

Chai~Lights



March 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2008

24 Adar I — 24 Adar II

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	S
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></div>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Gloria and Alan <i>Bea & Marty Graham</i> <i>Toby & David Goldfinger</i> <i>Elinor & Herb Grossman</i>	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Patricia & Henry Isenberg</i>	1 5
16	17	18	19	20	21 5:30 Magillah Reading Joyce 7:30 Purim Play 8:00 Service by Jim Boruszak <i>Suzanne & Michael Gilson</i> <i>Barbara Calev</i>	2 2
23	24	25	26	27	28 6:30 Service Joyce Peckman <i>Gene & Mort Silverman</i> <i>Susan & Joseph Sachs</i>	2 9
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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly newsletter of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070

President's Message Steve Steinbock



It has been a wonderful year for me. Last year I said I would try to fulfill the goals of the KJCC as stated in the by-laws – i.e. to improve, encourage & enrich the religious, educational and social lives of our local Jewish community. Thanks to our Board and the members of our congregation, we are achieving those goals.

Mark Wasser, our Executive VP, used his expertise to obtain lower insurance rates with better coverage. Vice President Alan Beth, our ritual chairman, computer guru, web master and e-mail maven, continues to work long and hard to make our services better. We can all thank Alan for bringing KJCC to the worldwide web. In addition, his work allows me to communicate by e-mail to every one of you.

Vice President Susan Gordon, together with Gloria Avner and Yardena Kamely, has increased enrollment in our Sunday School, and our children enliven all holiday celebrations. Treasurer Linda Pollack, with the capable assistance of financial secretary Rene Rose, continues to work tirelessly.

Thanks to house co-chairs Jim Boruszak and Marty Graham, our building now has new carpet in the sanctuary, roof repairs, a new butterfly garden and a repaired eternal light in the sanctuary.

Yardena's Holocaust Committee created a haunting walk-through display in our lobby last spring, seen not only by

members but also by many from the community at large.

Sisterhood, led by Joan Stark and Joyce Peckman, is the backbone of the KJCC, providing Shabbat dinners, fundraising events, Women's Seder and the second-night seder for the congregation. There would be no KJCC without Sisterhood.

Last November we had to say farewell to Joel Cohen, one of our founding members. I was saddened by his passing but moved by the love displayed by his family and friends.

As a result of fundraising efforts and generous donations of our board and general membership, we have new *bemah* covers, a new Torah crown, many new library books, a Powerpoint projector and last, but not least, funds added to our coffers. Financially, we are in good shape, but we must remain diligent to be sure we have the resources to meet our future needs.

On January 25th, we had a membership Shabbat dinner. Over 90 people attended the dinner and service. I am thrilled to say we had over a dozen non-members in attendance.

For a wonderful year of accomplishments, I wish to thank the Board of Directors, fellow officers, committee chairs, past presidents and our members, without whom none of the above would have happened.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to serve you for another year.

Steve Steinbock

Second Seder Reservations

Planning has begun for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. It is never too early to make that reservation as we always fill up quickly. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

We Need Baskets

The Sunshine Committee—you know, those thoughtful few among us (all women, of course, as if that should surprise anyone) who deliver baskets of fruit and other goodies to other KJCC members who are ill or grieving—has asked us to tell you that they're running out of baskets. Without which they'll increasingly be hard-pressed to, um, deliver baskets. So anyone who has baskets to donate, preferably mama-bear sized, please bring them any time KJCC is open, on Thursday or Friday night or Sunday morning. If that's not convenient, please call the KJCC at 852-5235 or e-mail president@keysjewishcenter.com--and someone will arrange to pick them up.

Mend Quickly, Cammie

Many of you know Cammie Jayne (a.k.a. B'Hira HaBracha), Zoe Berk's little blonde imp. Cammie managed to break her wrist last month, and is on the mend. She would love to hear from KJCC members, especially anyone she knows from Sunday school. Your get-well wishes can be sent to : cammiejayne@aol.com.

New Members

The KJCC is pleased to welcome our newest members, Steve and Jane Friedman (with son Harry) of Key Largo, Bernard and Elaine Solas of Tavernier, and Jim and Rita Williams of Key Largo. We look forward to your active participation as members of our *mishpocha*.

TREE OF LIFE

Happy Birthday
Linda Rutkin

From Rene and Skip Rose
2008

Have You Shopped

At Sisterhood's gift display recently? Joan Boruszak has a good selection of quality items available there. It's located in the lobby of KJCC.

ROCK ON THE TREE OF LIFE

"Papajojo"
Joel S. Cohen

Our "Rock"
of wisdom, joy, faith, strength, courage

A blessing to his family and friends

A High Recommendation

Our son recently became engaged to his girlfriend of nearly three years. On Saturday, February 9 Jeremy and Kristen drove down from West Palm Beach to look at wedding rings and to have dinner with us before driving back to WBP. Just before dinner Jeremy noticed that one of his tires was nearly flat. Upon closer inspection we found a large sheet metal screw wedged into his rear tire. We refilled the tire and went out for dinner only to return to a deflated tire. What to do? It is Saturday night, all the service stations are closed and none will be open on Sunday.

We called Advance Auto Supply in Key Largo for information. They gave us the name of a couple of local mobile auto services that "might" come out on Sunday. One would be happy to do the job for well over \$100 CASH

ONLY. The other said he would be there on Sunday morning at 9:30 and do the job for \$20!!! We took a chance on the \$20 offer and he showed up on time, did the job quickly and efficiently, paid him his quoted price along with a healthy tip, and the kids were on their way home in under thirty minutes.

Why do we share this with you? Because our new found friend, James Meek offered to assist us and any of our friends at any time. He drives a well stocked mobile service van and is based in Islamorada. If you are ever in need of tire repair or other minor automobile service, we strongly recommend James Meek. He can be reached at 305-393-3200. Good people are good to know.

-Stuart Sax

Ongoing Committees and Activities

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. 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 Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

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

KJCC **Tree of Life Leaves** and **Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit 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 Bea Graham, 852-0214.

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

Advertising 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.

Annual Fund Raiser

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the KJCC Annual Fund Raiser, which will be held at Elaine and Jerry Hirsch's home on Sunday, March 9, 2008. Brunch begins at 12:30 p.m. Food will be plentiful -- omelet stations, pancakes, lox and bagels and all the spreads, tomatoes, onions and capers to go with it. There will be fruit salad and desserts to top it off. Beverages include champagne, mimosas, Bloody Marys and screwdrivers.

We are selling raffle tickets for—our top prize—a Sharp 37" Aquos HD flat-screen television. Other raffle prizes include a Mariners Wellness Center mini-membership with one-hour massage, a "stem-cell facial" donated by Dr. Jamie Goodman, a gift certificate from the Banyan Tree, a pair of gold earrings donated by Joyce Peckman, a boat trip donated by Steve and Carol Steinbock, and breakfast at Mangrove Mike's Café.

Music will be provided by a trio of local talent—Kathy Buchanan, Cindy Hollingsworth and Yana Pate. Kathy and Cindy, accompanied by Yana on keyboard, will sing some oldies and some show tunes.

And last, but not least, a select group of local artists have donated hand-painted mezuzahs. The artists include John David Hawver, Stacie Krupa, Morna Strenghold, our own Gloria Avner and others. We will hold a silent auction during the brunch to auction these. These mezuzahs are one of a kind and certainly will become a valued addition to your home.

Tickets to the Brunch are \$50 per person. Raffle tickets are \$18 each or \$50 for four. Raffle tickets can be purchased even if you are not planning to attend the Brunch. Please contact Joan Stark at 305-394-2417 or Nancy Kluger at 305-393-2129 for additional information.

To Contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions. ◇

YARTZEIT PLAQUE

JOEL S. COHEN
(YOEL SHIMON)

Thursday October 4th 2007
22 TISHREI, 5768

His acts of loving kindness are
Blessings to all who shared his life.

BOOKPLATE

**TO HONOR LINDA RUTKIN
ON HER BIRTHDAY**

by Joan and Jim Boruszak.

Mitzvah Mention

A swift recovery to Barbara Knowles
from Lauren and Stuart Sax.

March Anniversaries

	Years
4 th Gloria & Robert Jay Auston.....	26
24th Sylvia & Robert Berman.....	52
18th Carol & Alvan Field.....	20
25th Susan W & Joseph Goldberg	15
14th Patricia & Henry Isenberg.....	38
1st Sheila & Jerry Olsen.....	49
7th Susan & Joseph Sachs.....	43
24th Sherrie & Morris Willner.....	39

KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder

Reservations will be taken
for members only until
April 1 at which time it will
be opened for others.
Send your check early to
confirm your place. Call
Joan Boruszak at 852-0833
for information and
reservations.



Sunday, April 20, 2008

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

PASSOVER

Adults \$40

Children 12 and under are our guests.

March Memoriam

By Marilyn Greenbaum
In Blessed Memory of
ARLENE R. BRENNER
Eternal Rest

By Robert & Eileen Hermann
In Blessed Memory of
LOUISE HERMANN
Always In Our Memory

By Skip & Rene Rose
In Blessed Memory of
CISSIE ROSE LANG
Always Remembered

By Ron & Dorothy Horn
In Blessed Memory of
RUBIN BRESSICK
Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Gerald & Elaine Hirsch
In Blessed Memory of
DOROTHY HIRSCH
In Our Memory Always

By Michal Kamely
In Blessed Memory of
RACHAMIM LEVY
Always Remembered With Love

By Maryann C. Azzato
In Blessed Memory of
E. PAUL CHARLAP
Eternal Peace

By Ron & Dorothy Horn
In Blessed Memory of
ANNA HORN
Long ,Blessed Sleep

By Lillian Lippman
In Blessed Memory of
JENNIE LIPPMAN
Rest in Blessed Peace

By Gene & Gail Saks
In Blessed Memory of
ALBERT COHEN
Forever In Our Hearts

By Linda Rutkin
In Blessed Memory of
FRANK IDESTONE
We Remember Always

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies
In Blessed Memory of
OSCAR MARGULIES
Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Larry & Judith Weber
In Blessed Memory of
DEBORAH EICHLER
In Our Heart And Memory

By Mollie Gross
In Blessed Memory of
HANNA GROS KLEIN
With Loving Remembrance

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich
In Blessed Memory of
FLORENCE PATTERSON
Always Loved and Missed

By Alvan & Carol Field
In Blessed Memory of
MAURICE FIELD
Always In My Memory

By Michael Klimpl
In Blessed Memory of
MARIAN ROSE KLIMPL
Sleep In Peace

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg
In Blessed Memory of
HARRY PHILLIPS
Eternal Rest

By Marty & Bea Graham
In Blessed Memory of
SELMA GREENSPAN
Rest In Peace

By James & Joan Boruszak
In Blessed Memory of
ROBERT KOHLENBRENER
Remembered With Love

By George & Muriel Swartz
In Blessed Memory of
ABE M. REIDER
Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By the Blumberg Family
In Blessed Memory of
HERB HELSTEIN
Rest In Eternal Peace

By Arnold & Gale Lang
In Blessed Memory of
HERSCHEL LANG
Forever Remembered With Love

By Robert & Sylvia Berman
In Blessed Memory of
HARVEY ROAZEN
Eternal Peace

By Milton & Claire Geller
In Blessed Memory of
MORRIS SHORE
In Our Memory Always

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake
In Blessed Memory of
DOROTHY STANLAKE
Long, Blessed Sleep

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock
In Blessed Memory of
THERESA STEINBOCK
We Remember Always

By Mel & Blanche Taks
In Blessed Memory of
IRVING TAKS
With Loving Remembrance

By Robert & Susan Temkin
In Blessed Memory of
ANNE TEMKIN
Sleep In Peace

By Larry & Judith Weber
In Blessed Memory of
ALICE WEBER
Remembered With Love

By Dick & Rita Bromwich
In Blessed Memory of
**LOUIS ABRAHAM
WEINSTEIN**
Forever Remembered With Love

**By Eric & Ruth Schraeder-
Grace**
In Blessed Memory of
LOUIS WEINSTEIN
Always Remembered

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen
In Blessed Memory of
LOUIS WEINSTEIN
Always Remembered With Love

By Sheldon & Carole Weiss
In Blessed Memory of
IDA WEISS
Rest in Blessed Peace

By William & Barbara Weprin
In Blessed Memory of
EDITH WEPRIN
Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich
In Blessed Memory of
TILLIE ZALMANOVICH
Always Loved and Missed

March Birthdays

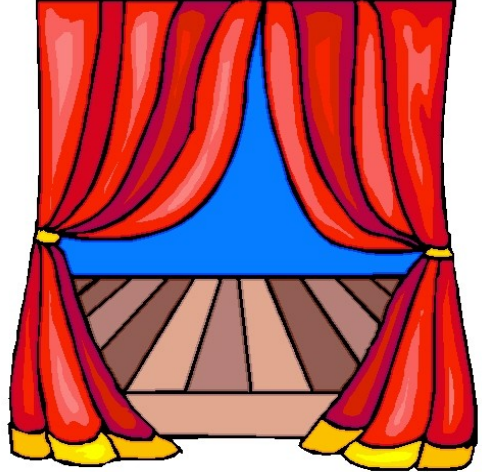
Gloria Auston	24
Sylvia Berman	25
Denise Blumenthal	15
Allan Boruszak	15
Barbara A. Calev.....	21
Michelle E. Denker.....	27
Lynn Dils.....	23
Sasha Dutton.....	1
Hannah Feig	7
Eva Faust	31
Stephanie Gilderman.....	3
Toby Goldfinger.....	7
Sari Eliz. Goldstein.....	31
Bill Gordon.....	6
Alvin J. Gottlieb.....	11
Eric Grace.....	18
Bea Graham.....	6
Doug Graham.....	24
Marty Graham.....	12
Laurence Green.....	10
Heath Greenbaum.....	12
Anthony A. Gutierrez.....	30

Eileen Hermann.....	13
Allen Holbrook.....	8
Kate Horowitz.....	10
Seth Horowitz.....	14
Pearl Jacobs.....	9
Melvin L. Jacobson.....	1
Barbara Kantor.....	2
Erwin Kantor.....	21
Adam Karron	26
Lois S. Kaufman.....	21
Benjamin K. Kwalick.....	4
Jenna Lane.....	14
James Nobil, Jr.....	21
Steven Nobil.....	16
Janet Palacino.....	20
Joseph Palacino.....	21
Michelle Palacino.....	19
Joel Pollack.....	29
Carl Roy.....	13
Susan Sachs.....	20
Bryan Schur.....	11
Lee Schur.....	30
Benjamin Schwaid.....	17
Nicole Sherman.....	2
Stephen Steinbock.....	3
Roger Vorcheimer.....	28
Johanna Willner.....	15
Marcia Wolf	23

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you not regularly at services, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the *mishebeyrach* prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The web site, which accepts email, is keysjewishcenter.com.

Keys Jewish Community Center



Sunday, March 30, 2008 ♦ 2:00 pm

Actors Playhouse ♦ Coral Gables

Donation \$36

Call Bea Graham for tickets
and information 852-0214

Nominated for 4 Tony Awards and has the potential to become the next Grease with its high energy, exuberant entertainment, bursting to life with music, romance, and dance. One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, the FOOTLOOSE sound track was #1 on the billboard charts. Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie and based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford, music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and additional music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman.



Jewish Women and Jewish Values

Studying from the Torah and Talmud, we learn about Jewish values. Reading the stories of Jewish heroes, from the Bible and modern Jewish history, teaches us Jewish values another way, through the lives of men and women whose actions and choices make them Jewish role models. On *Purim* we are reading the *Meguilat Esther*, Book of Esther, the story of a woman who by revealing herself as a Jew risks her life on behalf of the Jewish people. Her actions reflect the *mitzvah of K'lal Israel*, Jewish solidarity.

Esther is one of many extraordinary Jewish women. In modern times, the role of Jewish women in building the State of Israel has been substantial, and a story of contributions of influential women in a wide variety of fields. From the heroism of Hannah Senesh in the Holocaust, to the creativity of Leah Goldberg, the leadership of Golda Meir, the founding of health care by Henrietta Szold and the contribution of women to the Israeli Defence Force, come thousands of stories, each unique and fascinating.

I raised my children far from Israel, so teaching them Hebrew became a very important task for me. Hebrew was essential to their communication with my family, their connection to Israel and their Jewish identity. Reading stories in Hebrew seemed to me a good way to teach and educate. I chose to read with them children's books by one of my favorite writers, Leah Goldberg (1911–1970). Her story is one of those stories of extraordinary women.

When Leah Goldberg was a teenager in

Lithuania, she began studying Hebrew. As a young adult, she studied German and Semitic languages, and earned a Ph.D. In the early 1930s, facing increasing anti-Semitism in Lithuania, she decided to emigrate to Israel. Like many other *olim*—immigrants—Leah Goldberg found it difficult to adjust to her new homeland. She began to write poetry that expressed her feelings, and soon became one of Israel's most popular poets. She had an excellent ear for the language of the heart, and her poetry for children expressed their needs and desires. She worked as a school teacher, and today her poetry is part of the national school curriculum. Her "adult" poems have provided lyrics for a number of hit songs in modern Israel.

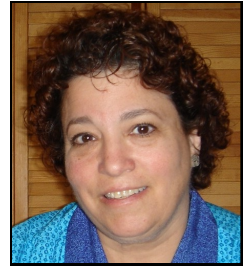
"On the Blossoming," Goldberg's fourth volume of poetry and one of her best-known works, was published in 1948. The poems reflect the tremendous hardship and trauma faced by the Jewish people. She described the new State of Israel as a place of suffering and great happiness at the same time. Her poetry sometimes interweaves lines from the Bible, especially from the Psalms, Judges and Kings, evoking timeless emotions such as commitment, love and connection.

Goldberg was on the staff of several magazines. She eventually became editor of a literary magazine and served on the staff of a popular children's magazine, where she later became a children's book editor. She became a professor of comparative literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1952 and taught there until her death in 1970. ♦

5th Annual Women's Seder

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Tom Lantos, R.I.P

Rep. Tom Lantos, the Democratic chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs died on Feb.11 at the age of 80. Lantos served 14 terms in the House. Born in Budapest, he twice escaped from a forced labor camp, the second time finding safety in an apartment rented by Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. His experience as the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress shaped his strong support for human rights. In 2006, he and several other members of Congress were arrested, willingly, for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy in Washington to denounce the government's role in the killings in Darfur. Lantos once said, "It is only in the United States that a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground could have received an education, raised a family and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a member of Congress. I will never be able to express fully my profoundly felt gratitude to this great country." (*washingtonpost.com*, 2-12-08)

NASCAR Driver Wrapped in Tefillin

Race car driver Jon Denning, 20, from Springfield, NJ, admits he's never been a very spiritual person. That seems to have changed after putting on tefillin and standing before the Western Wall while on a ten-day Birthright Israel tour. "After spending time with soldiers and talking with people on the street...they have inspired me to stay strong to my Jewish roots," said Denning. Denning, who attended a Conservative synagogue while growing up, competes in the lower-echelon Whelen All-American Series. (*The Forward*, 1-16-08)

Ms. Magazine Rejects AJC Ad

A decision by Ms. magazine to reject a full-page advertisement featuring three prominent Israeli women has Jewish leaders condemning the action and urging people to write, call or e-mail the feminist publication to register complaints. The ad, submitted by the American Jewish Congress, features photographs of three women who hold leadership positions in Israel: Dorit Beinisch, the president of the Israeli Supreme Court, Tzipi Livni, Israel's foreign minister, and Dalia Itzik, speaker of the Knesset. Underneath the photos, the ad reads, "This is Israel." AJC president Richard Gordon said, "For a magazine that... has stood for empowerment and supporting women in high positions of society, it was just stunning. Clearly, there is an anti-Israel sentiment here...because there is no other possible rationale for making a decision like this." Kathy Spillar, executive editor of Ms. said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) that the ad was rejected "because 2 of the women were from the same political party... we understood it as political endorsement. Ms does not get involved in the domestic politics of other countries." Gordon called the argument "specious," saying that in any parliamentary democracy, the foreign minister and parliament leader are going to be from the same party. (*The New York Sun*, 1-11-08)

Library Desks Cause Community Uproar

More than a dozen congregants at the nearby Orthodox synagogue have complained about the setup of the study desks in the new \$10 million West Hempstead New York Public Library. The desks are in a configuration that resembles a swastika, though the arms of the

desks face counterclockwise, actually forming the shape of an ancient symbol that has many meanings, including good fortune. The library board of trustees, three of whom are Orthodox Jews, discussed the "pinwheel" design in advance noting that it makes the best use of space and provides privacy. The original ancient symbol has been used for over 3,000 years. It represented good luck and prosperity in some ancient cultures and has been found among many races, religions and cultures, from Buddhists to Aztecs. Before WW II, Hitler adopted the symbol but demanded that the arms point clockwise and it came to be the symbol of his Nazi party. Buddhists have said that inverting the arms signifies a turning away from G-d, and since then it has become synonymous with anti-Semitism. (*newsday.com*, 2-2-08)

Tourism To Israel Soars

According to Israel's tourism commissioner, the number of foreign tourists visiting Israel jumped 25 percent in 2007 (529,000 visitors) from the year before. The previous record year was 1999. About 25percent of all tourists to Israel come from the U.S. While some Americans go to connect with their Jewish heritage, as many as a third are Christian, with itineraries that include sites connected to the New Testament. (*Miami Herald*, 2-1-08)

A Market For World Class Wines

Near Israel's border with Lebanon and Syria, the Golan Heights Winery, established in 1983, is credited with remaking the Israeli wine industry. It has slowly transformed Israel's reputation as a maker of unexciting, syrupy kosher brands to a producer of world-class, award-winning wines that appeal to sophisticated international consumers. Best known as the contentious area Israel captured from Syria during the Six-Day war in 1967, the Golan Heights is territory that is still claimed by Syria today. Located in the village of Katzrin, the state-of-the-art winery generated sales of \$30 million in 2007. Winemaking in Israel dates back to biblical times, however it all but ceased following

the rise of Islam in the 7th century when Muslim leaders banned alcohol. Serious winemaking resumed in 1882, when French philanthropist Baron Edmond de Rothschild began underwriting agricultural settlements in the region. The turning point came in 1972 when wine expert Cornelius Ough visited and surveyed Israel and concluded that the Golan Heights would produce high quality wine. In 1987, the winery's Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc received the Winarsky Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon Worldwide at the London International Wine & Spirit Competition, making it the 1st major prize for an Israeli wine and earned the winery global recognition. (*Business Week*, 1-16-08)

Jewish Films Chase Oscar

Two films with Jewish themes were in the running for Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Language Film category. For the first time in 24 years, Israel was represented at the 2008 Academy Awards ceremony on February 24th. Israel's entry *Beaufort* and Austria's *The Counterfeiters* were among the 5 films nominated. *Beaufort*, a war movie, tells of a how a small Israeli unit evacuated the medieval Beaufort fortress in the first Lebanon War. In *The Counterfeiters*, the Nazis use dozens of skilled Jewish craftsmen to create perfect counterfeits of British & U.S. currency in a last-ditch effort to destroy the economies of the two allies. *The Year My Parents Went on Vacation*, another Jewish-themed foreign film from Brazil, was among the nine semifinalists in the category but did not make the final cut. The last time an Israeli director was acknowledged by the Academy for a best foreign language film was in 1984, when *Beyond the Walls* was nominated. (*jta.org*, 1-22-08)

Miles Lerman

Miles Lerman, an instrumental figure in the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, died in January at the age of 88. He was chairman of the campaign that raised \$190 million needed to build, equip and endow the museum. Born in Poland, Lerman was arrested and forced to work in a labor camp in 1941 from which he later es-

caped. For almost two years Lerman was a leader in organized armed resistance against the Nazis in the forests surrounding Lvov. He and his wife immigrated to the US in 1947.

Lerman faced opposition from the museum's director yet pushed for the museum, whose original design did not include artifacts, to be a repository of artifacts and archives. Once the artifacts began to arrive – the railroad car of the type used to transport Jews to Treblinka, the shoes from Majdanek, canisters that stored Zyklon B, barracks from Birkenau and many more – the magnitude of the artifacts soon won over Lerman's former detractors. (*The Forward*, 1-23-08)

Scientific Distinction

Three Israeli researchers from Tel Aviv University were recognized on a list of the world's 50 most influential scientists for 2007. Professor Eshel Ben-Jacob and his assistant, Dr. Itay Baruchi, were chosen for their research into the brain's cognitive functions, while Professor Beka Solomon was recognized for her work on a nasal spray that could potentially cure Alzheimer's disease. The distinctions were compiled in the year-end issue of *Scientific American*, considered one of the world's leading science magazines. (*Dateline: World Jewry*, February, 2008)

Pieces of History For Sale

Jewish law states that when a Torah scroll is so faded or damaged that it can no longer be used, it must be buried. But Sam & Deborah Gliksmans hope to bring new life to the scrolls by putting them on display and offering them up for sale. *Spiritual Artifacts*, their California-based company, takes fragments of ancient Torah scrolls and frames them in handmade museum cases using acid-free, museum-quality archival material. The concept developed when their son and his friends were at the age of bar mitzvah in 2006. "We were constantly searching for gifts that...were unique, that would be consistent with the spiritual meaning of the occasion. Wouldn't it be nice to present them

with the identical Torah portion on an antique Torah scroll?" The Gliksmans were very careful to adhere to *halacha*. The rabbis they consulted saw no problem with framing pieces of the Torah, as long as they are preserved and show *kavod* (respect) for the Torah. The Gliksmans have collected scrolls that are 200-500 years old and cost anywhere from \$375 to \$1,250. Popular portions include the 10 Commandments, The 10 Plagues, the Exodus from Egypt and Creation. (*The Forward*, 1-30-08)

Auschwitz Jewelry

In January, 13 pieces of an unusual jewelry collection were unveiled at the Armenian Library & Museum of America in Watertown, Mass. The jewels earned their place in the museum not because of their value, but rather for the journey they've been through. At age 27, Meyer Hack was deported to Auschwitz in 1941. His assignment was to work in the area where the clothing of inmates was taken before the inmates were led to the gas chambers. Periodically, during his four years in the camp, Hack would find jewelry, manage to hide it, and, after surviving the camps, he hid the collection in his attic. He kept the jewels and their story to himself until two years ago. Now 92, Hack has decided to show the jewelry to the world. After the initial display in Watertown, the jewels will move to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel. (*The Forward*, 1-23-08)

Nano-Bible

Scientists at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology recently inscribed the entire Hebrew text of the Bible onto a silicon surface smaller than a crystal of sugar. The exercise, part of a science called nanotechnology, is meant to raise public interest in the physics and electronics behind storing data in the smallest amount of space. A nanometer is equal to one millionth of a millimeter, and can only be observed through a special electron microscope. (*Dateline: World Jewry*, February 2008) ♦

Eye On The Arts Gloria Avner



I hope everyone had the opportunity to sample some of the great art fare offered to us last month by our increasingly culture-conscious community. I saw KJCC people at the Lichtenstein exhibit and Chocolate Festival at Fairchild Gardens, at art shows, at SFCA's fabulously entertaining and inspiring Arvel Bird Concert, I.C.E's Paco Pena Flamenco Performance (a visual and auditory treat no one should have missed), and of course at SFCA's breathtaking production of "La Boheme." (Did everyone notice our own KJCC luminaries gracing the stage in the bistro scene? Bravo. If you've ever seen or heard "Spamalot," you know you gotta have Jews.) And then there were the brilliant I.C.E. Shakespeare productions. I saw "Taming of the Shrew" and can attest, along with the Shurs, the Swartzes, Joyce, Bubbe Linda, Zoe, Cammy, the Levys, Klugers, Susie and Nyan Feder, Sam, Lisa and David Rutherford, and all those I did not see, that this was an unforgettable, top quality, highly entertaining production. Then there was SFCA's "Yesterday," the Beatles Tribute raising funds to bring artists into the schools, and I.C.E's great musical performers Pierre Bensusan (guitar) and Michael Pickett (blues). Words fail. Let's support the people who support enrichment of our lives with these quality offerings. So many of the people doing the behind-the-scenes work are our own KJCC members. Let's continue to buy tickets and donate extra support funds whenever we are able, to South Florida Center for the Arts (sfca-arts.org) and Islamorada Community Entertainment (keysice.com). Here are the art and performance offerings for March:

Saturday, March 1:

"Chairs for Charity." Painted and decorated chairs by the gallery's artists. Artist reception 5 - 7:30 p.m. The Artists Gallery at DeClue's Fine Art Printing and Framing, Tavernier Towne Shopping Center, MM 91.3, Tavernier. 852-4840.

March 1-11:

Dave & Nyan play the Zihuatenejo International Guitar festival in Mexico.

Monday, March 3:

Middle Keys Concert Association presents **Camerata Bariloche String Orchestra**. \$20. Under 19 yrs Free. 7:30 p.m. San Pablo Church, 122nd St., Marathon. 743-4687.

Thursdays - Saturdays, March 6 - April 5:

ME AND MY GIRL by Noel Gay. \$24. 8 p.m. Marathon Community Theatre, MM 49.5 Overseas Hwy., Marathon. 743-0994. marathontheater.org

*****Saturday, March 8:**

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents **Stanislaw Drzewiecki, pianist**. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059. sfca-arts.org (G note: This man is a young Polish virtuoso who is on the cusp of a brilliant career. We will be glad to be able to say we saw him when he was still a teenager.) This is the last SFCA concert of the season. Come buy raffle tickets for great prizes including a sunset sail private champagne cruise for 40!! All drawings will be held tonight.

Saturday, March 8 - Sunday, March 9:
Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Lorelei Restaurant Field, MM 81 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. 289-7656.

*****Friday, March 14 - Saturday, March 15:**
South Florida Center for the Arts presents St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival. Parade, high tea, concert, traditional foods and more. Key Largo Civic Club, 209 Bay Drive (MM 99 Overseas Hwy.), Key Largo. 304-9059. sfca-arts.org (**G note: a particularly fun-filled event for families with children; they'll enjoy arts projects, parade, et al. Brisket by any other name: corned beef and cabbage. A great celebration of Spring.**)

Friday and Saturday, March 14-15:
Green Turtle 8-11 p.m. **Dave Feder performs.** (*A group of us caught his show after shul one night and after Shakespeare the next. Needless to say it was great enough to warrant repeat attendance. Talent, verve, versatility, and entertainer/educator panache well beyond expectation.*)

Sunday, March 16th:
Cheeca Lodge Brunch, 11:30-2:30; **Dave Feder performs**

Sunday, March 16th:
First Ever Jewish Heritage Festival is being held at the News Journal Center in Daytona Beach from 11:00a.m.-5:00p.m. The festival is being organized by a consortium of nine Jewish organizations in the area. This festival will have two stages of entertainment featuring performers such as Shalom Y'All! The Jewish Docs of Dixieland and Cantor Zev and Cantor Becky. Kosher and Kosher-style food, Israeli and Judaica artists and vendors, and exhibits including a Holocaust Memorial and Jewish Hall of Fame. Children's entertainment available throughout the day. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 386-316-3626 or e-mail Cyndi Brown at cbrown@garyyeomansford.com

Tuesday-Saturdays, March 18 - April 12:
SYLVIA by A.R. Gurney. Directed by Joy Hawkins. 8 p.m. Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval St., Key West. 296-9911. redbarntheatre.org.

Friday and Saturday, March 21 -22:
Green Turtle 8-11 p.m.; **Dave Feder performs**

Sunday, March 23rd:
CheecaLodge Brunch. **Dave Feder performs** from 11:30- to 2:30

Sundays & Mondays, March 23 -31:
VAGINA MONOLOGUES by Eve Ensler. Directed by Carole MacCartee. 8 p.m. Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval St., Key West. 296-9911. red-barntheatre.org.

*****Saturday, March 22:**
I.C.E. presents "Dancing with Our Island Stars." 7 p.m. TIB Amphitheater, Founder's Park, MM 87 Bayside, Plantation Key. 853-5988. (**G note:** This is an event not to be missed. I saw it last year and it was a fun-filled hoot. Hilarious, warm, inspiring, local entertainment. Support your favorites and prepare to be excited. This event is effectively and gracefully spearheaded by KJCC's own Nancy Kluger.)

Saturday, March 22 - Sunday, March 23:
Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Robbie's Marina, MM 77.5 Overseas Hwy., Lower Matecumbe. 664-3571.

Friday and Saturday, March 28-29:
Green Turtle 8-11 p.m. **Dave Feder performs.**

Saturday, March 29:
Keys Community Concert Band outdoor concert. "Florida Heritage Concert." Bring blankets, lawn chairs. Free. 4 p.m. Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside, Plantation Key. 853-7294. keyscommunityconcertband.org.

Sunday, March 30th:
CheecaLodge Brunch. **Dave Feder Performs** 11:30-2:30 ♦



**Sisterhood of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
*cordially invites you to attend
their annual fund raiser...***

"Champagne Bubbles and Nova Dreams"

Sunday, March 9, 2008, 12:30 pm

**Brunch at the home of
Elaine and Jerry Hirsch
88663 Old Highway
Tavernier, Florida**

**Please respond by
February 28, 2008**

Dress Keys Casual



Sisterhood Joan Stark



Shalom! What a wonderful and eventful year we are having! January brought us a special Shabbat dinner that was also an open house to welcome any Jewish families in the community who wanted to see what we were all about. This event was sponsored by the Rakovs. We had a huge turnout and there was also a Shabbat service that showcased the talents of our own Alan and Gloria! So far we have two new member families.

Bea's theater outing of "Altar Boyz" in Miami was enjoyed by all and the next show, "Footloose" is scheduled for March 30th.

Another year has come full cycle at the KJCC and Steve Steinbock, president, lead our general meeting. Installation of officers was officiated by Carol and we thank you for that! A lovely lunch followed.

The big event of the year is March 9, 2008. Hopefully, you have purchased your tickets and raffle tickets for "Champagne Bubbles and Nova Dreams." This is our major fundraiser and we need your support to accomplish all the things we do. A brunch will be held at the home of Gerry and Elaine Hirsch and we expect it to be a very special day.

Still coming up to finish off the season is a Shabbat Purim dinner on March 21st, the Women's seder on April 14th and the Annual Second Night Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on April 20th. Please contact Joan Boruszak for Second Seder tickets as they go quickly! Joan also runs our small but important gift shop and is happy to fulfill your Judaica shopping needs.

It's never too late to get involved with the Sisterhood. We have so much to do and talk about and all are welcome! See you at the next meeting on Sunday, March 2nd, 2008.

Fashion Show Report

This year the Sisterhood fashion show was marked by innovation and change in quite a few ways. The new location, at Outback, pleased those of us who live near lower mile markers. The luncheon served there - Caesar salad, then salmon, chicken or vegetable plate, followed by cheesecake, made the rest of us happy with the change.

Our brave and glamorous models this year included our illustrious President and VP - no, not Bush-Cheney, but Steinbock-Wasser, who showed us the latest in casual men-swear. Sofy Wasser, Mary Lee Singer, Rene Rose, Roberta McNew and Zoe Berk strutted their stuff in beachwear, casual wear and gorgeous dresses. Vanna White - eat your heart out! Some of the memorable accessories included a jazzy cowboy hat, evening bag carved in the shape of an old-style phone, and sandals with switchable tops.

Lauren and Stuart Sax worked the dressing room and the microphone, not to mention setting up and developing the whole show. Stop by and see them, and more amazing fashion, at Angelika's new location, combining with Sunny Exposures on the bay side at 81900 O/S Hwy. Thanks for a wonderful show. -Joyce Peckman

This year's KJCC Sisterhood Luncheon and Fashion Show was the best ever, from our perspective. The location was new, the meal delicious and, despite the seating in booths, everyone was able to see the fashions close up. The fashions presented ranged from resort casual to beach bridal.

It was our sincere pleasure to participate again in this wonderful fund-raising event for the Sisterhood. --Stuart & Lauren Sax

COLLEGE DIARY

Suzie

Since last I wrote, I have been enjoying MIT's Independent Activity Period, which is basically an optional trimester for the month of January. I was actually taking two classes that ran over from fall semester, so I was quite busy, but not too much so. With a lighter weight than a regular semester I had time to try some new things. Most of our dining halls were closed for IAP, so my friends and I started a dinner rotation. I tried, and often failed miserably, to cook things that I had seen my mom make at home. It never turned out quite right, but it was definitely edible.

Our weekends were pretty much our own, so naturally we turned to the snow. We drove up one weekend to Maine to go skiing in Sunday River. That was an adventure. We happened to choose the coldest single day of the season, the top of the mountain reading around -2 degrees F. But the mountain was empty and we had a great time. On the way home though, we hit a ditch and bent a wheel, which caused a flat. So--picture this--the four of us, college students from Boston, sitting on the side of the road, four degrees outside, trying to change a tire. It turned out that AAA couldn't help us and we had to drive home on a donut. The three-hour drive turned out to take four and a half hours. At the time, it was a bit scary, being in the middle of nowhere with no one to really turn to and having to problem-solve practically by ourselves for the first time. But none of us picked up the phone to call our parents until after we were underway. We were so proud of ourselves.

So besides enjoying myself, I have also been working hard. The two classes I finished during IAP ended up being pretty challenging:



Calculus II and Newtonian Physics. But, with the finals out of the way, I passed all of my classes with mostly B's, one A and one C. This past Tuesday our new semester started. I cannot even begin to express my excitement. I'm taking Biology with a concentration in dis-

eases and immunities, Organic Chemistry, Differential Equation, and Intro to Psychology. My first day in Bio pretty much convinced me that I had made a good choice changing majors and I was enthralled by everything that came out of the professor's mouth.

I've also managed to get a UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity) in the Operations Research Center. I am participating in a project that is trying to create a mathematical model for what is the best treatment for each

different type of cancer. We will basically be researching what methods have already been used, with the resulting blood toxicity levels and mortality rates and mathematically plotting which had the best results. I'm super-excited. Our findings will be posted on the Internet, open to the public. We're hoping it will aid them in getting the best care possible without having to spend extra money on treatments that haven't actually been proven to work.

So that's basically my life right now. I'm throwing myself into second semester head-first. It's going to be a great couple of months.

Andrea

Ever since pledging a sorority, I have felt that my free time is practically nonexistent.

We have chapter meetings once a week, new member meetings once a week, rush meetings once a week, some sort of social event once a week, some sort of philanthropy event once a week (if not more) and throughout all of this there is still school.



My sorority had our first party last weekend and the theme was "You are what you eat." People dressed in all sorts of interesting outfits, including

bananas, cupcakes, grapes, and even Ronald McDonald. Three of my friends and I decided to interpret the theme as "You are what you drink" and dressed as the "Fanta" girls from the commercials.

Last weekend a big group from my sorority went on a road trip down to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. We shopped, went to see the Mississippi River, and even enjoyed some Cajun and Creole food. One of the girls has friends who go to Tulane, so were able to meet up with them so they could show us the city, which was very packed and crazy. By the time Sunday rolled around we were more than ready to head back to Nashville.

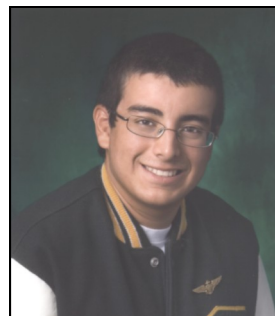
This week I have two quizzes, a midterm, and a paper due. Fun, right? We also have Dance Marathon on Friday, which is an ongoing event to raise money for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Dance Marathon is the grand finale of fund-raising and support for the hospital, which have been going on all semester. We are there from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. (yes, all night), which will be a great finish to my busy week. However, Friday also marks exactly two weeks before I fly back home to enjoy spring break with three of my Vanderbilt friends, my family, and of course the warm weather :)

Joe

I am now currently taking Business 101, English 2, Marine Biology and College Algebra. Unlike last half, this semester started off on a really good note. For one, I am exploring how a business is run (in case I want to run my own business). On a side note, a man by the name of Ray Fernandez came into our business class and gave a mini-lecture on the current economic situation of the United States. Mr. Fernandez also spoke to us about how to approach and start up your own business. He started one, and now has a staff of twenty brokers who work for him. He explained everything from choosing the right clients to how to establish a good partnership with other well-established companies. The lecture was a nice change of pace and I greatly appreciated the advice and guidelines I received from it.

I am also enjoying both my English class and my Marine Biology class very much. Marine Biology has been a strong interest of mine for many years and I am pretty certain now that is the field I want to major in.

My English class is totally different from the English 1 class I took last semester. For one thing, the professor is relaxed this time. For instance, we were writing and analyzing poems and, I have to say, for someone that wasn't very good at writing poems I nailed it.



So far this semester has been a blast! I have no complaints whatsoever, and, on top of all this, on the week of Valentine's Day, our Marine Biology class went out to Everglades National Park and did some volunteer work, helping relocate some invasive plants species out of Anhinga Trail. It was hard and sweaty labor but it was all worth it. I am hoping to help the park out again at the end of February with surveys down at Flamingo.

I'll see you next month. For now, take care and *get out there!* ♦

Food Allergies

Why your diet might not be working.

By Erica Garrett, D.C.

It's the new year and we all begin with good intentions. We resolve to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, and take better care of ourselves. We know what we are supposed to eat, and why it is important to exercise. So why is it that year after year so many of us still do not feel any better?

Too many of you have switched to whole grains, eat low fat, reduced your red meat, and eat more fruit and vegetables, yet still you suffer various health maladies.

Most people understand the health hazards of eating foods that are high in fat, sugar, and white flour, but there is still a missing link. Only recently have scientists discovered what this is. What is the hidden cause of weight gain and deteriorating health? Food allergies and sensitivities!

People who are allergic and sensitive to foods, environmental toxins, additives and molds are familiar with the reactions of *immediate-onset* allergies, symptoms ranging from sneezing to hives to severe anaphylactic shock. I have had allergies all my life, and have always been very careful about what I eat and what I expose myself to. Even so, over the past couple of years, with stress and hormonal changes, I had been feeling more fatigued, and been gaining weight, especially around my mid-section.

Finally I found the answer, through a simple blood test! Scientists have now discovered new ways to test for the more insidious, and more chronically damaging, *delayed-*

onset food sensitivities, those that do not present themselves in the system until 48 hours after ingestion. These foods and additives cause an immune system response, which leads to cellular inflammation, and to the chronic degenerative diseases of our time, including arthritis, bowel problems such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), migraine headaches, skin problems, and behavioral issues. Modification of our food chain

over the years and genetic adaptation has created a more sensitive and less tolerant human digestive system.

Following a diet that suits you specifically, based on your body's own sensitivities and genetics, is the key to

preventing both short-term and long-term health problems.

Simply modifying the foods that I was eating allowed me to get rid of my weekly migraine headaches, relieve the inflammation in my colon and lower back, and lose 35 pounds. I have never felt better in my life. It is not easy. It is a choice. But it is worth it. I have learned to be more creative with my foods, and experiment with foods that I have never eaten before.

Now is the time to take charge of your health by finding out scientifically what is right for your own body. After all, no two bodies are the same, and that is why standardized diets don't work. ♦

Modification of our food chain has created a more sensitive and less tolerant human digestive system.

Erica Garrett is a chiropractor in Tavernier whose focus increasingly is wellness.

Photo Gallery

Sisterhood's Annual Fashion Show took place at Outback Steak House on January 30th. Fashions were provided by Anglelika and Sunny Exposures.



Stuart Sax, as usual, was master of ceremonies for the show. Lauren did the hard work backstage. Since there were male models for

the first time, it was only appropriate to recruit the president (a natural) and executive V.P. (seen doing his best Jack Nicholson impersonation.) The traditional models included Rene Rose, Mary Lee Singer, Roberta McNew, Zoe Berk and Sofy Wasser.

Photo Gallery

Members of KJCC were on-stage as extras during South Florida Center for the Arts' February 12th production of *La Boheme*. At right, David Cohn, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve and Carol Steinbock, Lauren and Stuart Sax, and Jeff Schocket wait backstage for their cue. Stuart and Lauren, center, and Steve and Carol, below right, pose as



patrons during the Act II café scene. The prospective stars receive their instructions from the director just before showtime, below left.



Photo Gallery



Arvel Bird and One Nation, shown with the board of South Florida Center for the Arts (who include KJCC's Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon), performed on January 29th their unique combination of Native American, Celtic, country and folk music. Bird's violin became by turns a pony, a buffalo, a badger and a meditation on nature.



Steve Steinbock's garden—his passion and pride and joy—was honored by being included in this year's Garden Walk, above. Below left, during a visit to Fairchild Tropical Gardens, sit Gloria Avner with friend Chaim Schaffer, Meredith Cline and Joyce Peckman.

THE NEWEST DISNEY PRINCESS



pictures. Wow, you should have seen her, holding her head so high. It really is quite magical watching all of the other children (and even some moms) getting their hair and makeup done by a Fairy Godmother. You might find the pictures to be a bit schmaltzy, but I have to tell you that I blubbered like a baby when I got the chance to hug Eeyore, Tigger and Pooh. I went on and on about how they were a big part of my childhood, and how they looked great for their age, being first written about in 1924.

my childhood, and how they looked great for their age, being first written about in 1924.

-Zoe Berk

Cammie, Sunny and I visited Walt Disney World at the best time to go-just before winter break for the entire nation. Cam went to the new Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique (a Princess

make-over salon) and got the Full Castle package, which included hairstyling, makeup, clothes, magic slippers, wand, crown and



The Native Tourist

Slides Sideways Through South Dade

The next entry in our special series highlighting activities or attractions in South Florida that you may not have heard about. They are off the beaten path, off the tourist radar, or just off the wall. Keep them in mind if ever you are looking for a different diversion when family comes to visit, or even just for something to do on the weekend.

This Month's stop:
Schnebly Winery
30205 SW 217 Avenue
Homestead, FL
(305)242-1224
www.SchneblyWinery.com

If you've seen the movie *Sideways*, then you're familiar with the wine country culture. But unless you've traveled to the wine regions of France, or to the California Napa Valley, you may never have actually experienced it. Surprisingly, you have an opportunity to do just that, right here in extreme South Florida. With a tropical twist, of course.

Schnebly Winery is a real working winery located in the Redlands, but they make their wines with tropical fruits, such as mango and lychee, instead of plain ol' grapes. Denisse and Peter Schnebly, owners and operators of the winery, were running just a tropical fruit orchard on their land, and despaired at the large percentage of the crop

that cannot be sold due to blemishes etc. In 2005 they started using what would be cast-off fruit to produce some very good wines. They started winning awards with their grape-less vino, and now produce and sell enough that they even buy fruit from other local growers. Wow, drinking wine is good for the environment, recycling and local growers!

The winery is an unexpected find as you drive through the fields of the Redlands. As you pass nurseries and irrigation equipment you happen by a sign proclaiming...winery☺. When you park and go in, you go from dusty agriculture to rich wine culture. On my visit, I went through the tasting room, nicely appointed and welcoming, and into the retail shop, specializing in the Schnebly wines and wine-centric gifts.

Everyone was very friendly and eager to share the story of the winery and talk about the different wines. There was some obvious work being done, and packing going on, and it turns out they have just completed a new facility that will serve as a visitor center as well as tasting room, with an eye to also renting it out for special functions. They have already done some landscaping to add waterfalls and coral bridges to the property. They have started moving into the new building and hope to have it open by the end of

A selection of the Schnebly wines



the month. I look forward to going back and seeing the new tasting room, as well as taking the tour.

I wasn't able to take the tour on my visit, since tours are only offered on the weekends, but I did go ahead and purchase my wine-tasting glass that entitles me to free wine tastings for the life of the glass. At five dollars, I thought it a bargain. It was difficult to choose only one variety of wine from the large selection that includes passion fruit, guava and carambola (star fruit), but I finally settled on Category 3 Hurricane, one of their newest, which is a blend. Next time, I may go for the Boo-Boo Wine. It sounds intriguing, and there is quite a story behind it. Be sure to ask about it when you go.

Although tours are only offered on the weekends, tastings are held every day. They also schedule



Schnebly Winery's new tasting room, soon to be open for business.

Peter and Denisse Schnebly, owners, shown by one of the coral rock waterfalls on property.



special events throughout the year. For instance, the Saturday after my visit, they were holding The Carambola Stomp. They were inviting guests to help them stomp the star-fruit for this year. Each hour they would hold a contest between stomping visitors, and the first guest to fill a gallon container would win a bottle of wine. So be sure to call them or check the website for details of any special events. Then, designate a driver, grab your tasting glass and discerning palate, and slide *Sideways* to the Redlands. ♦

IF YOU GO: The tasting room and retail shop are open seven days a week, Monday-Friday 10a.m.-5p.m., Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m. and Sunday 12p.m.-5p.m. If you are interested in a tour, they are held on Weekends Only; the last tour departs about one hour before closing. Tastings are five dollars per person, tours are seven dollars per person.

PURIM

The whole Megillah--

The real Megillah--

The KJCC Megillah--

Friday, March 21, 2008

5:30 Megillah Reading

**6:30 Shabbat Dinner with a middle-eastern
flavor; bring your favorite dish to join in
the fun. Also, in the spirit of Purim, BYOB.**

7:30 Purim Play

8:00 Services

**Megillah reading will be moderated by Joyce
Peckman with participation by our students
and congregation. Purim play will feature our
students. Tzedakah will be collected to be
used for Passover meals for those in need.**

**Contact Joyce Peckman, 451-0665, or Sofy
Wasser, 453-1324, to let us know you are
coming.**

Purim

An Evolution of Practice and Tradition

The traditions surrounding the celebration of Purim have evolved, taking many different forms throughout Jewish communities across time and around the globe. From the reading of the *Megillah* and the accompanying cacophony, to the observance of *mishloach manot*, our forebearers have honored the traditions in a wide variety of ways. Since Purim falls this month, we're taking a look at how observances have changed, and also how they have remained the same, in different times and for specific Jewish communities. The ways that Jews observe Purim and its customs have had to evolve to fit modern times, perhaps none more so than the practice of *mishloach manot*. The Book of Esther mentions "the sending of portions one man to another and gifts to the poor." (9:22) These gifts to friends are called *mishloach manot*, literally, "sending of portions." Specifically the *Halacha* states that anyone over the bar or bat mitzvah age must participate by sending at least two gifts or *shalach manot* to at least one other Jew. This gift is to be comprised of two readymade foods, often including pastries and wine. One of the most important points of *mishloach manot* was the personal interaction between those in the Jewish community. Traditionally a family would gather to prepare the foods and basket, making it not only a communal experience, but a family one as well. The package was to be delivered by messenger so as to also impart the best wishes of the family for a happy Purim.

Of course, in more recent times, communities as well as families have found themselves far-flung across the globe. The Jewish family is no exception, which makes the preparation and delivery of these *mishloach manot* a bit problematic. But the exact same

forces of technology and modernization that have contributed to this degrading of personal connection have also been harnessed by the Jewish community to help maintain the ties and traditions of Purim. Hence the establishment of companies such as purimbasket.com, judaicaenterprises.com and Dash Cham, who specialize in putting the *mishloach manot* together and delivering them, worldwide, for you. The globalization of the world may have caused us to scatter, but it has also brought communication, via the internet, and global business, making it possible for you to get your Purim basket to just about anyone, anywhere. The preparation and delivery method may have changed, but the tradition, though adapted, stays strong.

In the past, the sending of *mishloach manot* was limited to one gift of two foods to one person. But in more recent times, many treat this as a major gift-giving event. It is not unusual for families to deliver dozens of Purim baskets, hand-made or store-bought, to friends, neighbors, relatives and teachers on Purim.

Gloria Avner has done a lot of research, and provided us with the glimpses of Purim and Megillah celebrations in other times and cultures. Some highlights:

France – Children would write Haman's name on smooth stones, and strike them together during the *Megillah* reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to erase it in compliance with the verse: "I shall surely wipe out the memory of Amalek."

Bukhara - Since the ground would usually be covered with snow at Purim time, a large

“snow-Haman,” with funny-shaped torso and long, thick legs, eyes of charcoal and carrot nose, was built next to the synagogue. After the meal, the whole community would gather around it and make a fire. They would stand and watch Haman melt in the heat and disappear, singing until he was completely gone.

Afghanistan – The children would draw pictures of Haman on planks, and during the *Megillah* reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on. Wooden gloves, a kind of wooden sandal, would be held in the hands and clapped together, making a loud noise.

Persia – One of the wealthy men of the community would host a huge Purim feast in his home for the whole congregation. In the courtyard a large and ridiculous Haman effigy would be hung on a pole. During the meal, all would march out and watch the effigy being burned, while shouting, “May the memory of Amalek be erased!” As the fire went out, the children took turns jumping over the coals, just as they did during celebrations in Talmudic times.

Cairo – Revelers would take to the streets in costume, young and old alike. Most went about on donkeys who were dyed in stripes and patterns, or who also wore costumes. In the synagogue, every person was given a candle to light and hold during the reading of the *Megilla*. Beggars would take advantage of the community being all in one place, and would seldom be refused.

Minsk (White Russia) – Congregants would show their creativity during the *Megilla* reading and would growl like bears, roar like lions, bark like dogs and bleat like goats to block out the name of Haman the Evil.

Salonika – “Haman-shaped” cakes were baked on the eve of “Shabbat Zachor,” and placed on the window ledges. During the Purim meal, cakes were sliced so diners could comply with the verse that reads “and they shall devour Haman with open mouth.” ♦

Purim is different from any other holiday in our calendar. Like Halloween, there are costumed children and adults going raucously from door to door (in religious neighborhoods). But instead of begging for treats, they are distributing them. *Shalach manot*, giving gift bags containing at least two kinds of foods, is one of the essential *mitzvot* of *Purim*. Partying--and yes, drinking--is another. Providing charity, especially in the form of food, is a third essential *mitzvah* of this holiday. The fourth and most important is the retelling and listening to the tale of power, lust, vengeance, courage, blood and wisdom that make up *Megillat Esther*.

We have the opportunity to do all of the above on *Purim* at the KJCC. Friday, March 21st is *Purim*, and we will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the David Kamely classroom to read the *megillah* in English, round-robin style. There will be a charity box going around; please come prepared to donate. Last year we sent money to the Matzah Mitzvah Fund of South Florida.

If you want to come in costume – go for it...! The children will be providing our *shalach manot*, and Sisterhood will provide the food for our 6:30 p.m. dinner that follows the reading. (Services begin at 8:00.) Anyone who brings two types of food or drink to share will be fulfilling the *mitzvah*. Although I don’t recommend “getting so drunk that you can’t distinguish Mordechai from Haman,” BYOB if you please. For more information, or to let me know what you are bringing, call me at 451-0665.

-Joyce Peckman

Celebrating Linda Rutkin



Saturday, February 2nd, was a very special day for KJCC and all its members. Can anyone remember the entire congregation being invited out to dinner and an *open bar*? Well, courtesy of Linda Rutkin, it happened that night. Everyone was invited to Encore to celebrate Linda's birthday. Over 40 of us were there to toast Linda and show her the unique place she occupies in the collective heart of KJCC. For those of you who couldn't be there, here's a visual memory.

Linda with her girlhood friend from Baltimore, Phyllis Heiffer.



Here's a sample of those who came to help celebrate Linda's (29th?) birthday:

Top, Linda Pollack with Lyle and Louise Sendlein. Below, Ellen Bloom and Yardena.



Seating was random along four long tables. Below, Lauren Sax and Mark Wasser.



Linda with Fanny Kluger and Pauline Roller, above, who know something about celebrating birthdays.



Did Steve and Carol know that Michal had snuck into their picture? Center, Cory and Sofy offer the answer to a famous riddle: how can two individuals share the same face? Left, Big Jim with Yardena.

I hope to be answering all of your real good questions as to why I celebrated my birthday the way in which I did, and why I did so in an “off “ year.

Just a kind reminder that you do NOT! need to have a special number in order to celebrate, and more importantly “appreciate” achieving that milestone. Many times this only gets to happen when someone is put through severe adversities.

Both coming to the Keys, and attending the KJCC since 2001, I’ve fortunately found “that mispoche” you all so often refer to. We’ve taken lessons together (and I’ve always loved to learn!). You have taken me to great “Florida” places—and the Keys have lots of them—and you’ve shown me wonderful “cultural” experiences. Above all this, all of you have *forever* given me rides **EVERYWHERE** for all these years.

My instinct told me that it was time to give something back, in order for me to say “thanks!” and let you know how very much I appreciate all of you, along with all that you’ve done for me. Having discussed and come to the agreement to do this “thank-you” party FOR you, with the approval and best wishes from my very nice and great advisor, this exceptional birthday “happened” FOR ME *and* YOU! -Linda Rutkin



Top right: Lee and Bob Schur. Left, Linda’s friend Phyllis with Joan Boruszak.

Lower left, Jenny and Stan Margulies. Below right, Pauline Roller with her friend Joanie Senk.





Rene Rose, left, was clearly among those having a wonderful time. Center, Big Jim and Pauline with dueling tropical shirts. Below right, Gigi and Bob Auston.



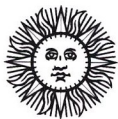
Thank you EVERYONE! For making my recent birthday celebration such a wonderful memory for me to have, and reflect back on.

This "Keys-y" birthday has truly been a most terrific one! I now have it to "nicely" recall, and will often do so thanks to ALL of you. I'm most appreciative, and grateful. Thanxs! For coming!

-Linda

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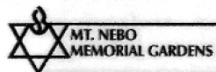
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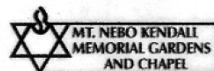
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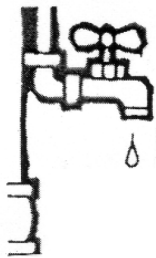
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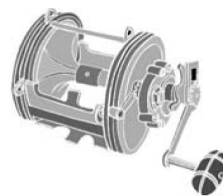
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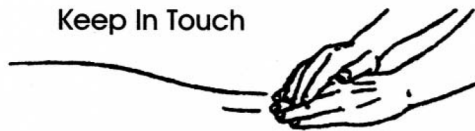
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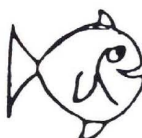


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