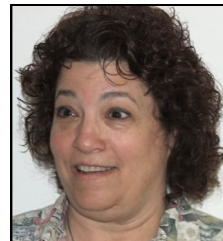
Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

Roberta McNew (305) 522-0643

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### The “Yenta” App

If you are Jewish and single, there’s a new, free iPhone application for you...it’s called “Yenta.” The app, which debuted in mid-September, uses GPS technology to track your location on your phone and show you a list of other Jewish singles in the vicinity. Creator Luba Tolkachyov created the program so that users can walk into a coffee shop and have the ability to scope out other Jewish singles. It differs from the popular “JDate” because there is no need for a lengthy profile. The “Yenta” profile asks “How Jewish are you?,” “What’s your shtick?,” and “What will impress your mother?” There are currently 10,000 users world-wide. ([www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com), 10-11-12)

### “Make Me a Match?”

Larry Greenfield, a Jewish multi-millionaire from New York, isn’t having much luck finding his *bashert*. The 47 year-old securities trader has spent \$65,000 on six matchmakers over the past twelve years. He’s had 250 dates but no luck. His ideal match? He’s looking for a “beautiful, thin, smart Jewish woman with a sense of humor and from New York ... but not an ‘alpha’.” One of Greenfield’s recent dates suggests that perhaps he is the problem. Hmmm.....Ya think? ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10-12-12)

### The “Jewish Indiana Jones”

A federal judge in Manhattan sentenced Rabbi Menachem Youlus of Maryland to 51 months in prison plus three years probation for defrauding contributors to his tax-exempt “Save-a-Torah” Foundation. He was also ordered to pay almost one million dollars in restitution to his victims. Youlus, 51, the self-proclaimed “Jewish Indiana Jones,” was found guilty of peddling what he falsely claimed

were Holocaust Torah scrolls. He maintained that he repeatedly risked his life to rescue these Torah scrolls and bring them out of Poland, Ukraine, Germany and other areas of Europe where millions of Jews had been annihilated during World War II. A *sofer* (Torah scribe). Youlus pleaded guilty back in February to mail and wire fraud and admitted fabricating his thrilling adventures. He said that he had found holy relics at concentration camps, in monasteries and in mass graves, however passport records indicate that he never even traveled to Europe. According to prosecutors, Youlus bought old Torahs from local dealers and resold them at a profit. The prosecutors alleged that he used his outlandish tales to raise \$1.4 million for his charity. He also solicited donations from bar and bat mitzvah children and diverted the money to his personal use. The case against Youlus was launched after a January 2010 article in The Washington Post Magazine exposed his outlandish tales. More than 50 of his supposed Holocaust Torahs made their way to congregations in the Washington area and beyond, with synagogues holding emotional ceremonies to rededicate the scrolls for worship. (*The Washington Post*, 10-11-12)

### “Stumbling Memorial”

A group of neo-Nazis vandalized several “stumbling block” Holocaust memorials in the former East German city of Greifswald. The vandalism took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom. German artist Gunter Demnig created the *Stolpersteine* (literally, “stumbling blocks”) project in the mid 1990s, after hearing an elderly woman deny that there were ever any Holocaust victims in her town. The blocks are actually brass-covered stone plaques – each engraved with the name, birth year and fate



of murdered Jews - which Demnig placed outside the homes where they had lived before the Holocaust so that current residents and people passing by would be confronted on a daily basis with a memorial to Hitler's victims. Since 2003, more than 30,000 of these plaques have been installed across Germany and in other European countries. Demnig was awarded an Obermayer German Jewish history award in 2005. The award honors non-Jewish Germans for their contribution to recording or preserving the Jewish history of their communities. (*The Forward*, 11-11-12)

### **WAZE and Hurricane Sandy**

As reported in an earlier edition of *Chai-Lights*, about 30 million mobile app users rely on Israel's WAZE, a "crowd-sourced navigation app" used for directions when driving. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the White House saw an opportunity to use this app following wide-spread gas shortages as a result of the devastating storm. Government agencies asked WAZE to help figure out where to send gasoline trucks in New Jersey since many gas stations had no power or were unable to open. Within an hour, WAZE had a system up and running allowing users at a gas station to report on conditions there, indicating the availability of gas and how long one would have to wait on line. The WAZE app also displayed pins on its maps highlighting gas stations that were open. WAZE relayed hundreds of messages back to both FEMA and the White House and sent the data along to Google's Crisis Maps which collected disaster resource information. After opening up a line of communication with New Jersey residents, WAZE heard from users in Staten Island and Long Island, who also complained of gas shortages. WAZE then expanded its reporting program to those affected areas and turned that information over to the government, helping them target more gas stations. Amber alerts and rerouting traffic around trouble spots are additional opportunities where a system like WAZE can work with government agencies. In future crisis situations, this type of program

could play an even bigger role in restoring order, gathering information and providing need. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 11-12-12)

### **An Official Apology**

Sixty years ago, Perry Brickman was thrown out of Emory University's dental school in Atlanta, Georgia because he was Jewish. Now, the retired oral surgeon has returned to the university and received an official apology. University President James Wagner offered a public *mea culpa* to Brickman and other Jewish students who faced anti-Semitism at the school between 1948 and 1961. The apology was partially due to Brickman's research about Emory's former discriminatory policies which are detailed in his documentary film, "From Silence to recognition: Confronting Discrimination in Emory's Dental School History." Emory University has come a long way since those days. Deborah Lipstadt, a distinguished American historian (and my childhood play-mate), is a professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory. She created the Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory and was its first director from 1998 to 2008. She currently directs the website known as HDOT, Holocaust Denial on Trial, [www.hdot.org](http://www.hdot.org). ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10-12-12)

### **In Memoriam**

-Henry Friedlander, Holocaust scholar and survivor of Auschwitz, has died. He was 82. Through his research, Friedlander established the significance of Hitler's mass murder of the disabled as a precursor to the Holocaust. He is best known for his book, "The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final solution," which detailed the role German doctors played in the development of the gassing process of prisoners. Unlike other scholars who focused their research on the experience of the victims, Friedlander stressed the nature of the crime itself. He concentrated on and thoroughly researched the so-called "euthanasia" program that preceded the evil medical experiments per-

formed by physicians such as Josef Mengele. Hitler issued a direct order in 1939 that established six killing centers for non-Jewish Germans who were defined as "life unworthy of living" and "useless eaters." These individuals included the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped and they were killed because they were an embarrassment to the Nazi idea of the master race. Gassing became the preferred method because starvation and lethal injections proved to be too slow. Seventy thousand were killed in the Nazis' euthanasia program. Friedlander taught history in the department of Judaic studies at Brooklyn College for over 25 years. He also edited the 26-volume series, "Archives of the Holocaust." (*The Forward*, 10-23-12)

-Arlen Specter, long-time moderate Jewish Republican senator from Pennsylvania who broke with his party and joined the Democrats in 2009, died recently at the age of 82. Specter served 30 years in the Senate, the longest-serving Senator in Pennsylvania history. He began as a Democrat, switched to the Republicans and returned to the Democratic Party in 2009. Specter became disillusioned with the Republican Party as it moved to the right and grew more conservative, especially on social issues and health-care funding. He knew when he voted for President Obama's stimulus bill that he was signing his political death warrant but he strongly believed that the country desperately needed the relief the bill would provide. His crossover helped secure passage of the President's health-care reforms. As a young assistant Philadelphia district attorney in 1964, Specter served on the Warren Commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (*The Jerusalem Post*, 10-14-12)

### Did You Know...

-“Homeland,” the popular *Showtime* series that was named 2012's best drama series at the 64<sup>th</sup> Emmy Awards ceremony at the end of September, is based on the Israeli television series, “*Hatufim*.” The series also won Emmys for Best Actress (Claire Danes) and Best Actor (Damian Lewis), along with Best Writing. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 9-24-12)

-The world's largest Jewish center – it has more space than Windsor Castle – opened in October in Dnepropetrovsk in south-east Ukraine. Shmuel Kaminetzky, Chief Rabbi of the town said, “In 1941, on *Simchat Torah*, 11,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis in Dnepropetrovsk. To be able to open...in the memory of those that died was very important.” The town has a Jewish population of 50,000. ([www.thejc.com](http://www.thejc.com), 10-18-12)

-The 113<sup>th</sup> Congress will have ten Jews in the Senate (eleven if you include Senator Michael Bennet, (D-Colorado) who does not identify a religion but notes that his mother is Jewish and a Holocaust survivor) and twenty-two in the House of Representatives, a decline from the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress when there were 12 Jews elected to the Senate and 27 elected to the House in 2010. Five Jewish members of Congress are retiring. Jews make up roughly two percent of the U.S. population. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 11-7-12)

--Mel Brooks, 86, has been named the recipient of the 41<sup>st</sup> American Film Institute's (AFI) Life Achievement Award and will receive the award in June 2013. Brooks, prolific writer, director, producer and actor is best known for his classic films, “Young Frankenstein,” “Blazing saddles,” “The Producers,” and “Spaceballs” to name just a few. “He's a master of an art form that rarely gets the respect it deserves...,” said Howard Stringer, chairman of AFI's board of trustees. Brooks is only one of 14 entertainers to have been awarded a “grand slam” of prizes in the arts - an Oscar, an Emmy, a Grammy and a Tony. He began his career as a stand-up comedian in the Catskills and as a writer on the classic early 1950s comedy variety series “Your Show of Shows.” ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com), 10-5-12)

- Although it's three years away, the Israel Space Academy will host the 2015 International Astronautical Conference. Selected to host the conference by the International Astronautical Federation, Israel was chosen over her counterparts in Mexico, Thailand and Turkey. In recent years, the event has attracted over 3,000 scientists from around the world. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 10-7-12) ◇

# Photo Gallery

**(Below)** Gloria Avner stands near one of her new paintings, "Butterfly Koi" (and old favorite "Portrait of a Poet") at the first gala Key Largo Gallery Opening event of the Season. (by David Gitin)



**(Left)** Rabbi Agler leads us in Kiddush after a wonderful late October Saturday morning service while Pauline looks on. (photo by David Gitin)

**(Below)** Gloria Avner, Bernie Ginsberg, and Yarden Kamely get excited about possibilities for creating a Jewish folk dance program after Deli Night. If only they could remember the steps to that lovely tune "Mizerloo." (by David Gitin)



**(Right)** Rabbi Ed Rosenthal holds up the Challah for HaMotzi after services Nov. 2nd, while Rabbi Ed's Hillel students, our guests for the weekend while they do reef restoration volunteer work dives, look on along with Steve Steinbock and David Goldfinger. (Photo by David Gitin)



**(Right)** Erica Garrett plays piano as Pauline Roller and Linda Pollack light the Shabbat candles on November 2nd. Erica went on to lead the service.



Saturday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup> was a very special evening. In addition to the temperatures being a bit cooler and the humidity being low, the skies were clear and the stars as bright as jewels. This made for a special setting for our Havdalah service which was led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal who was visiting with his Hillel students from Eckerd College in Tampa. They call themselves the “Scubi Jews” and were here to help in the Keys Coral Restoration Project and stayed at the KJCC over the weekend.

Following the Havdalah service everyone retired into the social hall where we were treated to ice cream sundaes and a most inspiring discussion by Rabbi Ed titled, “What’s Your Sign? An Introduction to Jewish Astrology.” We shared thoughts on the mysticism of what we know as common astrology and the ancient basis of following the stars and how the zodiac signs relate to the Hebrew calendar. It was an evening as sweet as the ice cream sundaes and we look forward to future visits from Rabbi Ed and his students. Upon departure the Scubi Jews left notes of thanks on the classroom board and left the place cleaner than when they arrived.







November 16th saw the **GAL Dinner** which is sponsored by **Voices for Florida Keys Children**. In the photo at left are **Wes and Rita Conklin**. The photo below features **Linda Pollack, Rene Rose, Mary Lee Singer and Maryon Gould**.

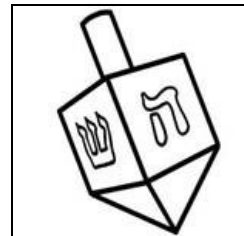


**Why is this happy couple smiling so hard? They came to temple in time for Rabbi Agler's Shabbat morning Kiddush and shared with us the news that they are winners (we knew that)! After participating in the 5K walk race for the benefit of Mariner's Hospital, Dave Mont received the first place medal in his age category and 2nd place medal overall. Georgia Landau came in second in her category. We have amazing people in our *mishpocha*. Mazel Tov! (Photo by David Gitin)**



**Thankful for warm coats! Pauline Roller at a Thanksgiving parade in Plymouth, MA where she spent the holiday with the Dr. Steve Smith family. Dr. Smith gets credit for the photo.**

# MORE THAN A MIRACLE – THE DREIDEL ADDS UP



*Gloria Avner*

We all know that the letters on the sides of our Chanukah Dreidel stand for "Nes Gadol Hayah Sham," "A great Miracle Happened There." When we spin our dreidel, if it topples Shin side up, we put a coin in, if Nun, we get nothing, Hay brings us half the pot and Gimmel gets us all the gelt. What we may not know is that the game was devised for use as camouflage when Torah study became punishable by death under the reign of Antiochus; young scholars hid in caves to study, telling any Greek soldier who discovered them that they were simply playing a gambling game. Put this knowledge together with Gematria, a system of assigning numeric values to each of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet and calculating values of words and phrases, and the dreidel changes from a toy to a whole and holy book.

Gematria was used largely by kabbalists, who excelled in attributing Divine Significance to everything around them. We are most familiar with its use in the word "Chai," or "life" whose letters add up to 18, a number which has become, in some multiple, the basis of most Jewish gift giving.

Here's how we know what to add. The first 10 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet, Alef through Yod, are valued from 1 to 10. The second set of nine letters, Kaf through Kuf, counting in tens, are valued from 20 to 100 and the last three, Reish through Tav, counting in hundreds, are valued at 200 to 400. The letters on our spinning top, Nun (50), Gimmel (3), Hey (5), and Shin (300), add up to 358.

Here are just a few of the meanings associated with the letters and corresponding numbers of our Chanukah dreidel (shared by a writer named Rivka Berman),

One mathematically minded rabbi found that the phrase "God is king, God rules and shall rule" totals 358. The number 358 also equals the numeric value of Mashiach, the Jewish Messiah, who will bring upon the

world a time of redemption. Mashiach is spelled: Mem =40, Shin = 300, Yud =10, Chet = 8.

God may rule, but Evil too gets its due in the Chanukah Gematria battleground. This scenario is replayed with every dreidel spin. Three of the letters have the same value as the Hebrew word for snake, nachash, Nun (50), Chet (8), Shin (300). Beginning with the story of Adam & Eve and the forbidden fruit, the snake became the Jewish anthropomorphic representation of evil. Every time a dreidel ends its spin, evil (nachash - snake) falls. When evil stumbles, God's goodness triumphs.

Students of Kabbalah, who thrive on finding and interpreting symbols, read the dreidel as a comment on the struggle between the rational, physical, and spiritual forces within everyone.

Which one will win out?

**Nun** ( נ ) - nefesh soul

**Gimmel** ( ג ) - guf body

**Hey** ( ה ) - sechel mind

**Shin** ( ש ) - hakol, all

There are soaring moments when the soul dominates, when corporeal material desires carry more weight, when cool calculating logic rules, but nothing compares to the harmony of all aspects working together.

As the song says: "Chanukah hu chag tov. Sivivon, sov, sov, sov." Chanukah, though the newest of all our holidays, is a good one. Watch that little dreidel, spin, spin, spin.

Chag Sameach. We are entering the darkest time of the year. May we all experience a joyous and illuminating Chanukah. ◇

# Chanukah

5773

## **KJCC Chanukah Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday, December 14, 2012**

**Dairy Dinner**

**6:00 PM**

**Followed by return of our favorite  
Chanukah Play: "The Flying Latke"**

**Services at 8 pm**

**Contact Erica @ (305) 853-1003  
hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve  
your spot and coordinate your dish.**

**Donations -**

**Members: no charge**

**NonMembers: \$18**



# Channukia Basics – Let Your Light Shine

*Gloria Avner*

The candles should be arranged in a straight row, and should be of equal height. The *sham-ash*—the “helper” candle that kindles the other lights—should be placed apart from the rest (higher, outside the row, etc.). Some people put the their “Chanukiah” in a window or doorway opposite the Mezuzah, so the light is visible to the world, evidence that God can make great miracles. Light the candles after nightfall, bringing illumination into the darkest time of the year.

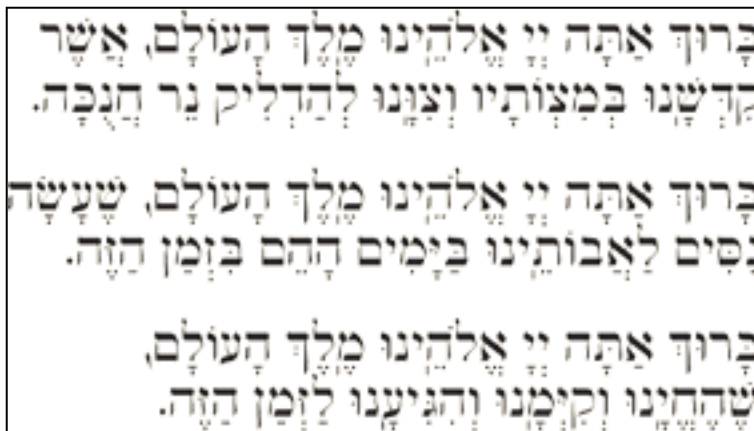
On the first night of Chanukah one light is kindled on the right side of the Menorah. On the following night add a second light to the left of the first and kindle the new light first, proceeding from left to right, and so on each night.

The third blessing is chanted only on Day One. The first two blessings are chanted on all eight days, starting Saturday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

1. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam A-she- Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-tav Ve-tzi-va-nu Le-had-lik Ner Cha-nu-kah.

2. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-a-sa Ni-sim La-avo-te-nu Ba-ya-mim Ha-hem Bi-zman Ha-zeh.

3. Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam She-heche-ya-nu Ve-ki-yi-ma-nu Ve-higi-a-nu Liz-man Ha-zeh.





# Unexpected Treasure -- the Gansa Megillah

Gloria Avner

The KJCC received a very special gift this month. Thanks to Marc Kravit, a friend of Rabbi Agler's from Boca Raton, we now have our own *Megillat Esther*. We will read from it this Purim. It is a beautiful, genuine sheepskin hand-calligraphied scroll, decorated with elaborate hand-drawn "crowns" over special words, particularly the word "melech" as it appears repeatedly on the top line. The origin and history of this *megillah* is unknown as yet, but detective work has begun. One of the most interesting and unexpected pieces of new information to come from this gift is the discovery that

Bernie Ginsberg's grandfather's brother was a scribe. Bernie's great-uncle learned

**Bernie practices chanting from our new Megillah. We will all participate in the mitzvah of hearing the story direct from the scroll this coming Purim, thanks to Marc Kravit's gift.**

**The gift of a megillah, hand-scribed by quill and lamp-black ink, on sheepskin**



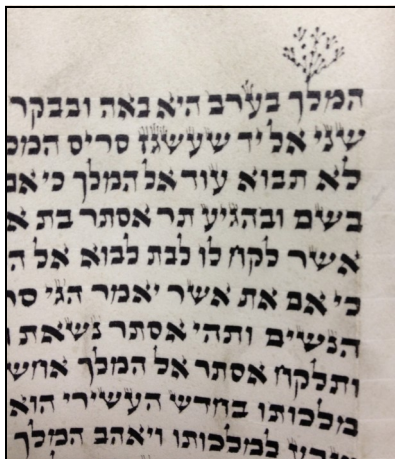
his craft at a Yeshiva in Europe, sat in a room with other scribes on the lower East side of New York, made his own ink out of "lampblack," and took a year to "write" a *Torah*. There is more to tell; the story will continue in a future issue.

For now, we are purely grateful for Marc Kravit's generous donation and we need to protect it. The scroll is without a cover. What a perfect

opportunity for someone to come forward and honor a loved one. Research reveals that a lovely cylindrical holder for the scroll, crafted from hardwood, can be ordered for slightly over \$200. Please contact Linda, Stuart, or Gloria if this *mitzvah* calls to you.

We trust that Mr. Kravit will visit us in the near future so we can thank him in person. Meanwhile, we wish Marc a hearty "Todah Rabah" from the entire congregation, his new KJCC "mishpocha." ◇

**Even without vowels, the writing is so clear it can fairly easily be read. The "crown" decorations over special words and letters are elaborate and beautiful.**



Photos by David Gitin

# Our Russian Cruise Between Moscow and St. Petersburg

by Gene Silverman

Our long-awaited trip to Russia really started at JFK airport in the late afternoon, last August 21<sup>st</sup>, when we met up with Elaine and Alan Schulberg. The four of us had been planning this special river cruise in Russia for what seemed an eternity.

After our non-stop overnight flight to Moscow, we were met (at the surprisingly modern airport) in the morning by some of the staff from the River Victoria (the name of the ship we would be aboard) and transported there via a very interesting ride through Moscow itself. Moscow seemed to be made up of huge tenement apartments, skyscrapers and people, and had more cars than anywhere we had ever seen. There are over 300,000 new cars sold there every year, with no place to park them. (What we didn't know just then was that the four of us would be snarled in that famous traffic three days later for more than three hours.)

Early the next day – having lost the previous evening to jet lag – we were ready for Moscow,

so we joined the ship's tour for a panoramic view of the city. Moscow had been founded in 1156, during the lifetime of Maimonides. We passed by the Kremlin (the word translates as a major fortified complex – or, in easy terms, a fort), the Bolshoi Theater, KGB building, Red Square, Gum (pronounced GOOM) Department Store and the House of Government. Then we started walking in Red Square, which is bordered by St. Basil's Cathedral (with its

famous colored onion domes), Lenin's Mausoleum and the Moscow Museum. The square was being decorated with huge grandstands for a celebration to take place in one week, so its enormity wasn't really apparent. But the people selling (or hawking) merchandise were very apparent.

It was difficult to come to the realization that we were really in Red Square and there were no soldiers, no one carrying a gun (that we could see) and no one shooting at us, and that we were made to feel very welcome. It was a strange sensation after being brought up with the Cold War.

Then the four of us left the tour to have lunch on Arbat Street in a local



**Gene, Mort, Elaine, Alan at St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.**



**Elaine, Alan, Mort just outside the entrance to Moscow's Red Square.**

we wanted to see the oldest and largest remaining synagogue in Moscow. The Moscow Choral Synagogue is beautifully preserved and it was a treat.

It is Orthodox, with seating upstairs for the women, of course. The synagogue is located near the former Jewish settlement in

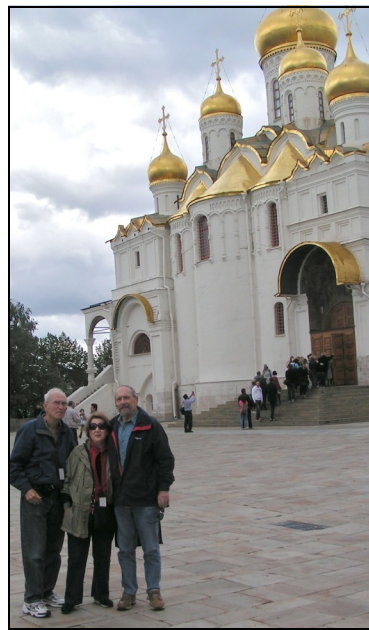
Uzbekistan restaurant, at which we were the only Americans. Actually we were the only people who spoke English, which made reading the menu (thank heaven for pictures) a stretch. Then the guide we had hired met us and off we went, with our own private van and driver. We had planned for this because

### **Bemah at the Moscow Choral Synagogue.**



**Moscow Choral Synagogue Altar**

Zaryadye, a historic district established in Moscow in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1881, the community had hired architect Se-meon Eibuschitz, an Austrian citizen working in Moscow, to design their grand synagogue. You will not be shocked to hear that authorities often stalled its construction, either disapproving plans or finding excuses to demand that completed sections, such as the outer dome and sculptures of the scrolls containing the Ten Commandments, be removed. Years passed. Eibuschitz died in 1898. In 1905, during the first uprising against Tsar Nicholas II and the Russian aristocracy, the government was forced to remove all bans



**Alan, Elaine, Mort on the Kremlin's grounds.**





**Holocaust Sculpture at the Memorial Synagogue at Poklonnaya Gora in western Moscow.**

against religious worship. So another architect, Roman Klein, was hired by the Jews of Moscow to finish the synagogue's construc-

tion. It opened in 1906, and actually operated all through the Soviet period. In one famous episode, in 1948, newly appointed Israeli Ambassador Golda Meir annoyed the Soviets by attending Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services there. In recent years the synagogue, having outlived Tsars and Soviets, has been restored.

What we didn't know before visiting the synagogue was there is a Holocaust Memorial in a park there, complete with unbelievable metal sculptures. The rabbi at Moscow Choral, who was warm and



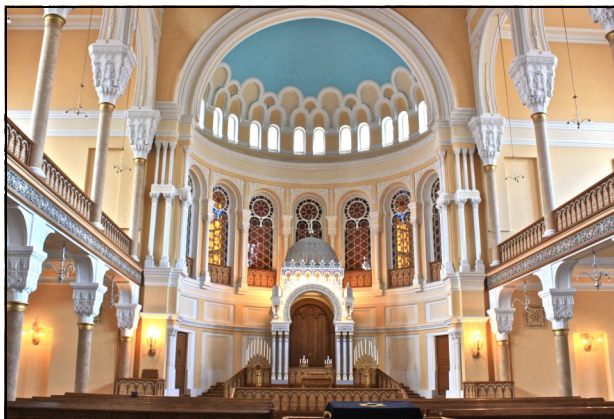
**Memorial Synagogue sculpture Tombstone portion.**

welcoming and couldn't do enough to help us, volunteered to lead us (with our guide Katerina, who is a Fulbright Scholar) to our next stop, the Memorial Synagogue at Poklonnaya Gora.

Poklonnaya Gora, on the western fringes of the city, is the point at which the Red Army, in the winter of 1941-42, halted the invading German forces on their march to



**Additional sculpture of everyday items of Jewish life at the Memorial Synagogue garden.**



**Grand Choral Synagogue interior,  
St. Petersburg.**

Moscow. Oversized tank barriers and a monument had marked the location for some years, but as the fiftieth anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War approached (their term, not mine), a large memorial complex was created to commemorate the war dead. (More Russians died in World War II, at least 20 million, than all other nationalities put together.) A museum is at the center of the site, flanked by a Russian Orthodox church, a mosque, and a synagogue. Near an arch celebrating, ironically, a previously unsuccessful attempt at invading Russia – that by Napoleon – stands a mind-numbing sculpture.

On your left one family begins a curving line of stark and gaunt people, stripped of all clothing – depicting the systematic attempt to also strip away their dignity – trying to shield the eyes of the young from the horror. It has at its forefront a child about 12 or 13 in front of his mother; her hand is over his eyes. The father is behind her, with his arms over his wife and his hand over his child's heart. The memorial is huge, at least four times life-sized, in metal and so powerful it literally took our collective breath away. Behind this one family stand other families, all in a curved long row, standing and waiting, naked, to be executed. In the silence, you can almost hear the Shema being tearfully chanted.

As the line stretches into the distance and curves around to the right, the figures become less and less distinct. They begin leaning back more and more precariously. The etched lines of their bodies fade as those bodies become more and more rectangular. The forms break through a high wall. And as you follow the line of shapes you slowly realize that you are no longer looking at human bodies, but at grave-stones. The sculptures, of the metal grave-stones, are all tilting backwards, with different inscriptions in different languages depicting all who perished. Scattered, in another two sculptures on the floor, are everyday items showing the normal life that had in virtually a moment been taken away from them. Their hats, glasses, dolls, toys, teeth, and prayer books lie on the ground behind them.

It was shocking. Emotions welled up in all four of us, beyond any hope of control.

The rabbi, who had stayed with us, then took us into the synagogue and explained the contents of each glass-encased memorial exhibit, all intended to portray a part of Russian Jewish history. There are two main sections, one depicting elements of the Holocaust, and one showing Jewish participation in the World War II defense of Mother Russia, both in tradi-

**Alan & Mort at the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.**







**Interior of the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.**

tional combat units and also as partisans, either in wholly Jewish bands or together with various irregulars, peasants and provocateurs who regularly harassed and sabotaged the German forces behind the front lines.

After spending the afternoon at Moscow's Grand Choral Synagogue, the memorial and then this synagogue, we walked through a very large, beautiful park to our van. I think we were all very grateful to be out in the sunshine after such a deep, sorrowful experience. Then we got caught in that infamous Moscow traffic. OY VEY – it was four times worse than anything we've ever been in (including Chicago and California).

The next day we went with the ship's tour for a ride on the Moscow subway. WOW – marble statues at each stop, with marble ceilings, floors, walls and marble benches. (Lots of marble.) What a ride – it's about 14 stories underground and the escalator ride back up is an engineering marvel plus a ride that rivals anything at any amusement park. You have to hang onto your tummy and not look back. Then we were in downtown Moscow, ready to see the Kremlin. Inside (remember, Kremlin means "fort") there are many, many buildings, often now used for governmental offices. They're but a part of the Kremlin pal-

ace complex, which includes four palaces, four cathedrals, the official residence of the President of Russia and a very large collection of office buildings. There's also a cannon that was never fired and a bell that was never rung.

The Armory, huge and exhausting, is home to Moscow's oldest and most prestigious museum, which boasts a staggering collection of Tsarist artifacts, Russian and foreign jewelry and medieval armor. The museum has been open to the public since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Upstairs the first two rooms contain Russian gold and silver from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards, a sumptuous collection of jewelry, tableware, icons and decorative objets d'art. The large case of Fabergé eggs – created as presents to be exchanged between the Tsar and Tsarina every Easter – is probably the

**The bemah of the St. Petersburg Choral Synagogue.**



highlight of the collection. The famous Fabergé eggs are hinged, and inside are jewels of every description.

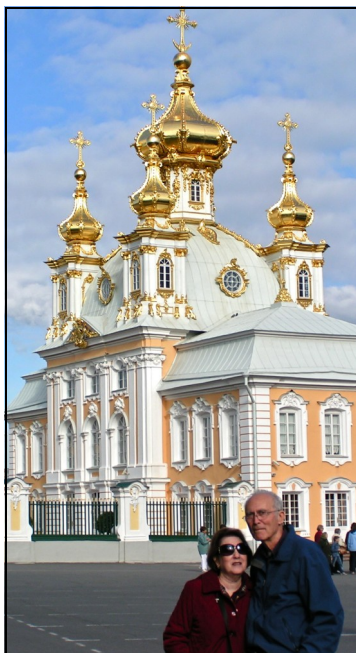
We had made special reservations ahead of time to visit the Diamond Vault on Saturday. Because of its smallish size, visits to the Diamond Vault are limited. But as anyone who knows us can imagine, this was a must see for us, and Elaine and Alan were more than happy to accompany us on this expedition.

There was literally no traffic on Saturday morning, as many Muscovites had already driven to their suburban or country dachas the day before. Prior to our appointment, we stopped by a grocery store, which was in a very old building with amazing ceilings; it was clean and very diversified, with counters of fresh vegetables, fruits, breads and even a display of matzos. What a shock to see them. (The matzos, not the fruit and vegetables.)

In 1967 the Diamond Fund (Vault) of Russia opened up in the Moscow Kremlin Armory. It contains a world-famous collection of

artifacts, jewelry, diamonds and rare precious stones. There are over 900 extraordinary large, natural uncut diamonds: "Free Russia" weighs in at 241.81 carats, "The Star of Yakut" at 232 carats; the largest, "The 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party" diamond, weighs 342.57 carats.

The Imperial jewelry collections of Peter



**Alan & Elaine at Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg.**



**Gene at Peterhof Palace, St. Petersburg.**

The Great, Empress Catherine II (1762), Emperor Nicholas II (1896), Alexander I – plus tiaras, crowns, necklaces, brooches, earrings and military awards, badges and medals – are all on display. According to experts, there are only three world-famous collections: the crown treasures of Great Britain, the treasure of the previous Shah of Iran and this – the Diamond Fund of Russia.

What a fabulous morning. But we had to return to the ship, as it was leaving for our next stop – Uglich.

Between Moscow and St. Petersburg we would go through 17 locks. Uglich is some 80 miles away from Moscow, and in between are beautiful parts of rural Russia. A canal links the Moskva River to the Volga and we were heading north.

Up till now the weather had been sunny, clear and relatively warm, but we were notified that soon the weather would be changing – RAIN!

This afternoon onboard ship they were having a blini presentation and we all decided that we weren't going to miss it. We hadn't been going to their lectures, as the lecturer was very difficult to understand. But blinis – we were in! And they were yummy.

Lake Onega is the second-largest lake in Europe; it's fed by 58 rivers and has 1,369 islands surrounding it. It is a great inland sea,

similar to the Great Lakes, and can get very rough. In the middle of it stands Kizhi Island, where all the buildings are made of wood. The island has no trees (not a surprise since, hello, everything is built from wood) and it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Russian settlers came here in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but started erecting the cathedral in 1714 in commemoration of Peter the Great's victory over Sweden. The entire cathedral was built without the use of nails. (Think about that.)

We were met in St. Petersburg by the partner of our very capable Moscow guide. She came with the car and driver and then we were off to see Peterhof Palace and Gardens, have lunch there on the grounds and then take the Hydrofoil back. Our driver would meet us at the dock and then we'd be off to see the Choral Synagogue of St. Petersburg.

The interiors of Peterhof Palace were breathtaking. The Grand Palace at Peterhof had been designed to be the centerpiece of Peter the Great's "Russian Versailles." As builders of great palaces sometimes do, Peter died in 1725 before Peterhof was finished. The project was almost abandoned, until his daughter Elizabeth came to the throne in 1740.

The fountains of Peterhof are one of Russia's most famous tourist attractions, drawing millions of visitors every year. The most famous ensemble of fountains, the Grand Cascade, comprises 64 different fountains, and over 200 bronze statues, bas-reliefs, and other decorations.

The St. Petersburg synagogue was built after a building permit was granted in 1869 by Tsar Alexander II himself, who first had to agree to lessen the restrictions on Jewish residence in St. Petersburg. (You know, inside the Pale of Settlement.) He had been petitioned by the leader of the Jewish community, one Evzel Ginzburg, a major supplier of the Russian Imperial Army. It was Moorish in style. Bombed by the Nazis during the siege of Leningrad (St. Petersburg) during World War II, the synagogue survived and enjoyed a major reconstruction beginning in 2000.

Now we were really exhausted, so back to



**Elaine at rear of Peterhof Palace,  
St. Petersburg.**

the ship because the next morning we were off early for a tour of the Hermitage, and then in the afternoon out again with our private guide for a tour of St. Petersburg itself.

The Hermitage was founded by Catherine the Great in 1764 and has been open to the public since 1852. Its collections, only a small part of which are on permanent display, comprise nearly three million items, including the largest collection of paintings in the world.

You stand before paintings that look very, very familiar. And there are no barriers; you are not separated by ropes or set back in any way. You are, literally, nose-to-nose with French neoclassical, impressionist and post-Impressionist art, including works by Renoir, Monet, Van Gogh and Gauguin. There are also paintings by Camille Pissarro (Boulevard Montmartre, Paris), Paul Cézanne (Mount Sainte-Victoire), Alfred Sisley, Henri Morel, and Degas. In her lifetime Catherine acquired 4,000 paintings from the old masters, 38,000 books, 10,000 engraved gems, 10,000 drawings, 16,000 coins and medals and a natural history collection filling two galleries.

It was almost too much for the senses. We were on overload and it was still morning. After a pleasant lunch we were ready to see St. Petersburg, which is very much like Venice, thanks to Peter the Great's vision. It was built literally in the middle of nowhere in essentially what was a swamp. He brought in the finest architects from Italy, the greatest



decorative artists from Europe and the most celebrated painters and gave them free rein. It really is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

We set off with our guide for Nevsky Prospect, a St. Petersburg street famous for strolling, shopping and eating (just what we didn't need). The weather was sunny, almost balmy, and it seemed that everyone was out walking around. We of course had to stop in their local, upscale grocery store and check out their prices for Beluga or Servuga caviar, which were way beyond what we remembered.

Now were off to see St. Isaac's Cathedral, built between 1818 and 1858 to be one of the most impressive landmarks of the Russian Imperial capital. The Cathedral was originally the city's main church and the largest cathedral in Russia. One hundred and eighty years later the gilded dome of St. Isaac's still dominates the skyline of St. Petersburg.

We learned that Russian Orthodox churches do not have seats or pews. Their services are done while the congregation stands, which could be for more than three hours. We also learned that people just don't stand in one place. They walk around and chat with their families, friends or neighbors.

The next day we were ready to see Catherine's Palace – or so we thought. The morning started out with pouring, driving rain, but this time we were on the bus with the ship's tour. And, unbeknownst to us, you couldn't park a big bus close to the Palace. But we wanted to see the famous Amber Room and Palace so off we went with the group. (Lots of palaces, I know. Next time we'll go into the Pale and do the miserable shtetl tour. Catherine's Palace is named after Catherine I, the wife of Peter the Great, who ruled Russia for two years after her husband's death. She is not to be confused with Catherine the Great.)

We spent that afternoon, our last in Russia, on the ship. We had to pack, as our luggage was being picked up during the night; our flights home were very, very, early the next morning.

Up and out at 4:30 a.m., we were ready for the trek home. Silly us. We thought that since the Moscow airport was so modern that

St. Petersburg's would be the same. No – no – no.

It is a throwback to the 50s. (Supposedly they are building a new one.) We had made it to the airport in record time, but our flight to Paris didn't leave until 7:20, so there was nothing to do but stand around. But that was after Alan and Elaine had to literally chase around to get their leftover rubles changed into dollars. They first had to go through a security set-up, then go up a escalator that wasn't working at this early hour, get the monies exchanged, come back downstairs, go through security again and then wait in line for the counter to open. Then we all had to go through another security check, even though we hadn't left the place we were in, and then board a bus to the plane for the short ride to Paris. Thank goodness our connection was close to where we deplaned and left within two hours. And we landed in Miami right on time.

We loved Russia, the river cruise and being with Elaine and Alan, and look forward to cruising again with them. Stay tuned for our next adventure. ♦

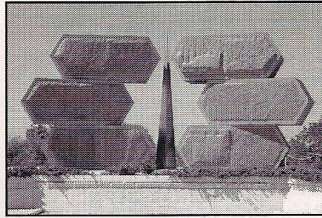
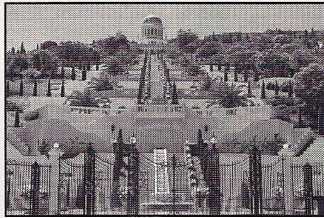


**Gene and Mort at Mandrogi, a reconstructed village along the Volga River.**

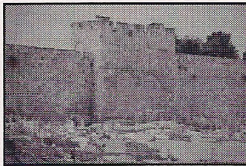


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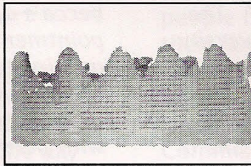
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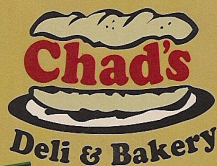


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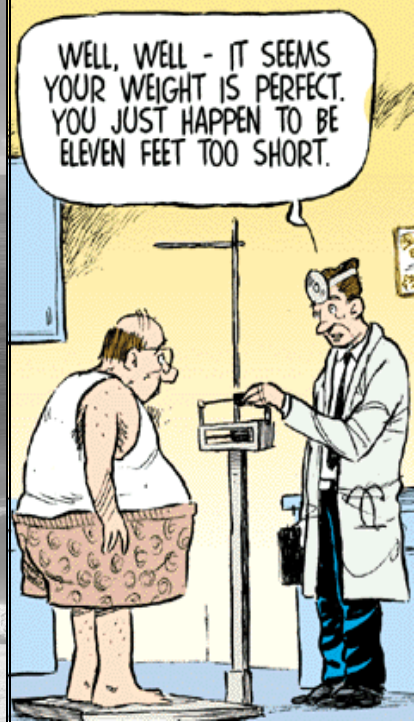
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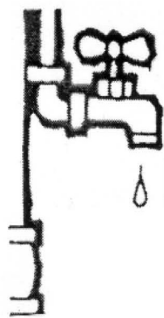
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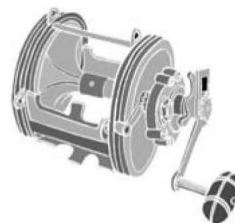
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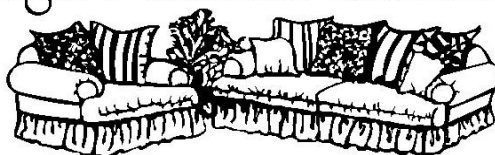


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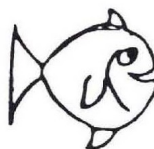
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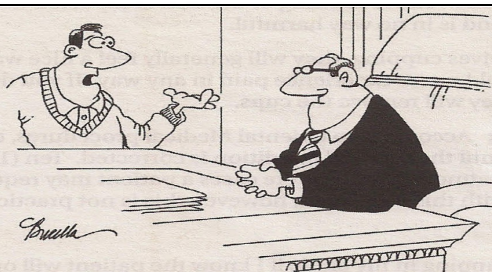
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