

Chai~Lights



April 1 - May 31, 2020

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

April 1 - May 31, 2020

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3	4	5	6	7	8 Pesach Sheini • Parashat Emor Ken Atlas	9
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman



I do not know what the few weeks between the writing of these words and the distribution of Chai-Lights will bring. Only one short week ago, we were counting down the days to our Havana Nights Gala, which would have been held tonight. Then at the KJCC board meeting, when I planned to speak about using hand sanitizer, Dr. Bernie Ginsberg made the stunning pronouncement that we should cancel all events, including the imminent Purim party, our Gala, concert and all of our wonderful Passover seders. At the time some of us had our doubts, but the board wisely voted to follow his request. This last week feels like months. Now it seems as though the country is closing down, and although Monroe County has no known cases of Covid-19, we must behave as though that is a temporary situation.

On March 13th I participated in a conference call, organized for clergy by Miami Jewish Federation, with Dr. Kenneth Ratzan, Chief of Infectious Diseases at Mt. Sinai Hospital. He spoke at length about how the disease is transmitted and then we discussed implications for places of worship. It was agreed that all large gatherings should be avoided, including Saturday morning services in large congregations, and that people should avoid physical contact, and leave six feet of space between themselves. Those who are at most risk should remain home. Then the question was asked about holding

a minyan group of 10-20 people praying, sitting far apart in a large room. Dr. Ratzan replied that if all surfaces were cleaned and they were met at the door by someone with Purell, who questioned them about their health and travels and denied entry to anyone at greater risk of being a carrier, that would be an acceptable situation for non-high-risk individuals. One large concern of the rabbis was social isolation. The situation is frightening and depressing, and no one should feel alone.

It is difficult to find a balance between the imperative of preventing the spread of disease and the needs of keeping up our spirits and avoiding social isolation. We made the decision to cancel the movie nights for now. By the time they resume, we should have a new, better projector installed. Last night we held a Friday night Shabbat service using Dr. Ratzan's guidelines. Sixteen of us were there, and most of those attending expressed how they were comforted by the familiar service. We will now hold Friday services using Zoom. In this way we are maintaining our forty year tradition of Friday services.

If you feel isolated, and want to exchange regular texts or phone calls with a KJCC member, please contact me at president@keys-jewishcenter.com or call me at 305-451-0665.

I wish you a happy and healthy Pesach and pray that we can all celebrate together soon. ◇

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Nothing is “up” within KJCC walls, but if you download Zoom.us and contact Joyce, we will be able to observe Shabbat, attend meetings and see each other, virtually. We can even celebrate Onegs if you bring your own cookies.

Friday, April 3	Parashat Tzav (Shabbat HaGadol) 7:30 pm
Wednesday, April 8	Erev Pesach (First Seder, in people's homes)
Friday, April 10	Pesach Shabbat (Chol HaMoed I) 7:30 pm
Saturday, April 11	Torah Learning Service with Rabbi Agler at 10:00 am
Friday, April 17	Parashat Shemini • Yizkor Service 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 19	Board Meeting 10:00 am on Zoom
Tuesday, April 21	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Friday, April 24	Rosh Chodesh Iyar (New Moon) • Parashat Tazria–Metzora 7:30 pm
Tuesday, April 28	Yom HaZikaron (Remembrance Day for Soldiers)
Wednesday, April 29	Yom Ha Atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day)
Friday, May 1	Parashat Aharei Mot–Kedoshim 7:30 pm
Friday, May 8	Pesach Sheini • Parashat Emor 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 10	Board Meeting 10:00 am on Zoom
Tuesday, May 12	Lag B'Omer (33 Day of Omer)
Friday, May 15	Parashat Behar–Behukotai 7:30 pm
Friday, May 22	Yom Yirushalayim • Parashat Bamidbar 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 24	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Friday, May 29	Shavuot Dinner • Yizkor Service with Laurie Blum 7:30 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot teaching after services

NOSH

Update on Cancellations – a note from Gloria

As of this writing, on the first day of Spring, we are hovering in a rare moment of balance with equal hours of day and night. Traditionally, Spring is a time of new beginnings (and all that it associated with Pesach--see article on P 18). The law of gravity does not hold for tulip and daffodil and vegetable shoots. They will poke their fragile-looking necks up through cold hard dirt to begin new life. Let's think of this time as a temporary mini-hibernation and not just social isolation. See it as opportunity to conserve energy for the time when we can re-emerge, eager for renewal, contact with old friends, ripe with energy for new activities and ways to grow, compassionate for those who have suffered.

For now, we have cancelled our 40th Anniversary Gala, our 17th Annual Women's Seder, Beth's Piano Concert, KJCC's Community First Seder, all movies, the Beiner Antiquity Collection Dedication and all Shabbat Services meant to be held in the Margulies Family Sanctuary. Yes, mid-March through mid-April would have been our busiest time of the year. Instead it has become our quietest. We will not meet again in the Sanctuary or Social Hall until an all-clear signal is sounded telling us we may safely congregate without fear of contracting or spreading a deadly disease.

Learn a language, pick up an instrument, read books you didn't have time for, phone a friend, plant a garden (see photos of our KJCC farmers on p. 21). Most important, stay in touch with KJCC. Send photos of what you are doing with your time (I expect to see pets and paintings). Read carefully all bulletins from Joyce, on Tuesday nights and other times as needed. Conditions are changing rapidly and Joyce's e-mails will be ground zero for up-to-date information. Register for ZOOM.us. It will become our new gathering place, especially on Friday nights. Be safe and be well. KJCC is here for you (even if "here" doesn't mean quite the same thing as it used to).

There is room on ZOOM

Zoom is a remote conferencing service that allows groups to meet live on line with video and audio. You do not need to buy any software to use it, but you do need a computer with a camera and microphone. Alternatively, you can use a smartphone or an iPad. What typically happens is that the "host"

generates an "invitation" that arrives in your e-mail. The invitation will have the time of the meeting and a web URL (address) for the invitee to double click on at the specified time. If the URL (which is the line that begins "https://. . . .") cannot be clicked, then copy and paste the URL into the address bar of your browser and hit "enter." You are then prompted to launch zoom. If for some reason you cannot access Zoom, there is a call-in number and participant code on the invitation, and you can participate by telephone.

Zoom etiquette: When joining a meeting your name will appear in a window with your face. Look for the menu at the bottom or top of the screen. In the lower left you will see that you can mute your microphone. Please do so unless you are speaking (or singing). You can also turn off your camera from that menu.

Please remember that the first time you try Zoom you may have some difficulty, as you would with any software. But it becomes second nature with time. Welcome to the "Zoomer" generation!

KJCC Woman of the Year

We may be postponing the Woman's Seder, but we will not postpone naming the woman chosen unanimously to receive an honor that we have been celebrating for 17 years. Congratulate Susan Gordon when you next see her or give her a mazel tov phone call because she richly deserves it. In the next issue you will see her story and be even more grateful than ever for her hard-working, melodic, enriching presence among us.



We are not alone.

We can't sit together in a restaurant anymore for a while (I feel particularly sorry for the lunch group fondly known as "Jews Without Jobs"). Make phone calls, write texts, make lists of things you are grateful for. Read Samuel I and carry on with the David Saga. Hopefully, we will continue with Rabbi Agler's monthly Shabbat morning Torah Learning Services. Look carefully at Joyce's E-mail updates for up to the minute guidance. We cannot know what the next two months will hold, but we can approach them with an attitude of openness to new ways of being and using time well. Watch sunsets; admire the awesomeness of nature. Do Facetime with grandchildren.

Artists Among Us

This has been a fertile time for the artists of KJCC. If you have missed Beth Kaminstein's exhibit of new works at Portside Gallery or the Art Guild of the Purple Isles judged show prematurely closed at the Discovery Center, look at P. 20 for works by Beth, and AGPI ribbon winners Jan Hartz, Geri Smith, and Gloria Avner. Member John David Hawver was one of the Judges for the show, an honor in itself. Congratulations to all. If you are an artist and would like to propose an exhibit of your work on a wall at KJCC, write to BethKamenstein@gmail.com

A Question About ChaiLights

Some Board members are thinking it is time to switch from a physical copy of Chai-Lights to an electronic one, partly for financial reason, partly for modernity. How would that affect you? Would you like to read it on-line? Would you miss having a physical copy? Would you not care, one way or the other? A survey is being developed with a few more questions. Watch for it in an e-mail from Joyce or in your summer dues packet (or feel free to express your feelings now. We'd love to hear from you. gee-tavner@gmail.com). ◇

April Birthdays

1st.....	Janice Ichel	17th	Katie Greenman
3rd	Justin L. Lebofsky	17th	Susan Ellner
4th	Larry Weber	18th	Jennifer Garrett
4th	Thomas Brodie	18th	Lauren Sax
5th	Jon Tainow	19th	Augie Moss
9th	David Feder	20th	Jonathan Nobil
12th	Richard Knowles	22nd.....	Susan Temkin
13th	Julia Berger	24th	Lynn Nobil
13th	Moiria Knowles	24th	Susan Gordon
13th	Samantha Lebofsky	25th	Shirley Stein
13th	Sylvia Rimm	26th	Maryann Boruszak
15th	Toby Bofshever	29th	David Goldfinger
16th	Adam Starr	29th	Linda Pollack
16th	Alfred Rimm	30th	Jason Sherman
16th	Dave VanArtsdalen	30th	Rachel Barrett

May Birthdays

1st.....	Cheryl Margulies	15th	Paul R. Schur
2nd.....	Barney Coltman	18th	Jaime Brennan
4th	Laura Leigh Tallent	19th	Jonathon Hodgson
5th	Marissa Stein	21st.....	Jerry Herson
5th	Richard Palacino	22nd.....	Christian Strasser
7th	Murray Rapoport	22nd.....	Sharon Repka
7th	Skyler Bella Strasser	23rd	Jenny Margulies
8th	Kelley Greenman	23rd	Jules Seder
8th	Sidney Boruszak	23rd	Nettie Seder
9th	Camden James Hudson	23rd	Rita Williams
9th	Gary Margolis	25th	Matthew Birnbaum
9th	Reid Schur	27th	Alan Beth
11th	Richard Agler	27th	Jeffrey Pollack
12th	Madelyn Ruby Pollack	27th	Joan Boruszak
12th	Nyan Feder	29th	Liati Mayk
13th	Rose Marie Gordon	29th	Nancy Zinner
14th	Bernie Ginsberg	31st.....	Judy Starr
14th	David Ichel	31st.....	Robert Sherman
14th	John Temkin	31st.....	Wes Conklin
14th	Medina Roy		

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2020

Yahrzeit

	In Memory/Honor of
Gerald & Sheila Olsen	Betty Weinstein
Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	Harris Warren
Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	Chuck Margolis
Adam & Judy Starr	Hedy Lopecky
Gerri & Frank Emkey	Nathan Weisberg
	Robert Kinney
David & Pamela Marmar	Sam Marmar
Lillian Tallent	Morris Epstein
David & Rosalyn Kofler	Fred Goldfaden
Karen Zoren	Al Roller
Joyce Ruthen	Al Roller
Medina Roy	Bianka Kirschenbaum
Lillian Tallent	Ida Tallent
Joan Boruszak	Robert Kohlenbrener
Adam & Judy Starr	Alexandra Louise Starr
Frank & Gerri Emkey	Leroy Weisberg
Marshall & Myra Kaplan	Monty Kaplan
Marshall & Myra Kaplan	Luba Tuchman
Marilyn Rapp	Russ Rolnick
Laurie Blum	Janet Blum
Laurie Blum	Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein
Stephen & Marsha Harris	Lee Harris

Memorial Garden

Stuart & Lauren Sax	Dorothy Schocket
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Book Plate

Barney Coltman	Eve Greenstein
Barney Coltman	Robert Coltman

Unrestricted

Mah Jongg	
Arthur Plutzer	Al & Pauline Roller
	Joel Pollack
	Linda Pollack

Joyce Peckman	
Steve & Jan Hartz	Mobile Minyan
Islamorada Sunset Investments	
Bernie Ginsberg	Dorothy Schocket

Stanley & Lori Gold	Friday Night Services
Sharon Berry	Geri Smith
Steve & Jan Hartz	Steve Steinbock's 80th birthday

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Joyce Peckman

Plaque

Marilyn Rapp	Shelby Strean
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Oneg Sponsorship

Anonymous	Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Linda Kaplan	Birthday
Joel & Toby Bofshever	Anniversary
Nettie & Jules Seder	54th Wedding Anniversary
Joel & Toby Bofshever	Toby's birthday
Sylvia Rimm	Sylvia & Al's birthdays
Susan Ellner	Birthday
Sandy Serota	Kayla Serota's Birthday
Medina Roy	Carl Roy's Birthday
Roy Pollack	Madelyn Pollack's Birthday
Erica Lieberman-Garrett	Anniversary
Donna Bolton	Birthdays & Anniversary
Steve & Jan Hartz	Anniversary
Steve & Amelia Kasinof	Amelia's birthday
Nelson & Bobbie Chester	Birthdays & Anniversary
Steve & Jan Hartz	Steve's birthday
Joel & Toby Bofshever	Joel's birthday
Barney Coltman	Birthday
Jan Friedman	Birthday
Stuart & Geri Smith	51st Wedding Anniversary

Dinner Sponsorship

Stan & Jenny Margulies	Advertisers-New Members
	Shabbat Across America dinner

Unrestricted Donation

Susan Ellner
Susan Roberts

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

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

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the wonders that lie between these covers."

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

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

To Be or Not To Be

Below is a list of the lay leaders among us who have generously volunteered to lead Erev Shabbat services over the next two months, from April 3rd to Shavuot at the end of May. I've included a list of significant holidays happening over these two months. There would have been a lot going on at this time. Guidance around issues of closing down are no longer in flux. We are closed for the foreseeable future. Whether we have services in our sanctuary or not, we can thank the people who stepped up, willing to maintain our thread of continuity since that momentous March day 40 years ago when KJCC's first official service was held. We are living in momentous and tumultuous times, different from anything we've ever experienced. Stay tuned to Joyce's Tuesday e-mails for the latest KJCC closings and/or planned events. Call each other to say hello. We can still wish each other Shabbat Shalom on Friday afternoons. Join us for Friday services and virtual oneg Shabbat using Zoom. Reach out. Let Joyce or Beth know if you need help. Deeds of lovingkindness will never be cancelled. Keep Yiddishkeit alive in stressful times. We pray to be back at KJCC by May.

Service Leaders

April 3	Joyce Peckman	April 29	Yom Ha Atzmaut
April 8	Erev Pesach	May 1	Joyce Peckman
April 10	Pesach I	May 8	Ken Atlas
April 10	Gloria Avner	May 12	Lag B'Omer (33 Day of Omer)
April 11	Torah Learning Service with Rabbi Agler 10:00	May 15	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton
April 17	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner	May 22	Yom Yirushalayim
April 21	Yom HaShoah	May 22	Steve Steinbock
April 24	Beth Hayden	May 29	Shavuot Dinner, Service & Tikkun Leil Shavuot Teaching
April 28	Yom HaZikaron		

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for information, or send your desired inscription to lindap4000@ymail.com.

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

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

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

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, or email her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at lindap4000@ymail.com.

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



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
SISTERHOOD
TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT
SHABBAT DINNER



Omer counting is over.

It is time to receive the Torah.

JOIN US at the KJCC on FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020, 6:00 PM

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION

**DAIRY DINNER, SHABBAT SERVICES, YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE
SERVICES at 7:30 P.M.**

*After Services there will be a TORAH LEARNING EVENT led by
Rabbi Agler along with a delicious cheesecake-laden ONEG.*

We can feed our brains along with our appetites.



- Contact Susan -

susangordon424@yahoo.com - (305) 766-3585

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please rsvp by May 25th - No Charge -

BETH HAYDEN HAS SENT US THIS VIEW, CULLED FROM "HONEST REPORTING" OF HOW ISRAEL'S DEFENSE FORCE IS FIGHTING CORONAVIRUS WHILE STILL DEFENDING ISRAEL AT ALL TIMES.

While the IDF has noted a reduction in terror activity as coronavirus affects the entire region, Israel's defense apparatus has been hit in other, unexpected ways. Toward the beginning of March, the Israeli intelligence learned that as a result of the spread of coronavirus in Iran, the chances of learning the final resting place of MIA soldier Ron Arad were significantly reduced, following the death of the last known Iranian intelligence official connected with Arad's disappearance.

In order to maintain a strong fighting force in case of emergency, defense minister Naftali Bennett signed an order authorizing the Israeli military to mobilize 2,000 reserve personnel for the Homefront Command as part of the fight against the coronavirus, although initially only 700 were called up. Days later, on March 17, Bennett approved a call-up of an additional 2,500 reservists, many of whom serve in the IDF Home Front Command, which works in co-operation with civilian government on disaster response. All soldiers are directed to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from one another. Other measures approved were a ban on civilians entering IDF bases unless in exceptional circumstances with explicit approval and a cancellation of all exercises with foreign militaries for the month of March. The IDF has also moved to limit the spread of coronavirus in neighboring countries and in the Palestinian territories by conducting joint medical training sessions with the Palestinian Authority, transferring test kits and disinfectant materials to the Authority and is permitting access to Israel for limited periods of up to one or two months to Palestinian workers working in "essential services," such as medicine, construction and farming. Their page is updated regularly if you want more current information.

Oneg Sponsors

Though we are no longer sitting across tables from each other, enjoying coffee and cake and Jane's garden produce, we have found a way to continue celebrating Onegs. Yay! Download Zoom.us, tell Joyce you want to be among the invitees and observe Shabbat in the safety and sanctity of your own home. Tell Joyce if you need a Siddur dropped off at your house. On March 20th, 18 people miraculously appeared onscreen (you don't have to be seen if you don't want to), had a lovely service and stayed for chat and our own refreshments. We honored those marking the occasion by sponsoring the Oneg. Jewish life goes on. We are creative, grateful for each other's company and generosity.

April 3: Nettie & Jules Seder
54th Anniversary

April 10: Geri & Stuart Smith
55th Anniversary

April 17: Sylvia Rimm
Sylvia & Alfred's Birthdays
Joel & Toby Bofshever
Toby's Birthday

April 24: Susan Ellner
Susan's Birthday

May 1: Barney Coltman
Birthday

May 15: Roy Pollack
Madelyn Ruby Pollack's Birthday
Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg
Their birthdays

In Memoriam – April 2020

Helen Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Fred Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Hilda Mazur

By Sanford Yankow

Jean Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Nat Feldblum

By Marc Bloom

George Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

Mark Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Ellen Coltman

By Barnett O. Coltman

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

Carmel Catanese

By Jane Friedman

Faye Klein

By Channa David

Richard Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Marty Graham

By Mrs. Marty Graham

Bill Gordon

By Susan Gordon

Morris Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Michael Janowitz

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz

Stella Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

By Joan P. Wohl

Nathan Klein

By Harvey & Judith Klein

Frank Kaplan

By Sandy Kaplan

David Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner

Clara Bloom

By Marc Bloom

Marilyn Janet Barr

By Michael Klimpl

Erwin Moss

By Linda Pollack

Baruch Epstein

By Joan Boruszak

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Louise Folks Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Becky Kanowsky

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Dr. Joel Pollack

By Linda Pollack

Sally Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Frances Wolfe

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Sam Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Claire Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Belle Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Louis S. Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Charles Kram

By Sanford Yankow

Gertrude F. Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Ida S. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz

Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

In Memoriam – May 2020

Carol Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Gertrude Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Leo Wolynetz

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Charles S. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Amalia Kahn

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

Rene Rose

By Skip Rose

Clara Brooks

By Lynn Dils

Rose Herson

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

Lilyan Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Vivian Faye

By Sydney! Faye-Davis

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Leo Grossman

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz

Neil H. Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

Max Margulies

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Jerry Abramowitz

By Naomi Copeland

Susan Cimkowski

By Stephen Steinbock

Rose Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Alex Perl

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

Sam Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Morris Moshe Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

Esther Jacobs

By Lawrence Jacobs

April Anniversaries

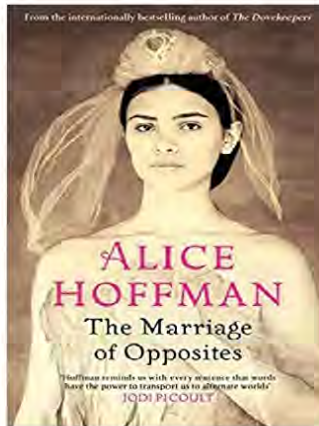
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder.....	54
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith.....	55



Sisterhood Book Club

The next meeting of the
Book Club will be via
ZOOM.

March 30, 2020 *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman



Email Joyce and request to be put on the book club list.
You will receive an email invitation with a link which will
put you into the meeting. Access can be with either a
computer or a smart phone or device. Everyone and
anyone is welcome to participate.

joycepeckman@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD

Beth Hayden



Well, this was supposed to be a new beginning, uplifting and upbeat in tone. Instead we are on our way to experiencing the Coronavirus and Covid-19. In light of that, KJCC will now be streaming Erev Shabbat services on Zoom. The KJCC President will keep you updated on that. The KJCC Board, at its March meeting, directed that the Women's Seder and First Night Community Seder be cancelled. Sponsors of Onegs will continue to be recognized in the President's weekly announcements. Sisterhood's April 5th meeting is also cancelled. These are temporary measures which will be re-evaluated as appropriate, dependent upon the situation in the Keys. As I write this, only 21 Coronavirus tests have been conducted in the Keys. Five were negative and 16 are awaiting results. Now for the good news – yes, there is some.

I am very happy to tell you, the Women's Seder Committee nominated Susan Gordon as Woman of the Year. We are moving ahead with that presentation and Marcia Kreitman is creating a panel honoring Susan for her service to the KJCC. Susan has been donating her time and effort for the benefit of KJCC for many years. She is very worthy of this award and recognition. We are all happy for her; all honor to Susan and many thanks for her contributions to the KJCC.

As noted above, the suspension of services and activities is a temporary act. The KJCC President and her Board and/or Executive Committee will reassess the Keys situation every week. Activities that were planned and scheduled before the transmission of Coronavirus in the United States are advertised here in this issue of Chai-Lights. Whether we will be able to actually plan and implement those activities depends on the coming days. Please pay careful attention to the President's weekly announcements to stay up to date.

Everywhere this virus has been introduced, it has multiplied exponentially. Those data are clear and irrefutable. Israel is on partial shutdown and considering total shutdown. Last week Florida had single digit reports of infections, today, as I write this there were 192 confirmed positives this morning and 216 confirmed positive cases late this afternoon. As I said in my message to Sisterhood about our April meeting – there is no need to panic, but there is every reason to be prudent. Most of all, protect yourself and your loved ones by minimizing contact with others, washing hands (at least 20 seconds), and try to avoid touching your face. Order groceries if you can and avoid going to the store as much as possible. This may be inconvenient, but none of us will die from inconvenience. People do die from Coronavirus, especially people in our age bracket. Stay safe and be well. Hopefully, my next message will be far more upbeat and we will be back to an accustomed way of life.

Should you have any questions or concerns, I may be reached at 305 773-0067 or hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net ◇

Book Plate

In Memory of
Eve Greenstein

by Barnet Coltman

We may no longer be offering adult education classes, concerts and speakers in our own Social Hall, but there is no reason not to keep learning. The following are all offered free of charge by Tikvah University through the auspices of Tablet Magazine.

In this time of dislocation and uncertainty, the Tikvah Fund is working to keep the spirit of Jewish wisdom alive and well. These courses—offered to the public completely free-of-charge—can be accessed from your home and viewed at your own pace.

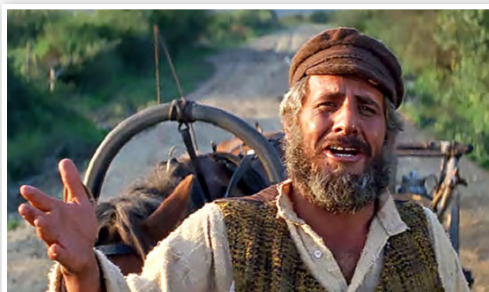


Declaring Israel's Independence

"We...hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel."

When Ben-Gurion proclaimed these words, he uttered the most consequential sentence spoken by a Jew in 2,000 years.

In this new course from Tikvah—the first of its kind in English—Dr. Martin Kramertakes you on a journey back to the harrowing days of 1948, when in the middle of a war, Israel's founders wrote the state's most important document: The Declaration of Independence.



Sholem Aleichem's Tevye the Dairyman

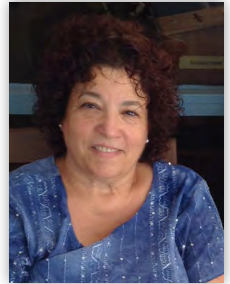
The Broadway hit Fiddler on the Roof and its star, Tevye the Dairyman, are among the most beloved cultural icons in America and the world.

But long before Fiddler, Tevye was the protagonist of Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem's greatest short stories. And in Tikvah's free online course, taught by master teacher of Jewish literature Professor Ruth Wisse, you'll get to know Tevye, his five daughters, and their suitors as you never have before. You'll laugh with Tevye, cry with Tevye, and appreciate anew what this simple country Jew can teach us today.

So start learning from the Jewish world's very best teachers at teveye.tikvahfund.org

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



An End to Dialysis?

A groundbreaking study has shown that it's possible to rejuvenate damaged kidneys and improve their function, through a procedure that could reverse chronic kidney disease and end the need for kidney dialysis. Published in January in the prestigious *Cell Reports* medical journal, the study was conducted by Professor Benjamin Dekel, head of Pediatric Nephrology and the Pediatric Stem Cell Institute at Sheba Medical Center in Israel. This is the first breakthrough in decades to fight a disease that affects ten percent of the world's population. In older studies, researchers discovered that the adult kidney constantly renews itself over time through the activity of colonies of cells that replace lost and degenerated cells in the kidney. Professor Dekel and his team developed an innovative technology that extracts healthy kidney cells from diseased kidneys. These cells are then expanded into large numbers within a laboratory environment. By generation of 3D cultures called "kidney spheres," the cells show improved function to generate new kidney tissue and replace lost cells. The new cells are then reintroduced into the host kidney, where they rebuild it and improve its function. A significant aspect of the discovery is that this newly developed technology uses the patient's own cells, thereby circumventing the need for immunosuppression as well as problems associated with immune rejection. The method has been tested on mice and, so far, the treated mice have shown improved and stabilized renal function, offering the potential of helping millions of human patients with chronic kidney disease. (www.israelnational-news.com, 1-26-20)

First-in-Nation Law for New York

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has

responded to rising acts of anti-Semitism in his state by announcing several proposals to combat hate, including one that would create a first-in-the-nation domestic terrorism law. (In January, Cuomo stated he would introduce a law defining anti-Semitism as domestic terrorism.) Part of a legislative package dubbed "No Hate in Our State," the law would classify mass violence motivated by hate as a felony punishable by up to life in prison without parole. The governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2021 would allocate an additional \$25 million in grant money for institutions vulnerable to hate crimes and \$2 million to the State Police Hate Crimes Task Force. Additionally, the proposal would require New York City public schools to implement a new curriculum that "teaches civic values and the state's rich history of diversity and religious freedom," require every student to visit a Holocaust museum and have the Battery Park City Authority develop a plan to expand the Museum of Jewish Heritage on the Holocaust. (www.haaretz.com, 2-28-20)

There Goes the Judge

Judy Sheindlin, 77, better known as "Judge Judy" of the popular court television series, has announced that the series, which has run for 25 years, will end in 2021. Sheindlin said that she will appear in a new show, "Judy Justice," premiering the next year. "Judge Judy" is the top-rated daytime syndicated program, with an average of over nine million viewers each day. CBS (no surprise) will continue to screen "Judge Judy" in reruns. (www.jta.org, 3-2-20)

They Want Justice, Not Revenge

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute is the

archive of survivor testimonies started by Steven Spielberg in 1994. The institute's director, Stephen Smith – a renowned British scholar of the Holocaust – has called on Amazon Prime to not produce a second season of "Hunters," its fictional show about a group of Nazi hunters in America in the 1970s. "Survivors of the Shoah sought justice, not revenge," Smith wrote in an op-ed published in mid-March by the Jewish Journal. "By blurring the line between fact and fiction, Hunters muddies the historical record, disrespects those who perished, and provides ammunition to those who seek to deny the truth of the Holocaust," he wrote. Additionally, he stated that if the filmmakers "had taken the time and trouble to listen to some real experiences, the flashbacks to the Holocaust in the series could have been real things that happened to real people, rather than the fantasies of script-writers." (www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-15-20)

A List of 12,000

According to a recent report issued by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an Argentinian investigator revealed a list of 12,000 Nazis in Argentina that apparently have money in accounts at a Zurich-based investment bank. The list was found in an old storage room at the former Buenos Aires Nazi headquarters. Nazi presence in Argentina dates back to the pro-Nazi regimes of Argentine president José Felix Uriburu and Agustín Pedro Justo and is well documented. But in 1938, Roberto Ortiz, Justo's successor, who did not share Justo's pro-Nazi sympathies, established a special commission to root out Nazi influence in the country. But until then there were thousands of Argentines linked to Nazi organizations such as IG Farben, the German company that supplied Zyklon-B gas used in extermination camps, and banks that enabled Nazi transfers from the country to Swiss-based banks. Then, in 1943, when the fascist Pedro Pablo Ramirez Menchaca took over Argentina, the special commission was disbanded and their findings were burned. (For some reason, the list of 12,000 names survived.) "We believe it very probable that these dormant accounts hold monies looted from Jewish victims, under the Nuremberg Aryanization laws of the 1930s," the Wiesenthal Center said in a letter to the vice president of one of the Swiss banks. "We are aware that you already have claimants as alleged

heirs of Nazis in the list." The Wiesenthal Center has requested access to that bank's archives to try to settle the issue. The transfer of Nazi money out of South America is the subject of numerous efforts by the Center to properly give restitutions to the dwindling number of Holocaust survivors. (www.wiesenthal.com, 3-2-20)

Some Climate Good News

The Arava region in Israel – from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, which includes Eilat along with all their hotels, homes, factories, kibbutzim and businesses – is close to being 100 percent powered by the sun during the day. And by 2025, the sun will also power all nighttime electricity needs. According to the United Nations, to prevent true global meltdown – pandemics, flooded cities, extreme wildfires, monster storms, killer droughts, food shortages, massive extinctions, half a billion refugees and more – every single country must cut its greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. The Arava region has pioneered a solar revolution that, if other countries do the same, can save the planet. A surprising number of African countries are interested in replicating the 100 percent daytime solar goal. There are 600 million people in Africa without access to power, another 200 million burning expensive diesel, and the total population of the continent is set to double in a generation. Israel as a whole has been slow to roll out solar, but the Arava region, a pioneering local municipality made up of some ten kibbutzim, has made renewables a common cause. It has raced ahead not with the support of the national government but despite it, and also despite the fact that the country's environmental movement has allowed the gas monopoly to more or less write national energy policy. (www.jpost.com, 2-5-20)

Secret Archive Unsealed

At the beginning of March, the Vatican unsealed its secret archive relating to Pope Pius XII, the controversial Holocaust-era Pope. The archive was opened to a select group of scholars. Pius – some have dubbed him "Hitler's Pope" – is accused of having turned a blind eye to Jewish suffering. Researchers hope the archive will reveal why this Pope, who assumed his post in 1939 and died in 1958, did not intervene and speak up on behalf of the Jews during the Nazi deportations of some 1,800 Roman Jews, nearly all of whom died in Auschwitz. (Most of Europe's

Jews were murdered during Pius's time as Pope.) Some 10,000 more Roman Jews survived World War II in hiding. (The Vatican maintains that Pius worked behind the scenes to save Jews.) Jewish activists, allied with an international mix of scholars, have long called on the Vatican to open these archives to clarify the issue.

Before it was unsealed, Vatican archivists spent fourteen years inventorying the archive's contents. Some 200 researchers had requested access before it opened. When Pius XII was still Eugenio Pacelli, he served as the Holy See ambassador to Germany from 1917 to 1929 and witnessed the beginning of the rise of Nazism. Without naming Jews specifically, in his Christmas radio message of December 24, 1942 he referred to "hundreds of thousands of people who, without any fault of their own and sometimes for the sole reason of their nationality or race, were doomed to death or gradual extermination." One reason for the Pope's silence might be that he was concerned with protecting Catholics, known to have been persecuted by Nazis in the lands they occupied.

David Kertzer, historian at Brown University and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, is one of those being allowed into the archives. Kertzer asserts that the Pope knew what was going on. "What we don't know is what kind of discussions might have taken place behind the scenes..." Whatever Kertzer finds in the archives, he believes that "[T]he larger issue about the responsibility of Christian churches has more to do with the decades leading up to the Holocaust - of vilification of the Jews." (www.forward.com, 2-28-20)

In Memoriam

- Marcelle Ninio, one of six Israeli spies formerly jailed in Egypt in the infamous Lavon Affair of the 1950s, died in October at the age of 90. In the Lavon Affair (officially named Operation Susannah), Israeli spymasters, acting without the knowledge of then-Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, recruited Egyptian Jews to carry out false-flag terror attacks (i.e. pretending to be someone you're not while committing acts of terror) against civilian targets in the country in order to destabilize the rule of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. But the operation failed. Eight cell members were imprisoned and two others were executed. Ninio, the only woman

in the squad, served as a liaison between cell members. She spent fourteen years in an Egyptian prison. Operation Susannah was initiated because of Israel's concerns about Washington's and London's good relations with Nasser and in particular, the plans of British authorities to evacuate their forces from the Suez Canal. Israeli officials feared that, without the Brits there, Nasser would block Israel from the waterway. Their aim was to sabotage relations between Egypt and western nations in order to keep Nasser from becoming more powerful. There were thirteen members of the Jewish spy cell. They were caught in 1954 after one of the operatives was captured and interrogated. The affair scandalized Israel. Born in Cairo, Ninio was 24 at the time of her arrest and attempted suicide many times. Released in 1968, she arrived in Israel where she married and had a family. In 1988 she was honored with a torch-lighting during Israel's 40th Independence Day celebration. (www.timesofisrael, 10-23-19)

- Larry Tesler, a Jewish-American computer scientist, died at the end of February. He was 74. Tesler's many computing innovations included the now ubiquitous "copy and paste" function as well as "search and replace." He created the function with Timothy Mott when he worked for Xerox in the 1970s, allowing users to highlight a piece of text, cut or copy it, and then paste it somewhere else. Later, Tesler went to work for Apple, bringing his creation with him, which was later incorporated into Apple's operating system. Today it is a standard function on all personal computers. (www.jta.org, 2-21-20)

- Michael Hertz, the graphic designer who, in 1979, created a new, legible map for the New York City subway system, died recently at the age of 87. Hertz's map replaced Italian artist Massimo Vignelli's abstract design, often criticized by riders for being too difficult to understand. Hertz and his team at Michael Hertz Associates oriented the map around recognizable landmarks like Central Park, evoking real geography and neighborhoods of the city's five boroughs. Hertz was raised in Brooklyn and Queens and spent two years in the army. He worked for the Walt Disney Company as an art director before founding his own company in the 1960s. His design has undergone revisions since 1979 but his template remains the same. (www.forward.com, 2-27-20) ◇

WHEN PESACH IS NOT PESACH

Ma Nishtanah HaLayla Hazeh. I know. It is hard to read the words without singing them in your head. Or hearing them sung. Unless you live with a number of people, young and old, you will not be hearing a child's voice sing those words around your table this year. Perhaps you'll go on line to hear them and sing along with the "Four Questions." But this will be the first time there won't be a lot of dishes and wine and voices coming in and out of the kitchen. And the answer to the questions that all begin with the phrase: "Why is this night different from all other nights", will have an answer we never thought of before. Will we, should we, add an 11th drop of wine to our plates when we dip our fingers into our cups and recite the ten plagues? Would we call this new thing that takes away our ability to celebrate a meaningful dinner and journey together "isolation?"

Do you have a Hagaddah? If not, call Joyce. We will make a time to leave some on the outdoor table near the back door or we will find a way to deliver to you as many as you need. Pesach is not a holiday that can be postponed (though there is a Pesach Sheini), at least not beyond springtime. One reason that the Jewish calendar is always so carefully adjusted is because our holidays, especially Pesach, are inextricably linked to a particular season and its energies. Pesach, Passover, is tied forever and always to spring, to new beginnings, to a start of an incredible journey that leads us from slavery to freedom, that gave us the Torah, that gave us Shabbat, that made us into a people who would be a light unto the nations. We love that it is not celebrated in a sanctuary. We love that it happens around a table and that we are encouraged to invite "all who are hungry" to come and eat with us. So what will we do? We know we can't have a group of more than 10, and truthfully we know we should only have the people who live with us. So, no matter what your seder table looks like, light the candles, drink the wine, do all the blessings in the right order (seder), dip the greens in saltwater and let the horseradish make you cry. If there is no one to search out the afikomen, close your eyes, smile to yourself and remember a time when an excited little one you love and cherish searched it out and ran away happy with their present. Make sure you have matzah. It may not be so hard to find this year.

We usually award KJCC's highest honor, the Joel S. Cohen Award for Fellowship, at this time to a person in the congregation who has given of themselves generously beyond measure to the good of our Community. Wait for it. The decision has been made, the plaque has been engraved, but we want all of us to be there when the name is announced. We hope that by then, we may embrace the winner and each other, in our own promised land.

- Gloria



Seventeen years ago, the women of KJCC, for their first Women's Seder, created these wine cups at Beth Kaminstein's ceramics studio--a good memory in a year of cancellations. L'chaim and Yom tov!!

PHOTO GALLERY



Our last big dinner was so good. Thank you Medina Roy and all who worked hard to make this a joyous occasion. We sat and sang and ate a delicious communally cooked meal together on Shabbat Across

America, cheerful and essentially clueless about how our lives were about to change. We honored our advertisers, our new members, our potential new members, and the holiday that is the most important in the whole Jewish ritual year—Shabbat. Let's keep lighting our candles and meeting through Zoom.us, keeping our Shabbat observance alive.



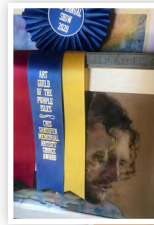
In the same week, two of our artist members won top honors in the category of Mixed Media at the Art Guilds Annual Members Show—Geri Smith for her intriguing collage and Gloria Avner for her Batik painting “Heron Dreaming”— and four members vented frustrations in a creative exercise based on Munch’s Classic painting, The Scream.



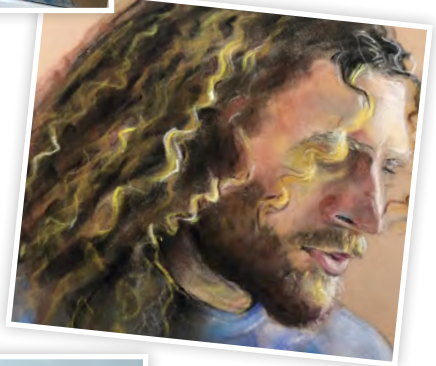
Geri Felder Smith and her blue ribbon winner.



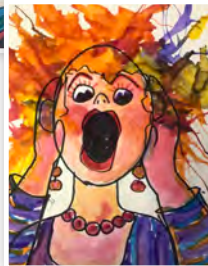
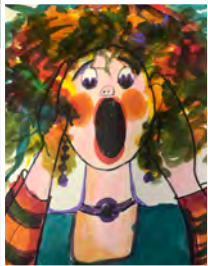
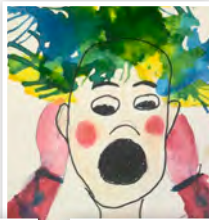
Gloria Avner's “Heron Dreaming” and refreshing ribbon.



Gloria Avner won the additional honor of a special ribbon that only artists vote for—the Cris Sandifer Memorial Artists' Choice Award. She won it for this pastel portrait of Nyan Feder.



Beth Kaminstein has had one exhibit in Islamorada and has an upcoming one in Key West. “Weight of a Cloud” will be one of the pieces displayed.



Here are four versions of Edvard Munch’s “The Scream.” The exercise was supposed to be a lead in to Purim. Who could have imagined the Community reading of the Megillah would be cancelled 18 hours ahead of time. The Screamers are Medina Roy, Hannah David, Nettie Seder and Gloria Avner, who led the exercise.

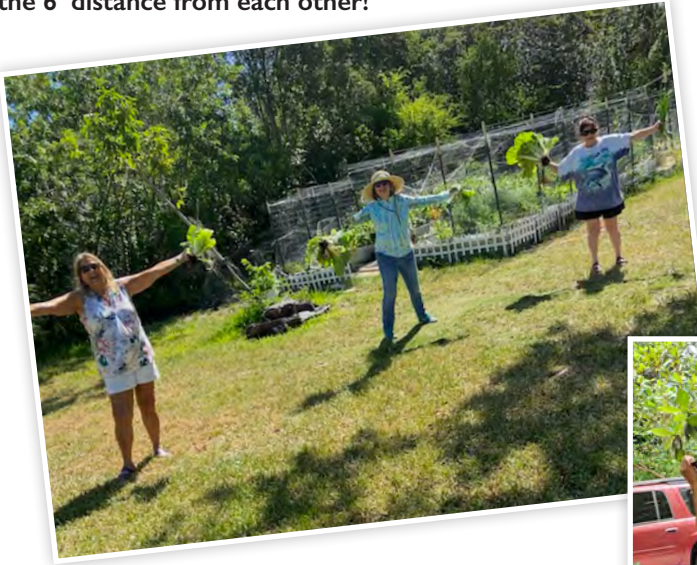
Let us not forget our artist musicians. KJCC runneth over with talent. David Feder has been displaying both talents.



Dave playing with Brazil's leading Jazz Guitarist.

These are the KJCC farmers! Jane and Mindy doing all of the harvesting of the produce.

Susan, Mindy and Donna were celebrating our harvest while maintaining the 6' distance from each other!



Jane brought baskets of greens- bokchoy, swiss chard and lettuce- to the Burton Memorial food bank. Jane Friedman and Mindy Agler maintain the KJCC Organic Garden in trying times. Nice of others to visit and help out.





“The old order changeth (but not very much).” At left is 2020’s KJCC’s Board of Directors and Officers. We are very happy to add Gary Margolis and Laurie Blum, our new leader of Yizkor services, join our ranks. We look forward to their thoughtful contributions. *Thank you Barbara Knowles Photography.*

Joyce Peckman, entering her second year of Presidency gave an excellent State of the Synagogue address, noting the ever more enriching activities and improvements in security. Jules seder did an excellent job of swearing in the new Board.



After a delicious celebratory luncheon prepared by Sisterhood (special thanks to Beth Hayden, Erica Lieberman-Garrett and all who helped), we tripped outside to our back forty. It was Tu BiShevat, the Birthday of the Trees, and thanks to Jane Frieman’s intrepid hole digging we were able to plant two fruit trees.



We were so lucky to have helpers Sean Kaufman and Maddy Bloom fill the hole with dirt.



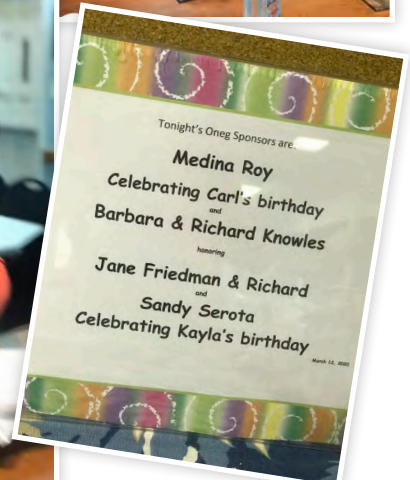
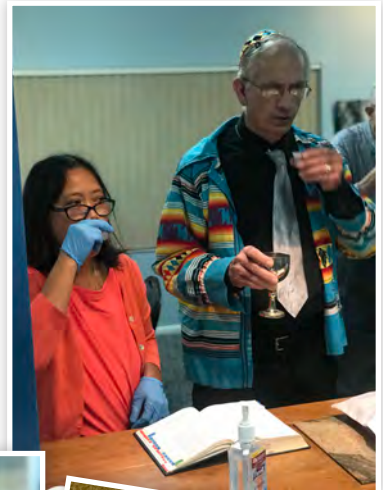
As a group, we blessed the trees and sang Mayim Mayim while our youngest generation watered them.



An 80th Birthday is a big deal and friends and family came from near and far to help Steve celebrate.



On March, Friday the 13th, we celebrated a special, and rare, event. Richard Knowles and Jane Friedman led services and celebrated the seventh anniversary of their conversion to Judaism. That service may turn out to be our last coming together in observance of Erev Shabbat for an unknown period of time. They did a beautiful job and we are very proud of them!





KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT DINNER

Celebrating Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzma'ut

**Yom HaZikaron honors all who gave their lives that
we might have a state and that the state remains
strongly defended.**

**Israel's Independence Day, Yom HaAtzma'ut, is celebrated on the
fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the
formal establishment of the State of Israel.**

**Join us on Friday, May 1, 2020, at
6:00 p.m.**

ישראל

**for Israeli Food, Music,
and Folk Dancing followed by
Shabbat Services at 7:30 p.m.**



- Contact -

**Hanna David, h david2012@icloud.com, (305) 744-6048
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish
Please rsvp by April 27th - No Charge**

YOM HAZIKARON

Beth Hayden, President of Sisterhood, will be leading services on the Shabbat when we observe two contiguous holidays, the first commemorating fallen soldiers, followed by celebration for the birth of the Jewish State. Beth's husband was among the soldiers who fought and laid down their lives for Israel. Those of us who traveled with Rabbi Agler will never forget the cemetery where those Soldiers were laid to rest, literally in graves that looked like beautifully made beds, with herbs for coverlets. The soldiers were "The Silver Platter" on which we were handed the promised land.

In 1949 and 1950, the first two years after the declaration of the State, memorial services for soldiers who fell in the 1947–1949 Palestine war were held on Independence Day. Services at military cemeteries were coordinated between the IDF and the Ministry of Defense. A concern arose, expressed by families of fallen soldiers, to establish a separate memorial day observance distinct from the festive celebrations of national independence. In response, and in light of public debate on the issue, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion – also serving as Minister of Defense – established in January 1951 the “Public Council for Soldiers’ Commemoration”. This council recommended establishing the 4th of Iyyar, the day preceding Independence Day, as the “General Memorial Day for the Heroes of the War of Independence”. This proposal won government approval that same year.

Observance

Yom HaZikaron is the national remembrance day observed in Israel for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel’s armed forces. As of Yom HaZikaron 2019, that number was 23,741.

Preceding evening

The day opens with a siren the preceding evening at 20:00 (8:00 pm), given that in the Hebrew calendar system, a day begins at sunset. The siren is heard all over the country and lasts for one minute, during which Israelis stop everything, including driving on highways, and stand in silence, commemorating the fallen and showing respect.

By law, all places of entertainment are closed on the eve of Yom HaZikaron, and broadcasting and educational bodies note the solemnity of the day. Regular television programs cease for the day, and the names and ranks of every soldier who died for Israel are displayed in a 24-hour television broadcast.

Main memorial day

A two-minute siren is sounded at 11:00 the following morning, which marks the opening of the official memorial ceremonies and private remembrance gatherings at each cemetery where soldiers are buried.

Many Israelis visit the resting places of loved ones throughout the day.

National memorial services are held in the presence of Israel's top leadership and military personnel.

Yom HaZikaron differs from America's Memorial Day in that, by law, all places of entertainment are closed. Memorial candles are lit in homes, army camps, schools, synagogues, and public places, and flags are lowered to half staff. Throughout the day, serving and retired military personnel serve as honor guards at war memorials throughout the country, and the families of the fallen participate in memorial ceremonies at military cemeteries.

Many traditional and religious Jews say prayers for the souls of the fallen soldiers on Yom HaZikaron. Special prayers prescribed by the Israeli rabbinate are recited. These include the recital of Psalm 9: "For the leader, on the death of the son," and Psalm 144: "Blessed be the Lord, My Rock, who traineth my hands for war and my fingers for battle" in addition to memorial prayers for the dead. The official ceremony to mark the opening of the day takes place at the Western Wall.

The day officially draws to a close at sundown (between 19:00 and 20:00; 7-8 p.m.) in a ceremony at the national military cemetery on Mount Herzl, marking the start of Israel Independence Day, when the flag of Israel is returned to full staff.

Scheduling Yom HaZikaron right before Independence Day is intended to remind people of the price paid for independence and of what was achieved with the soldiers' sacrifice. This transition shows the importance of this day among Israelis, most of whom have served in the armed forces, or have a connection with people who were killed during their military service. ◇



A poem for this season—a different take:

PANDEMIC

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down. And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch. Promise this world your love--

for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

– Lynn Ungar,
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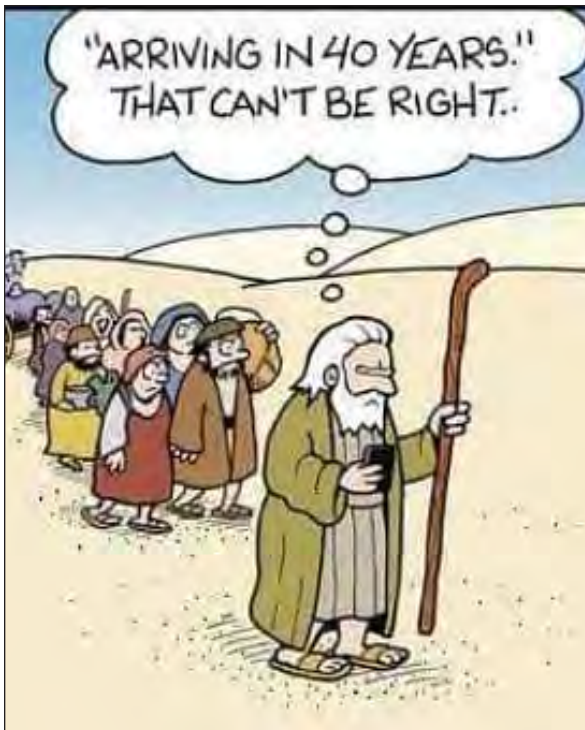


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