

Chai~Lights



October 2010

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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Chai-Lights October 2010 |

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President's Message Alan Beth



I know it sounds strange to say, but I thoroughly enjoyed the High Holiday experience this year. Everything! Having both Rabbi Danny Young and Cantor Mark Halpern on the Bima not only looked good but sounded good as well. On Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Rabbi Young took the time to come down into the congregation to engage us and encourage us to consider difficult questions, to challenge our thoughts. Some subjects were indeed controversial, like the question: Who is a Jew? To have a rabbi at the KJCC spark and ignite our thoughts is exactly what many of us had hoped for. This question – who is a Jew? – is a divisive and a controversial question being debated all over the world.

Our KJCC is unique in this situation. We are the only synagogue for over 120 miles. We have always tried to include every mode and manner of Judaism, which may be why we've always been so open and welcoming. It is not within our nature to exclude anyone that walks through our doors, and especially someone that claims they are Jewish and seeks to share Jewish worship. This makes me so tremendously proud of the KJCC.

I would like to once again thank all those who made the High Holiday experience a success. To start naming names of all those that helped and should be thanked would

exceed the word count allowed by my editors. I look back and think of the S'lichot movie night, the wonderful Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner where our chefs cooked for 63 seated guests, all our services – Shabbat, Havdalah, Tashlich and of course all the High Holiday services. The number of people involved this year to ensure so many successes was greater than ever: preparing the house; tending to and guiding both cantor and rabbi; monitoring phone calls; getting our message out in newspapers, on the web; the Onegs and break-the-fast dinners, feeding our congregation both with food and spirituality.

Then we heard the blast of the Shofar, reminding us why we are all here as Jews and why we do the work. No organization this size could function without volunteers. Every activity, every program, depends on the generous donation of time by our volunteers. Whether working on specific projects, participating in committee work, or being at the highest level of leadership, nothing would get done without our volunteers.

If you are a member, a donor or a volunteer, I would like to close with four words: thank you to you.

October 2010

23 Tishrei - 23 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>				1 <i>Jim Boruszak</i> <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8 <i>George Swartz</i>	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Blood Drive At KJCC	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Steve Steinbock & Yardena Kamely</i>	23
24 31 Boo	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Stuart Sax</i> <i>6:30 Service</i>	30

Nosh

Department of Corrections

Last month we offered KJCC condolences on the passing of Sidney Mann. It should, of course, have read Sheldon Mann. Our apologies to Gerty.

Have an aquarium you don't need?

The marine biology classes at Coral Shores High School are looking to have aquariums donated, which don't need to be pristine, but do need to be intact. All sizes are welcome. If you have an old (or new, for that matter) aquarium you'd like to donate, let us know (chailights@keysjewishcenter.com) and we'll forward your offer to the right person.

The Garden needs mulch

There are lots of ways to contribute to KJCC's new Meditation Garden – donations of bricks or benches or the sponsorship of plants and plant areas or your time, yes, but Garden designer and chief workman Steve Steinbock offers another possibility: decorative mulch, of which we're going to need a lot. If you'd like to donate a bag or two or ten of red mulch, contact Steve at 394-0143.

October Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....	34
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....	16
12th	Harvey & Susan Schwaid.....	58
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger.....	51
23rd	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....	9
28th	David & Lois Kaufman.....	31
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein.....	56

Oneg Sponsors for October 2010

October 1st—Joyce Peckman

TREE OF LIFE

In memory of

Theresa Steinbock

Your loving son, Steve

Anyone for a bridge stroll?

Mark your calendar: November 13, 2010 is the Annual Walk across Jewfish Creek Bridge. This is a 5 km walk for charity. It would be great if we could get a large group together and do this walk across the bridge representing the KJCC. I'm thinking we should get T-shirts made, and would welcome ideas on what they should say/logo, etc. FYI – the road to Miami will be shut down for several hours and they will turn the southbound lane into two-way traffic. So, our walk will be very safe from any motorized vehicles. Go to jewfishcreekbridgerun.com for more details.

Let me know if you would like to join in the walk. You can contact me via e-mail at president@keysjewishcenter.com

Thanks,

Alan

BOOK PLATE

In honor of

Teresa Kwalick

A fine friend

By Carol Steinbock

Board Meetings and Bloodmobiles

The KJCC board meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 10th. The bloodmobile will also be conducting a blood drive at KJCC on that day in the KJCC parking lot. Convenient, isn't it?

October Birthdays

2nd.....	Michael Gilson
4th.....	Michael Krissel
6th.....	Joel Bernard
7th.....	Jordan Feig
9th.....	Matthew Kaufman
11th.....	Cynthia Arsenault
11th.....	Ian Bader
11th.....	Olivia Landes
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Salomon Turner
13th.....	Sean Bader
14th.....	Barbara Gintel
14th.....	Paul L. Friedman
15th.....	Alan Field
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
16th.....	Jacqlyn L. Burnett
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
16th.....	Ronald Kaplan
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
21st.....	Alexander L. Burnett
21st.....	Michael J. Sundheim
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Marnie Gershowitz
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
29th.....	Jane B. Kwalick
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
30th.....	Franklin Greenman
30th.....	Katie J. Schur
30th.....	Mark Hitzig
31st.....	Brittany Schur
31st.....	Susan Cooper

The KJCC extends deepest condolences to
The Mann Family
on the death of
Sheldon Mann
Long-time KJCC member and resident of Ocean Reef
and Shaker Heights, OH

Celebrate or Honor a Loved One

Those who attend Friday night services at KJCC are familiar with the Onegs provided. After services members stay to enjoy coffee, soda, dessert and the conversation and company of friends. Not only are the attendees truly appreciative of the effort, but sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat is a wonderful way to celebrate any occasion or to remember a loved one. Your generosity and celebration/remembrance will also be noted right here in Chai-Lights. Contact Joyce Peckman at 451-0665 or 240-1000 for more information.

In a synagogue in 1663...

An entry in probably the second-most famous diary of all time, that of Englishman Samuel Pepys, describes his visit to a synagogue on Simchat Torah. "...after dinner my wife and I, by Mr. Rawlinson's conduct, to the Jewish Synagogue: where the men and boys in their vayles, and the women behind a lattice out of sight; and some things stand up, which I believe is their Law, in a press to which all coming in do bow; and at the putting on their vayles do say something, to which others that hear him do cry Amen, and the party do kiss his vayle. Their service all in a singing way, and in Hebrew. And anon their Laws that they take out of the press are carried by several men, four or five several burthens in all, and they do relieve one another; and whether it is that every one desires to have the carrying of it, I cannot tell, thus they carried it round about the room while such a service is singing. And in the end they had a prayer for the King, which they pronounced his name in Portugall; but the prayer, like the rest, in Hebrew. But, Lord! to see the disorder, laughing, sporting, and no attention, but confusion in all their service, more like brutes than people knowing the true God, would make a man forswear ever seeing them more and indeed I never did see so much, or could have imagined there had been any religion in the whole world so absurdly performed as this."

New Members

The KJCC *mishpocha* has grown by two. Ira Braun and Lyn Nadel of Miami have joined our ranks. Welcome and we hope to see you often.

Dog management, Jewish-style

(Medina found a book at Goodwill in North Miami Beach that, among others, had the following examples of how to teach obedience to a Jewish dog.)

1. The Jewish "sit" command: "What, it would kill you to sit down for one lousy second?"
2. Using situational martyrdom when the dog disobeys: "Fine. Do what you want. I hope you have a nice life."
3. When, no matter what you do, the dog won't get off the couch: "I don't know why I bother," or in extreme cases, "Why don't you just tear out my heart and eat it?"

It isn't just for Passover anymore

We have all been taught the story of how the Jews were in such a big hurry to exit their persecution that they couldn't wait for their bread to rise. The result was matzos, which we eat in place of bread for eight days each spring. But did you know that that box of unleavened bread could actually save your life?

Recently, while sitting down at her dining room table to partake of a bit of that crunchy cracker, Rosie Biskar was shocked when the hanging light above her suddenly fell from the ceiling. What could have been a disaster was averted when the fixture missed Rosie's arms and, instead, put a big dent in her box of egg & onion matzos.

So on your next trip to the supermarket, pick up a box of matzos for eating and another for insurance!

-Stuart Sax

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

Sunshine Committee – If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information – If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

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

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

Meditation Garden – Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 852-6152.

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

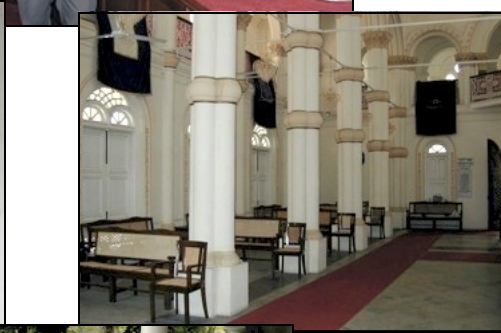
JNF Trees In Israel – A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Nancy Kluger, 852-4353

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

Advertisement In Chai-Lights – Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575 for annual rates.

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

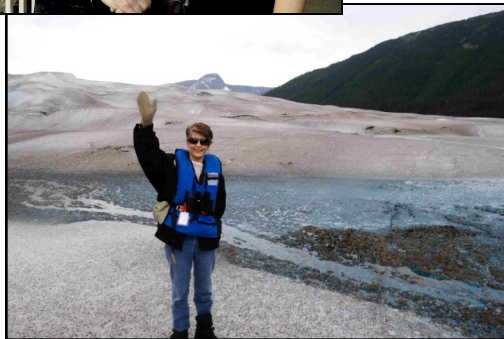
Photo Gallery



The top four photos were sent in by the peripatetic Schwaida's, of a synagogue in Singapore built in 1905 by one man. Note the center bemah. (Imagine a Yom Kippur service on those benches.) The shul is home to over thirty Torahs, many encased in silver. There's even another synagogue in the city, but it's closed for renovation. The man in the photo is the cantor.

Andrea Kluger shakes hands with New York mayor Michael Bloomberg at a Gracie Mansion party thanking all the summer interns who'd worked for the city. She's begun her senior year at Vanderbilt, but by now Nashville is certainly way too small.

At bottom we have the intrepid Teresa Kwalick, standing atop the Taku Glacier in Alaska.





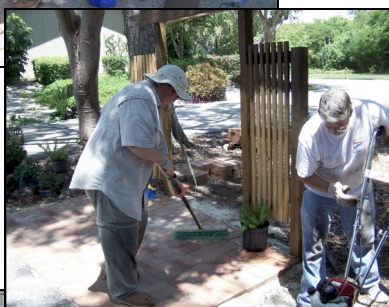
The top three photos are of the Mahjonggettes during their annual away Mah Jongg-a-thon. No one will talk, but the rumor is that one of them fully paid for her trip through table winnings.



The two photos at right were taken during a visit to KJCC at the end of August by Ilanit Goldberg, KJCC member Deb Weiss' rabbinical student daughter. Ilanit addressed the congregation about her recent mission to Senegal. In the center photo are Ilanit's friend Rivka, Ilanit, Deb, and Bernie Ginsberg, who led services that night. To the right are mother and daughter before the KJCC bema.



The bundle of energy in the two bottom photos is Nicci Hudson, granddaughter of Jim and Joan Boruszak. These shots are from Sports Illustrated, who'd named Nicci national cheerleader of the week.



The five photos at top are of Steve Steinbock and Stuart Sax at work on the KJCC Meditation Garden. Stu installed all

the engraved bricks from our first order. Steve is in the middle of the long process of planning and planting. There will be silver buttonwoods as a barrier along the outside edge, to make the garden private and conducive to quiet reflection. Inside there will be different “rooms,” with different plant themes, and paths connecting the rooms.

At bottom is the new Sunday school class on their first day back, September 12th. It was also the day Yardená returned, after a long summer (though it was winter there) spent in Chile.

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

<i>Book Plates</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol	<i>In Honor of</i> Teresa Kwalick	<i>Scholarship Fund</i> Kluger, Kurt & Nancy Steinbock, Steve & Carol	
<i>General Fund</i> Andracchio, Sunny Berk, Zoe Goldfinger, David & Toby Graham, Bea Klimpl, Michael Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein Mackler, Debra Nitto, Iona ("Joanna") Sax, Stuart & Lauren Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine Squire, Walter & Sara	<i>In Honor of</i> Rabbi Young Rabbi Young Thank you! Rabbi Young	<i>Tree of Life</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol <i>Yartzeit Contributions</i> Alter, Barry Coltman, Ellen & Barney Conklin, Rita & Wes Conklin, Rita & Wes Cooper, Murray & Claire Cooper, Murray & Claire Dorf, Barry & Natalie Feinberg, Arthur Graham, Bea Gross, Mollie Grossman, Stuart Gould, Maryon Gould, Maryon Horn, Ronald & Dorothy Horn, Ronald & Dorothy Kaplan, Ronald Kaplan, Ronald Kwalick, Teresa Kwalick, Teresa Kwalick, Teresa Marmar, David Roy, Medina Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Tallent, Ralph & Lillian Taramona, Hermine Temkin, Robert & Susan Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy	<i>In Memory of</i> Theresa Steinbock <i>In Memory of</i> Fanne Alter Evelyn Coltman Mark Hitzig Sam Hitzig Mark Sands Sarah Sandberg Dorothy Schafer Harriet Feinberg Saul Elson Emanuel Gross Margaux Rene Grossman Richard Gould Jeanette Gould Jacob Ratchik Samuel Horn Catherine Kaplan Sidney Kaplan E. Enrique Astray-Caneda Esther Kwalick Irwin Kwalick Dorothy Marmar Leon Kirschenbaum Mollie Cohen Erik Persoff Meyer Cohen Wally Steinberg Rose Wainer Sam Wainer Ida Estrin Robert Robinson Phillip Temkin Rose Fine
<i>General Fund</i> Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Joel & Linda	<i>In Memory of</i> Sidney Stark Jerry Tabasky		
<i>Holocaust Education Fund</i> Steinbock, Steve & Carol			
<i>Jewish National Fund</i> Boruszak, Jim & Joan Graham, Bea	<i>In Honor of</i> Stellar Levy's Graduation Stellar Levy's Graduation		
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein	<i>In Honor of</i> Brieze & Stellar		
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Sachs, Joseph & Susan Sachs, Joseph & Susan Singer, Mary Lee	<i>In Memory of</i> Joel Baker Louise Baker Robert Singer & Jon Singer		
<i>Oneg Fund</i> Pollack, Linda & Joel	<i>In Honor of</i> Chanukah Shabbat Dinner		

Yartzeit Memorial Plaques
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny

Yizkor Book

Alter, Barry
Bader, Ivan & Jean
Ban, Stephan & Eva
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Boruszak, Jim & Joan
Boxer, Shirley
Calev, Barbara
Cianciolo, Carol
Coltman, Barney & Ellen
Cooper, Alan & Susan
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Emkey, Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur & Patrice Gerard
Gilderman, Larry & Stephanie
Gitin, David
Goldfinger, David & Toby
Goodman, Jamie & Laura
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Greenbaum, Marilyn
Gross, David & Patti
Grossman, Ken and Jerri
Grossman, Stuart
Hartz, Steve
Hermann, Bob & Eileen
Horn, Ronald & Dorothy
Incociati, Estelle
Isenberg, Henry & Patricia
Jacobson, Melvin
Kaplan, Frank
Kaplan, Ronald
Kay, Harvey & Joan
Kluger, Kurt & Nancy
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Marmar, David & Pamela
McNew, Rick & Roberta
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Present, Marjorie
Roy, Medina
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Memory of
Isaac Cohen

Schur, Lee
Schwaid, Harvey & Susan
Sheinker, Miltra
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Singer, Mary Lee
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Swartz, George & Muriel
Tallent, Ralph & Lillian
VanArtsdalen, David & Pat
Weber, Larry & Judy
Weihl, Alfred & Sue Ann
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Did You Know ???

...that you can honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion and share your joy with the whole congregation by sponsoring an Oneg?

...that you can place an advertisement in Chai-Lights for an *entire year* beginning at only \$120?

... that you can remember a loved one with a yahrzeit plaque? A candle will be lit on the memoriam date and at Yizkor services four times a year, including Yom Kippur.

**Contact Linda Pollack at 852-8575
for more information .**

Sisterhood Joyce Peckman

*also cooked, dusting off
some of her bubbe's*



Before we left Key Largo in June to head north, Candy and I interviewed Pauline about the beginnings of the KJCC. She spoke at length about the women of Sisterhood, and the great efforts and energies they put forth to ensure that the building we now take for granted would exist. She mentioned disagreements between members, but focused on the camaraderie and cooperation towards a common cause. As we concluded, she spoke about her fears for the continuance of the KJCC as its founding members grow older, because in the end, it is not the building, but the active members that ensure the life of a congregation.

Our High Holidays this year should have put her fears to rest. The women of Sisterhood echoed the dedication and energy of our founders as they provided for the congregation during this active and holy season.

Erica Garrett, cognizant of the fact that many of our members have no family nearby with whom to share a holiday meal, first conceived and then spearheaded the first-ever KJCC Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner. Kathy Shabathai immediately joined the team, and soon the positive energy flowed in from many others. Kathy shopped up a storm at Costco, then baked challahs for the entire holiday. Gloria and Bernie cooked the briskets, Gene Silverman and Linda Perloff made chopped liver (Gene's was vegetarian, and several were overheard asking for the recipe), Zoe contributed tsimmes and potatonic (and lots and lots of her patented high energy, and yes, many of us would like to borrow some), Jane Friedman made enough vegetable lo mein to feed an entire army unit, while Georgia brought pounds of exquisite homemade apple strudel. Erica, of course, not only directed but

old recipes. Marc, in his usual wonderful way, made coffee. I'm sure I've left someone out, but I'm writing this in Denver, so I apologize.

I was told of a Monday night cooking event, featuring Erica, Zoe and Gloria peeling onions and crying, with Kathy setting up the room and everyone laughing through tears at Bernie's nonstop jokes. On Wednesday, sixty people filled the hall and together shared a first-class, traditional holiday meal. Hearty congratulations to us all.

Linda and Joel Pollack once again capably coordinated pizza and movie for S'lichot. Meanwhile, Lauren Sax was quietly coordinating almost everything else. We had lovely onegs after each Friday night service, each Rosh Hashanah service, and on several Saturday mornings. The Yom Kippur break-the-fast is a major responsibility, and Lauren Sax coordinated that as well. If you enjoyed it, thank Lauren, who has been effusive in her praise for the time and energy of all of Sisterhood during this busy time of year. But she asked me to offer special thanks to Marc Bloom for his constant concern and hours of work. If the kitchen is the province of Sisterhood, then Marc Bloom is its prince.

All of you who devote your time and energy to the KJCC are worthy of being "signed and sealed" in the Book of Life, Health and Sustenance. You have my personal thanks and best wishes.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be on Sunday, October 3rd at 9:30 a.m. We will be planning this year's events and discussing Oneg Shabbats for the coming year. Please contact me if you wish to add anything to the agenda. My email is joyce@adoctorsbag.com.



SHOP ISRAEL

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the Old City of Jerusalem - Wonderful wedding gifts!



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challah covers from Rifkas in the Old City of Jerusalem



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stones and hand made parchment note paper
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accommodated.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A New Monument

Renowned architect Daniel Libeskind has been chosen to design and create a Canadian monument to the Holocaust-era ship the *St. Louis*. The monument will be housed in Canada's Immigration Museum in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The now-famous steamship fled Nazi Germany in 1939 with 907 Jewish passengers, bound for Latin America and hoped-for asylum. No country in the region, including Canada and the United States, would accept its passengers and the *St. Louis* was forced to return to Europe just as war broke out. It is estimated that at least one-third of its passengers were killed in the Holocaust. Libeskind has titled his proposal "The Wheel of Conscience." He is the son of Holocaust survivors and the creator of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin. (www.jta.org, 8-30-10)

Agent Wiesenthal?

A new biography of Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi hunter, asserts that he was often on the payroll of the Mossad, Israel's spy agency. Tom Segev, author of the new book, "Simon Wiesenthal: The Life and Legends," was granted unprecedented access to Wiesenthal's papers – some 300,000 of them previously unavailable to the public – by Paula Kreisberg, Wiesenthal's daughter. While rifling through the papers, Segev came across names of people he did not recognize. He discovered that they were Mossad agents and handlers and then proceeded to interview three of them. Segev, an Israeli columnist for *Haaretz* newspaper, is the author of several other books, mostly about Israeli history. This new information, he says, suggests that "the oft-held view that Israel was not a major player in tracking down Nazis needs to be re-evaluated." Wiesenthal died in 2005 at the age of 96. (*The New York Times*, 9-2-10)

A Record High

A Hebrew University demography professor announced that there were more Jewish births in the past year in Israel than any other time since 1948. According to data released by the Central Bureau of Statistics on the eve of the Jewish New Year 5771, the State of Israel has now reached a population of 7.645 million. The professor attributed the increase to various factors, including the high birth rate in the religious community and the increase in the general public due to "life satisfaction." Despite the global economic crisis, Israel has enjoyed a relatively positive economic status compared with other countries, which impacts on the fertility rate. Immigration is another factor affecting the population increase.

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-7-10)

"Black Sabbath"

The Idelsohn Society for Musical Preservation released an album of African-American renditions of Jewish songs recorded long ago. The New York-based organization released "Black Sabbath: The Secret Musical History of Black-Jewish Relations," a 15-track album which includes Billie Holliday's rendition of "My Yiddishe Momme," Cab Calloway singing in Yiddish and Nina Simone and Eartha Kitt singing in Hebrew. Johnny Mathis' 1958 rendition of *Kol Nidre* leads the album. (www.jta.org, 8-19-10)

"100 Voices"

A new documentary chronicling the journey of a group of American cantors to Poland was screened simultaneously in nearly 500 movie theaters throughout the United States on September 21st. According to the press

release, "100 Voices: A Journey Home" is "a remarkable visual tour of Jewish life in pre-war Poland, a history of the cantorial art of chazanut, and a hopeful vision of the resurgence of Jewish life." The American cantors traveled to Poland last year to sing in Europe's largest concert hall, located in Warsaw. The film also shows a memorial service at the gates of Auschwitz paying tribute to the 1,300 cantors who perished in the Holocaust. The film ran from September 22nd to the 28th in New York and Los Angeles, making it eligible for Academy Award consideration. (www.jta.org, 9-7-10)

World Kosher BBQ Championship

On a Sunday in late August, Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth, (ASBEE) the oldest Orthodox synagogue in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted its annual Kosher BBQ Contest, attracting 42 competitive teams of cooks from around the South and as far away as New York. In 1989, a group of Jewish men had asked the well-established local barbecue-cooking contest to offer a non-pork category. When they said no, two men of the ASBEE congregation started their own competition. Each team is judged in five categories – team name, design, brisket, ribs and beans. Team "Fleish Gordon" of Brooklyn didn't take home any trophies, but they won the pickle-eating contest. Rabbi Klein of "The Rabbi and His Bris-Kit Team" of Tennessee is a mohel; his team's slogan was, "The tip's on us." Other teams that competed were "The LeBron Flames" and the "Miami Meat Team." "The Barfield Basters" were the big winners. (Next year we'd like to see our own Bernie Ginsberg enter his world-famous brisket. We're sure he'd take 1st place). (*The Forward*, 9-1-10)

A New Cluster Bomb

Chemotherapy can bring debilitating side effects, such as nausea, liver toxicity and a battered immune system, to cancer patients. Now researchers at Tel Aviv University have found a new way to deliver this life-saving therapy. The technology consists of a "nano-sized vehicle with the ability to deliver chemo-

therapy drugs directly into cancer cells while avoiding interaction with healthy cells, increasing the efficiency of chemotherapeutic treatment while reducing its side effects." Dr. Dan Peer and Professor Rimona Margalit led the research. "The vehicle is very similar to a cluster bomb," explained Dr. Peer. The nano-medical device can be used to treat many different types of cancer, even some types of brain cancers. The nano-vehicle itself is made from organic materials, which fully decompose in the body once the vehicle has performed its function, making the treatment safer than current therapies. The finding was recently reported in the journal *Biomaterials*. Clinical trials should begin in two years or less. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 8-25-10)

Back to Haiti with the U.N.

At the end of August, a team of fourteen Israeli police officers left for Haiti to serve as part of a multinational force set up by the United Nations. This delegation marks the first time Israelis will serve in active duty on a U.N. force. The police officers will remain in Haiti for an extended period of time. Haiti continues to suffer greatly from the devastating earthquake in January 2010, which left more than 200,000 dead and almost one million people homeless. "You are Israel's true face," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon told the officers. "This mission will demonstrate to friends and foes alike that Israel is always willing to contribute and volunteer anywhere and at any time." (*World Jewish Congress*, 8-26-10)

A Top Spot for Science Research

The Scientist, a magazine geared toward scientific researchers, has named two Israeli universities among the top ten best workplaces in the world for scientific researchers. The Weizmann Institute of Israel was ranked second in the list of 10, just beneath the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Hebrew University of Jerusalem placed fifth on the list. This is the third time the Weizmann Institute placed second on the list. It was also listed as the very top place for scientific researchers to work in two previous

years. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 6-30-10)

Thanks, Hugo

High on the list of embattled Jewish communities is that of Venezuela. Violent crime, a failing economy and anti-Semitic attacks are the primary reasons why, over the past decade, the Jewish community has shrunk by half. "Ten years ago we had 18,000 members," said Salomon Cohen. "Now we have about 9,500." Cohen, 55, is the head of the Confederacion de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela (CAIV), an umbrella group that represents the country's Jewish community. Part of the problem is that President Hugo Chavez is a strong ally of Iran and an avowed enemy of Israel. He severed ties with Jerusalem in 2009. (Jerusalem Post, 9-1-10)

Who Counts Them All?

At the end of August, 31,000 storks flew from northern Israel to rest in the Negev and near the Dead Sea before heading for their winter homes in eastern Africa. Jonathan Meyrav, project manager for the Israel Ornithological Society, a part of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) said that the migration, which began in early August, will likely take six weeks. All told, 350,000 storks are expected to fly over the country from north to south. SPNI suggested that farmers in the Beit She'an area plow their fields in order to uncover the rodents that plague them, providing the birds with a tasty in-flight meal. As it has every year for nearly thirty years, SPNI and the Israel Air Force are surveying the birds for scientific purposes and also to prevent collisions between birds and jets. More than 500 million migrating birds of different types are expected to pass through Israel's skies this winter. (Jerusalem Post, 8-25-10)

New Life

The 150-year-old "Anne Frank" chestnut tree, that grew outside the small window of her Amsterdam hiding place and to which she referred often in her diary as a symbol of life and hope, was toppled by a storm on August

23rd. A global campaign to save the rotting tree had been launched in 2007 after city officials deemed it a safety hazard and announced plans to cut it down. City workers caged the trunk in a steel structure to protect it, but the recent storm proved too strong. Shortly after the storm, however, a green shoot was seen growing from the splintered trunk. The trunk will be left where it fell to give the shoot a chance to flourish and grow. (www.jta.org, 8-24-10)

Do Jews Give More?

Jews habitually complain how expensive it is to be Jewish, especially when it comes to synagogue dues. But according to a new survey by The Forward, Christians contribute as much per person to their churches as Jews do to their synagogues. They just do it differently. (The Forward, 9-17-10)

In Memoriam

-Seymour Pine, the Jewish deputy police inspector who, in 1969, inadvertently helped start the gay liberation movement, died on September 2nd. He was 91. Pine led the raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. He later apologized for his role in the raid. Pine was commander of NYPD's vice squad when he led eight officers into the illegal club. The supposed reason for the raid was to crack down on prostitution and other organized crime activity, but it was common practice at the time for police to raid gay bars and harass customers. Word of the raid filtered into the street, hundreds of protesters gathered outside, and a movement was born. (The New York Times, 9-7-10)

-Benjamin Kaplan, who for 25 years taught law at Harvard, died recently at the age of 99. He also served on the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Kaplan helped draft the American portion of the indictment of Nazi war criminals tried at Nuremberg. He joined the staff of United States Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson in 1945 when Jackson had been named chief prosecutor for the United States at Nuremberg. Kaplan oversaw the legal staff in Washington that was gathering evidence for the case. Two current U.S.

Stained Glass of KJCC

Part two of our look at the story behind the art in KJCC's sanctuary.

If, once inside the KJCC sanctuary and standing facing the Ark, you lift your gaze to the Ner Tamid (the eternal light) and the two stained-glass windows above the bemah and then pivot gently to the right, the next stained-glass window you will see will depict three middle-eastern-style tents. The style is familiar, as tents such as these have been used in the Middle East, especially by its many nomadic tribes, for thousands of years.

Beginning with this window, continuing clockwise around the full periphery of the sanctuary until we once again reach the bemah, the stained-glass windows all depict symbols and icons of the tribes of Israel. The window with the tents is in honor of the tribe of Gad; from ancient times that tribe's symbol had been tents in the form of a military encampment.

Gad was the seventh son born to Jacob. His mother was neither Leah, Jacob's first wife, nor Rachel, Jacob's second. He was born to Zilpah, Leah's handmaid, since Leah had stopped conceiving after bearing her fourth son. (Leah, you'll recall, was not the woman Jacob wanted for his wife. He'd wanted Rachel, the younger sister, and was tricked into marrying Leah. He had to wait seven years, toiling the entire time for Rachel and Leah's father, Laban, before he could also marry Rachel. Apparently he warmed up to the wife he didn't really want.)



The Tribe of Gad KJCC window, one of the series by Miami artist Lisa Ruggles, lit by natural sunlight.

Since Rachel had yet to conceive, she'd offered her own handmaid, Bilhah, as a wife to Jacob so he could continue siring sons. After Bilhah produced Dan and Naphtali, Leah offered Jacob her own handmaid, Zilpah, who produced Gad and Asher. (After four sons contributed by handmaids, Leah resumed production, with sons Issachar and Zebulun and, though we rarely hear of her, a daughter, Dinah.) According to Jewish tradition, Zilpah is buried in the Tomb of the Matriarchs in Tiberias, along with Bilhah, Jochebed, the mother of Moses, and Zipporah and Elisheva, the wives of Moses and Aaron.

Gad took seven sons with him when he, his father and brothers left for Egypt because of the famine in Canaan. By the time of the census taken in the second year after the Exodus, adult males numbered over 45,000. The tribe, according to the Book of Numbers, had "a very great multitude of livestock." When Moses, after forty years of wandering and preparing his people (ample details of this

period available elsewhere), brought them around Canaan to the eastern bank of the Jordan river just north of what we call the Dead Sea, two tribes liked the land they saw there, the lands of Jazer and Gilead, and asked Moses if that could be their patrimony instead of some land they hadn't seen across the river. (The specific quote from Leviticus was "One handful of enjoyment on this side is better than two on the other.") This land was good for grazing, and they were rich with cattle and sheep. The tribes were Reuben and Gad. At first Moses was angry, but both tribes agreed to still help their brother tribes conquer the land across the river, in fact agreed to lead the attack. That satisfied Moses, who allowed Reuben and Gad to first build fortified cities for their women and children before going off to war. Moses died on and was buried in the territory he granted to Gad.

Across the river or no, Gad became deeply involved in the politics of the new confederation of Hebrew tribes, even before joining the first kingdom c. 1050 B.C.E. with Saul as king. After Saul's death, Gad joined the more northerly tribes in making David, then the



king only of Judah, king of a re-united Israel. But David's heirs were not David, and upon the accession to the throne of his grandson Rehoboam, c.930 B.C.E., the northern

tribes split off to re-form Israel as the northern kingdom. Gad joined in. Only Benjamin and Judah remained in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Gad's location, across the Jordan River and exposed on the north, east and south, was never secure from invasion or attack. Gadites be-



Gad's warrior shield.

came constant warriors, which explains the use of the tent encampment as their symbol. According to a description in 1 Chronicles, Gadites were "...men of war fit for the battle, who could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions...the least of them commanded a hundred men and the greatest, a thousand."

But the period of great and powerful empires was about to begin. For years Israel had been fending off attacks from Syria to their north and Moab to their south. Now they had the bad luck to be in the sights of the newly ascendant empire of Assyria, which emerged as if spontaneously from the area around the Tigris and Euphrates. Assyria struck hard, marching through Syria toward the sea, and Israel was no match.

According to the Talmud, Gad and Reuben, being on the east side of the Jordan and therefore the most exposed, were the first to fall to the advancing Assyrians. In 722 B.C.E., the northern kingdom of Israel ceased to exist. The ten tribes who lived there were dispersed or exiled or enslaved or killed, and disappeared to history. Unlike the kingdom of Judah, which was defeated 136 years later by Babylon, Israel had no Ezra or Nehemiah or an enlightened conqueror that would bring its elite to home territory and allow it to maintain or even further develop its culture. The territory of Gad was re-absorbed, after almost 500 years, by the neighboring Amorites

-This Month in Jewish History-

October

832 B.C.E. – Most consider this the traditional date of the inauguration of the first Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon.

732 – At the Battle of Tours near Poitiers, France, Charles Martel (the grandfather of Charlemagne) defeats a large army of Moors, stopping Muslims from spreading into Western Europe. The territory south of the Pyrenees, mostly today's Spain, remains in Islamic hands for much of the next eight centuries. The rest of Europe remains Christian. This demarcation has profound effects on the development of the two main strains of western Judaism, Sephardic and Ashkenazi.

1165 – Maimonides and his family arrive in Jerusalem, leaving Spain due to the conquest of Cordoba by the Almohades, a group of Muslim fundamentalists. The family settles for a while in Fez, Morocco, where the Rambam writes his commentary on the Mishnah. They stay briefly in Eretz Israel before settling in Egypt, where he becomes physician to the great Muslim Sultan and general Saladin.

1272 – Pope Gregory X condemns the ritual murder libels aimed at the Jewish people. In addition, since Jews are not permitted to bear witness against Christians, the Pope refuses to allow testimony by a Christian against a Jew unless it is confirmed by another Jew.

1289 – Birth date of Louis X, King of France from 1314 to 1316. In 1306 his father, Phillip the Fair, confiscates the property of his Jewish subjects and banishes them from the kingdom. The son, once king, sees that this has been a bad business decision for France. The confiscated property now has less value than the taxes Jews had been paying. Also, Christians, the replacement moneylenders, consistently charge higher rates of interest. So the man known as Louis the Stubborn permits Jews to return.

1886 – Johannesburg, South Africa is founded. Many Jews living in Cape Town move to Johannesburg because of the discovery of diamonds and gold. Barney Barnato and Sammy Marks are two of the more famous Jewish entrepreneurs. Marks amasses a fortune from gold and diamond mining, then assumes civic responsibilities as a negotiator during the Boer War and as a member of Parliament. Barnato, born Barnet Isaacs in the Whitechapel slum of London, founds the De Beers Consolidated Mines company.

1927 – The three Jewish Warner Brothers introduce the era of synchronized sound in moving pictures with the opening of "The Jazz Singer." Al Jolson is cast in the lead instead of the show's Broadway star, George Jessel, when Jessel demands an additional \$10,000 to sing in the film. The movie earns profits of \$3.5 million on an investment of \$500,000, and establishes Warner Bros. as a major American film studio.

1948 – Before fighting has even stopped in the War of Independence, Golda Meir, newly appointed Israeli ambassador to the Soviet Union, goes to the Grand Synagogue in Moscow for Rosh Hashanah. At best, the usual 2,000 Jews are expected at services. Instead, she is greeted by a joyous crowd of 50,000, at a time when such behavior might lead to Stalin's Gulag.

1973 – At a meeting with Prime Minister Golda Meir and several senior advisers, Moshe Dayan says that recent Egyptian and Syrian military concentrations on the Suez Canal and Golan Heights are "unusual" but not an imminent threat. Three days later, the Yom Kippur War begins when Egyptian forces cross the Suez Canal. Some 200,000 Israeli soldiers, most of whom are frantically mobilized reservists, face 300,000 Syrians and 850,000 Egyptians. ♦

Jim and Joan's Excellent Israeli Adventure

Jim and Joan planned a month-long vacation in Israel. They didn't make it that long. Lots went wrong, but it was a great trip. Joan explains...

by Joan Boruszak

Our Israeli adventure started perfectly. El Al was beyond our expectations. Actually our expectations had been very low, but El Al has grown up and was as good, if not better, than any airline we have flown. Little did we know what was to follow!

Before we left Florida, Jim had bought a GPS with an Israeli chip so we could find our way in our rental car. The first test of the GPS was to find our apartment in Bat Yam; however, Jim didn't trust the GPS to know what it was doing – so we got lost. The poor "lady" on the machine kept saying, "recalculating."

Alas, we found the apartment. Better we should not have! There were "just" a few problems: filthy floors, dirty microwave and pots, beds had not been changed, soaking wet towels on shelves in closet, filthy towels and sponges in the bathroom and kitchen, broken and dirty furniture, and no Wi-Fi as promised. Then there was the caretaker. He showed us to the wrong parking space and gave us the wrong code to get in the building. Jim and I looked at each other and wordlessly agreed that this was not for us!



Joan in Jaffa. Tel Aviv is behind her.

We drove down to the ocean to check out hotels there. We had a great breakfast at the Dan Tel Aviv – but no rooms were available. There we were – two old, homeless foreigners, with all our worldly goods in the car, happily wandering the streets of Tel Aviv during the busiest season of the year. We passed a small hotel on Mendeli Street, just a block from the ocean. We had stayed at this hotel forty years ago and remembered laughing as we had to climb over the bed to get to the bathroom. It looked clean and modern, so we decided to check it out. Fortunately, they had an opening, and the hotel had been totally rehabbed. It turned out

to be a great choice, but we would have to leave by the 18th, as it was completely full after that date. We settled in to begin our adventure.

Jim connected the computer and turned

it on. Our first message was quite a shock! El Al had cancelled the entire flight for our return home on the 31st of August. That was 29 days away!! Here is where we turned "rotten eggs into egg salad." Since we were now living in a hotel and not an apartment, we de-



Jim in the Arab quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem.



cided to go home at the end of our stay in this hotel. It was a good choice as we could do everything we had planned, just not leisurely. Since the airline had made the change, we had no problem with a new date.

Wednesday morning we woke up to a beautiful new day. It started with a great Israeli breakfast: herring, smoked fish, Israeli salad, tomatoes, halvah, varieties of breads, varieties of cheeses, dol-mades (stuffed grape leaves), coffee cake, cereal, eggs, and coffee. It was every bit as good as breakfast at the Dan. With a full stomach, it was time to tour. We walked from our hotel to the old Camel Market, a mile or so. The Camel Market is filled with aromas of fruit, fish, vegetables, meat and chicken. They are all laid out in stalls, with sellers shouting to get people to buy, just the way Mideast bazaars

are depicted in old Hollywood movies. There is also much more than food there. Clothes are stacked everywhere, from underwear to dresses to shoes to toys to religious items. Jim had forgotten his swimming suit, so he was able to get one there. Mobs of people rush to buy. There are old people, baby strollers and mothers, Chasidim, and young

people. Some are pushing shopping carts. Some are carrying shopping carts. Some are just carrying bags. Everywhere there are people rushing and shouting. One can spend hours there just people-watching. We bought some figs, peaches, and plums (besides the



The photo at top is the Market on Friday morning in Jerusalem. It's exactly the atmosphere you'd imagine.

In the center photo, Joan stands at the entrance gate of the old city of Zichron Yaakov in northern Israel. (No, she's not holding the red pole with the directional arrow on top.)

In the lower right picture, Jim and Joan stand with Joel, a friend and confrere of their great nephew. It was Joel who, during the recent boarding of the Turkish ship bound for Gaza to unload weapons, was the first commando down the rope from the helicopter. He was badly injured by crowbars, but more than held his own.



swimming suit). After all that we needed our nap. Then we had dinner at a restaurant on the beach and watched the sun go down over the Mediterranean.

On Thursday we decided to trek down to the beach. We rented a lounge chair with an umbrella. The water was



The plaza at the Western Wall. The entrance to the tunnels are at left.

calling us. Jim was much braver than I. He went all the way into the waves. I was careful not to get knocked down by them. The water was beautifully warm. After that we had lunch at another restaurant on the beach. The rest of the day was spent with a niece and her baby and with our great nephew. He had just returned from a ship in Somalia where he had been guarding against hijackers. It seems that ex-Israeli soldiers are hired for this job. Hijackers prefer to avoid them. Actually they aren't ex-soldiers, just soldiers in-between assignments.

Our next, very important, point of interest was Jerusalem. Since things had started wrong, we decided to treat ourselves with three days in Jerusalem at the King David Hotel. I was hoping that Paul Newman's ghost (you know, Ari Ben Canaan from Exodus) would come see us – but no! There is no other place in the world like Jerusalem! The city is golden and hilly. Our favorite site is the old city, connecting to the Western Wall. People there are from everywhere. The Chasidim are there, some studying, some begging for money. Priests from almost every Christian denomination are there. Tour groups fill the streets. We saw several groups from the Birthright program that our grandchildren had been lucky enough to attend. We

had lunch in our favorite Armenian restaurant.

Our favorite store in all of Jerusalem is the Blue and White Art Gallery in the Cardo. This is the oldest store in the Old City. Elyada Merioz and his family were the first Jews to return to the Old City and they opened a museum there. It is now owned by his son Udi and his son-in-law Israel. They have works by such artists as Agam, Chagall, and Ben



Joan in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem, an Eastern Orthodox enclave.

Avram. Udi is now a well-known artist in his own right. (We now have some beautiful mezuzahs designed by Udi in our own KJCC gift shop. Ask me and I'll be happy to tell you each's story.)

One cannot go to Jerusalem without at least one visit to the Wall. There is a strange, mystical feeling that comes to you as you approach it. I know that, as many times as I have been there, I am emotionally overcome with the feeling that I must do this for so many people who dreamed of seeing it, but never would. The Wall is filled with little pieces of paper left by visitors through the years. One of my sons was lucky enough to go there when the first group of soldiers went in 1967. He was 13 years old. His note is somewhere there, mixed with so many oth-

ers from many years.

Another fascinating place in the Old City is the Shook. It is crowded with Arab stores filled with souvenirs, clothes and carts of food. Donkeys and children run through the narrow, hilly streets. The alleyways run in many directions and getting lost is a definite possibility. One also has to be careful not to stop at a shop because it is difficult to get away without buying.

Jim had been so anxious to go to the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem on Shabbat morning. He settled himself in the great hall downstairs. I settled myself in the great balcony four flights up. Women with baby strollers were also in the balcony. How they got there, I will never know. There was an escalator, but it didn't work past the second floor. We arrived just in time to hear one of the Cantors and the twenty-voice male choir. Jim was thrilled. The Ark was filled with about twenty-five to thirty Torahs. A boy from New York was being Bar Mitzvah. Someday, maybe, old ladies and baby strollers will be welcomed on the first floor.

On a beautiful Sunday morning we decided to drive to the wine country. We had lunch in Zichron Yaakov and wandered through a charming town. As usual, we shopped – for the KJCC gift shop. We came upon a place where they made a variety of items with parchment paper. We purchased some note cards. It was hard to find a winery open, but we did find a wine store connected with a Carmel winery. Obviously, we could not bring any home, but we did purchase some for gifts for our family there.

Another place where we found items for our KJCC gift shop was a small shop in Jaffa that sold religious items. Jaffa is a beautiful

fishing area in the south end of Tel Aviv. It was originally Arab and had several good fish restaurants. We were there several years ago, right after I started taking Hebrew les-

sons from Yardena. I loved practicing Hebrew by reading signs in the restaurants and shops. I spent several minutes pouring over one sign, only to discover it read, "calamari."

Israel has gone through many changes since our first visit forty years ago. One of the most obvious is in the demographics. On this visit, we were overwhelmed by the number



Joan visits the Carmel Winery in Zichron Yaakov south of Haifa, Israel's first winery.

of young people and children. Everywhere we went there were mobs of young adults with three and four children, and very often they were expecting more. I don't think I mentioned how beautiful the women and how handsome the men were.

It is a constantly changing country, and has so much to offer the world. We look forward to spending more time there in the future and watching this exciting place take its place as one of the great countries of the world, for it really is. ◇



A dentist's sign in the old city of Jaffa, with two languages plus a universally understood symbol. He or she must welcome tourist walk-ins.

High Holidays 5771 at the KJCC

We began our second thirty years by having both rabbi and cantor. There was S'lichot, and Tashlich, and Havdalah, and a nature walk. There was food at the beginning and at the end. Enjoy it all again here.

High Holidays – looking back and forward

by Gloria Avner
KJCC Ritual Chair

In Hebrew we don't say "Happy New Year." We don't say "New Year" at all. We talk instead of the "Head of the Year." We want to start at the top, not the tail, so as a people of symbol and metaphor, we reinforce the wish with a custom of eating a fish head on Rosh HaShanah eve. We wish each other a "good" year, a "Shanah Tovah." We want to walk into a fresh year with clear heads and consciences, followed closely by our hearts.

Every year during the "Days of Awe," we look deeply at our behavior and resolve to do better. We acknowledge our failures and admit that we have hurt others, the planet, and ourselves. We apologize and promise that we will act differently. But how do we really effect change? We are creatures of habit. The outside is easy—we shop, buy new clothes, and make declarations of intent. We attempt to go deeper by performing acts of kindness, giving charity, and



praying for help. This year we asked for help early—serious help. This year, 5771, brought more "newness" to KJCC than we have experienced since moving into our sanctuary.

We took a risk and voted to change our behavior. We decided as a group to do something really different: to look to a rabbi for education, insight, and upliftment at this key



It all began with pizza and a movie at S'lichot. The pizza was a hit, the movie, "A Serious Man," by the Coen Brothers, a little less so.



The only one to uphold male cooking honor was Bernie, who made his famous melt-in-your-mouth brisket. It was all a very auspicious beginning to the tenor, tone and taste of High Holy Days.



In the top four photos, the cooks who prepared the sumptuous Erev Rosh Hashanah meal. The dinner was Erica's idea, and it was an overwhelming success.



port that this thirty-year-old congregation, our KJCC mishpocha, performed a High Holy Day miracle. We have become a wise "young adult." In a tribe known for having at least three



holy time, and to have him share leadership duties with our cantor.

What was the risk? Some thought we would lose our identity. We are a polyglot mix who enjoy our lay leaders. I am happy to re-



opinions when two members are present, our Keys tribe of 170, the only synagogue in a 126-mile stretch, managed to worship harmoniously during Ten Days of Awe, participating fully and graciously in services led by Reform Rabbi Danny Young and Orthodox Cantor Mark Halpern.

Our identity survived. Our people thrived.

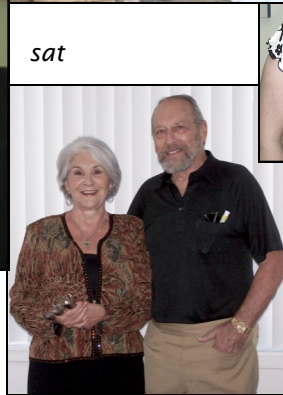
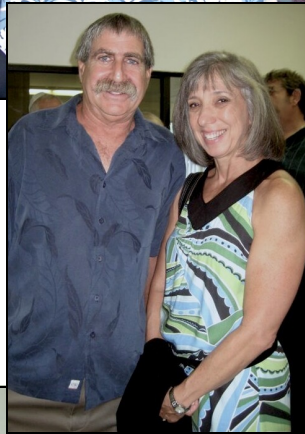
We, who had gotten along without a rabbi for thirty years, decided to heed the request of the 40 percent of our members who answered Alan's questionnaire with a "yes, we'd like a rabbi to lead us on High Holy Days." Rabbi Young, who had already led a service for us and whose warmth and approach we liked, was chosen. More than ten families generously pitched in to underwrite the cost so there would be no financial drain on the shul.

The photos surrounding this article tell much of the story. If you were at services you saw and heard two men in white robes on the bimah. In addition, our lay leaders participated. This year we heard more stories. We learned things (like how do you know if you have a minyan without counting: ask each person present to read one word of Ma Tovu; if you get to the end, you have ten).

We were invited to participate in discussions on serious topics. The Rabbi came down from the bimah and moved among us as we tack-

led, among other topics, the question, "What is a Jew?" The question of matrilinear descent vs. patrilinear, mixed marriages, conversion, commitment, and the future of Judaism made for lively discussion, which continued beyond the actual service.

What else was new this High Holiday season? Lots. From a desire to begin the year meaningfully, sharing a Jewish meal with mishpocha before services, came a new ritual that blossomed from a ten-person-home-event seed idea into a sixty-three person sit-down brisket dinner. Also new was the fact that it was prepared mostly in the KJCC kitchen, by a tearful (all that onion chopping) and cheerful crew supervised by Erica. Our rabbi



sat

at the head of the table and officiated at HaMotzi and Kiddush. Our New Year began, as it should, spiritually,



deli-



*ciously,
and*



Rabbi Danny Young led us all in the "Shehechyanu," then led us into the sanctuary for Erev Rosh Hashanah services to begin the reflective portion of the Days of Awe.



*joyfully.
After the
service, more
of us assem-
bled, dipping*



ples in honey and enjoying more strudel than could (or should) be consumed at three sittings. Surely both dinner and oneg foreshadow a year of great sweetness and abundance.

New members are rejuvenating us. They are shopping, cooking, singing, organizing, cleaning, smiling, attending and assisting at services, helping us to expand and enrich our programming. Older members are maintaining continuity of care, volunteering cheerfully for all kinds of duties whenever asked. Our youngest members are showing up



After first-day Rosh Hashanah services at KJCC, there was Tashlich at Ocean Pointe, where we symbolically cast our sins into the sea. Prez Alan refuses to be diverted by the potential loss of his hat.

Below, Rabbi Young leads the blessing of the bread after the Saturday Shabbat Tshuvah service.



for services, volunteering to blow shofars, and returning to the pulpit for aliyahs. Two new students from Quebec have joined our school and Max, our latest Bar Mitzvah boy, has returned to Sunday School as a tutor.

Eco-Spiritual highlights included Tashlich, Shabbat Tshuvah, Havdalah, and Yom Kippur afternoon's reflective walk with the rabbi. So three times during the High Holy Day season, we sought and found spiritual sustenance outside

ap-



At the Oneg after Friday night's short service, we celebrated Mort Silverman's birthday. Gene even brought two kinds of cake.



our sanctuary walls. The



groups were not large, but en-

thusiastic.

On the first day of Rosh HaShanah, after four hours in the synagogue, we met at the gazebo on the end of the dock at Ocean Pointe, with big hunks of challah about to become heavy with the weight of our mis-

deeds. The Tashlich service, prepared by Rabbi Danny and led by Cantor Mark, was short, sweet and moving. The setting was fine, clear sky over radiant blue waters. After prayers and song, we flung our sins into the sea. This brought response from the "sin-gulls,"

who cried out their own chant, instantly made a minyan, and gobbled every crumb of our year's worth of bad behavior.

Havdalah, perhaps because of the way Gloria does it, has become one of the beloved rituals at KJCC. At this one, after Shabbat Tshuvah, Medina held her cell phone so her Mom Bianka could join us in the music and blessings.



After the morning service of Yom Kippur, Rabbi Young led a group of non-nappers on his nature walk at Ocean Pointe, the idea being to reflect on our complete dependence on nature and connection to the land. So it was fitting beyond words to have to change our plans due to rain. But in true, historic and indomitable Jewish fashion, we waited out the rain and did have our walk.



gain, after hours in shul on Saturday morning (not to mention Wednesday night, Thursday morn, Friday morn, and Friday

Ritual Chair Gloria, Cantor Mark, Rabbi Danny, and Prez Alan — the main planners and toilers, whose diligent preparation and prodigious work made High Holy Days so exceptional for the rest of us.



service, one of our favorites – Havdalah – under a starlit sky, again surrounded by sea (oops, and mosquitoes).

We turned to nature one more time after a nearly five-hour morning Yom Kippur service. Eighteen of us gathered, again at Ocean Pointe. We

night) for a delightful Shabbat Tshuvah service, we made the



Alan presenting Cantor Mark with a plaque of appreciation for fifteen years of service to KJCC. Joel Pollack, who legend says brought Mark into KJCC in the first place, spoke just before, clearly from the heart, to set the stage for the presentation.

experienced sun, mugginess, clouds, showers, downpour, and return to sun. A nature return, or tshuvah. The Rabbi's wonderful written guide on the relationship of Judaism to nature throughout Jewish history is available to any who ask. We read, discussed, walked, sat under cover, walked, read, reflected, and discussed some more. Commitment to Tikkun

Olam, repair of the world, became a natural outgrowth of our discussion. This part of our Yom Kippur experience was unique, addressing roots that go back to



shift from sanctuary to seaside and Cantor Mark conducted another short



Rachael Bloom was one of a quintet who blew the shofar to signify the end of Yom Kippur. It was on to the food.



our earliest years as a land-connected people.



Hopefully, this will become another of our annual rituals.

An emotional moment for the entire congregation came in a Kol Nidre eve presenta-



Sisterhood, led by Lauren Sax, made sure that delicious food awaited all of us at the end of Yom Kippur. There were soon lots of smiles, even from some faces new to KJCC. The cake above, which highlighted the dessert table, didn't last long. Ties were loosened and jackets came off. Marc's coffee flowed. And, yes, Rabbi Young did remind us that all this bounty comes from a generous and giving earth. He then joined us in joyous sustenance.





shofars' final wakeup call, TEKIAH G'DOLAH!! To his left stood Rabbi Danny and Rachael. To his right were Zach and Moira and Cantor Mark. All five raised a shofar to their lips and created a unique KJCC symphony. We were ushered into a new year



by all generations.



If you were not here for the High Holidays, and the changes large

tion, preceded by a moving introduction by Joel Pollack, of a plaque honoring Cantor Mark's fifteen years of service to KJCC.



and small, we are sad you were not with us. But not to worry. Enjoy the photos and the stories. Join us next year. Encourage your friends to join



Another qvell-inducing moment was a Yom Kippur aliyah shared by four of our post b'nai mitzvot, two going as far back as eight years and one as recent as three months ago, all called to the bimah at once and confidently chanting the Torah blessings.



us, too. It is wonderful to hear the powerful sound of our group chanting responsive readings when the shul is full. Our community

The last image the whole congregation will remember is that of Jim Boruszak, our reliable Kohane, on the bimah calling out the

Chai-Lights sends great thanks to Mary Lee Singer, who shot many of the Erev Rosh Hashanah photos, and to Kathy Shabathai, who took most of the images you see here from the Yom Kippur break-the-fast.



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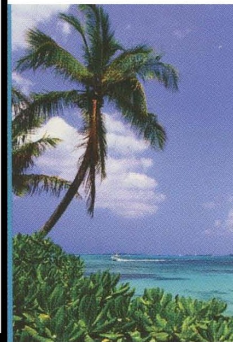
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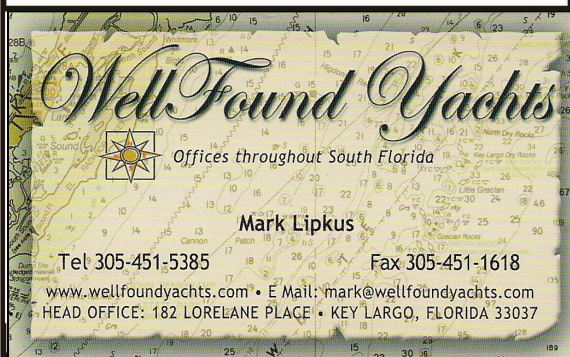
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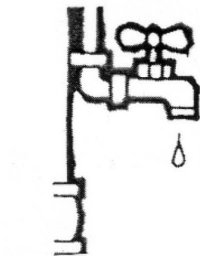
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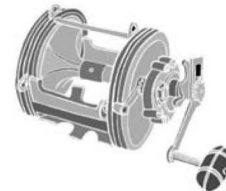
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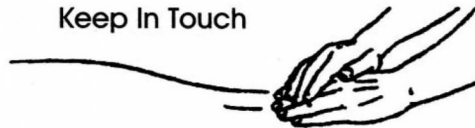
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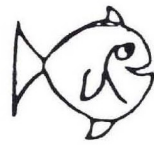


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