

# Chai~Lights

30th Anniversary Issue



April 2010

17 Nisan - 16 Iyar 5770

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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

## President's Message Alan Beth



I am just leaving the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at Hawks Cay, and what a party it was! I hope you all had as good a time as we did. Candy and I stayed till the end, which for us meant being kicked out when I started singing into the microphone!

We all need to thank the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, especially Gene Silverman and Sofy Wasser. Gene, you should know, left no detail untended with the resort and staff to ensure that we had the best event possible. If you had a good time – please let us know. Putting on this event the way we did was a controversial decision of the KJCC Board. I know of no other synagogue that would risk having an event like this without turning it into a massive fundraiser. As you know, we offered the event to our members at no charge and relied only on donations. Well, I am pleased to tell you that KJCC has not lost money; it looks, in fact, like we will make a profit from this event. So, thank you for coming and helping celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup>.

A few other wonderful things happened this night. Some of our founding members attended: Pauline Roller, Susan Horn, Ron and Dorothy Horn. I am thrilled that Rene Rose was presented the Joel Cohen Award by Bea Graham. This is a tremen-

dous honor given to those who have dedicated themselves to the well being of the KJCC. Those that have received Rene's flowers, cards, baskets and goodies know that the Sunshine Committee has that name for a very good reason.

I'm feeling buoyant and thankful, so I want to give special thanks to a few more people: to Yardena at the conclusion of her five-part lecture series on Jews in the non-European diaspora. It was a labor of love for Yardena, and we were the beneficiaries. Also my thanks to Joyce and Erica for the Purim celebrations, organizing both the reading of the *Megillah* and the luncheon afterwards. We had a nice problem this year: there were so many people we ran out of books! Thanks also to our Ritual chair, Gloria, who had the wonderful idea of celebrating Shabbat Across America before services at Bill and Freda's restaurant. (Please see the pictures of all these events in Photo Gallery.)

My family and I wish you all a healthy Passover and hope that you answered the four questions, drank the wine and did not get too *shikker* at your seder!

-Alan

# April 2010

17 Nisan - 16 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Names denote leaders of Friday services.  <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</p> </div>				1	2 Jim Boruszak & Gloria Avner <b>Yizkor service</b> <i>KJCC's Ulpan Students</i>	3
4 <b>Sisterhood Meeting</b>	5	6 <b>8th Day of Passover</b>	7	8	9 Sam Vinicur, Gloria Avner & Yardena Kamely <i>Elaine &amp; Bernie Solas</i>	10
11 Yom HaShoah  KJCC Board Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 Ken Atlas  <i>Stephanie &amp; Larry Gilderman</i>	17
18	19 Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	20	21	22	23 Joyce Peckman	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Stuart Sax  6:30 Service	

### Calling all Mitzvoters

If your child (or you) has celebrated their (or your) Bar or Bat Mitzvah at KJCC over our 30 years, please send us a 4" x 6" photograph of your child (or yourself) at the time of their (or your) special event. As part of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we hope to create a "gallery of KJCC mitzvot" we can display publicly on one of the walls of KJCC. For further information, please contact Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585.

### BOOK PLATE

#### TO HONOR STEVE STEINBOCK

On his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

*By Skip and Rene Rose*

### Yom Ha'shoah at KJCC

Holocaust Remembrance Day for 2010—Yom Ha'shoah—is Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. The theme for this year's remembrance is: What You Do Matters.

To preserve human freedom, what we do matters. By keeping stories of freedom alive, each of us works to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

On Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at the KJCC, after a ceremony remembering the Holocaust, we will show a film from the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Our annual Holocaust exhibit will be displayed on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and Shabbat service that evening will include a few words on Yom Ha'shoah. *-Yardena*

### Welcome New Members

The KJCC would like to welcome new members Ira and Shirley Stein of Key Largo. It's wonderful to have you, hope to see you soon and often.

### Project seeks Florida WWII Memories

The University of South Florida's graduate program in Florida Studies is doing research on Florida's Jewish experience during World War II. They are looking for individuals with pictures as well as stories, from those who worked here on the home front, moved here for military training, or moved here relatively soon after the war. They'd also like to hear from those whose family members may have fit into one of these categories and who know the stories. Contact Jason Memmer at [jmemmer@mail.usf.edu](mailto:jmemmer@mail.usf.edu) for more information.

### KJCC Events Calendar Now Online

Don't forget that you can get up-to-date information on the KJCC schedule online. Alan has created an online calendar which is updated often. It lists all of the activities at or of interest to KJCC and its members. Any late-breaking activities that might not make it into Chai-Lights will be listed there. Visit [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com) and click on calendar. Also, if you have events or information to share, send it along to Alan at [president@keysjewishcenter.com](mailto:president@keysjewishcenter.com).

### TREE OF LIFE

#### IN HONOR OF STEVE STEINBOCK

Happy 70<sup>th</sup> and many more!  
3/3/10

*Love, Muriel and George*

#### IN HONOR OF MY WIFE, LINDA,

On being named Woman of the Year  
At the 2010 Women's Seder

*By Joel Pollack*

## Department of Corrections

I would like to apologize to Dave Mont, Yiddishkeit nephew extraordinaire, for the omission in last month's article about Yiddishkeit night. I failed to thank him for his participation and help the entire evening—the schnapps, the play, and the beautiful flowers that were presented to me. He was an integral part of the success of the event. Thank you, Dave, for all you did.

*-Erica Lieberman-Garrett*

## Calling all readers...

The next meeting of the Readers' Circle will be on Wednesday, April 15 at 2:30 p.m., at the home of Bea Graham, 609 N. Jade Drive, Key Largo. (That's MM96 in Silver Shores.) Bring a book that you love and want to talk about.

*-Joyce*

## Oneg Omissions from March

Two oneg sponsorships from March did not get mentioned last month. Chanuch Shiloh sponsored on March 19<sup>th</sup> in honor of his mother Henya Edith Shiloh. Carol and Steve Steinbock sponsored on March 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Carol's mom, Marianne Cimkowski.

## Havdalah Host Needed

Ritual Chair Gloria Avner is looking for someone willing to host a Havdalah service for April. This may be the last service of the season, seeing as how our snowbird members will soon be heading north. If you would be willing to host this short song- and story-filled good-bye to Shabbat please contact Gloria at 305-619-0216 or by email at [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com).

## Oneg Sponsors for April 2010

April 2nd—KJCC's Ulpan students

April 9th—Elaine & Bernie Solas to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Amy Solas and Richard Klein.

April 16th—Stephanie & Larry Gilderman in honor of Ella & Jordan's birthdays.

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching

Anyone still wanting a KJCC scholarship application needs to contact Kurt Kluger as soon as possible. He can be reached at 394-7571 or e-mail [kurtkluger@bellsouth.net](mailto:kurtkluger@bellsouth.net). The deadline for submission is April 15th.

## April Anniversaries

	Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder .....44
7th	Salomon & Mary Terner.....17
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith.....45
15th	<b>Sheldon &amp; Carole Weiss.....59</b>
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew.....29
30th	<b>Morton &amp; Gene Silverman.....55</b>

## Torah Studies to Begin

We are about to begin a program at KJCC not to be missed. In keeping with our mission statement, not to mention our collective thirst for learning, we are happy to announce that a new weekly evening of study and discussion called "Torah and Dinner" will soon begin. (Could anything be better or more Jewish? BYOD or something to share.) Reb Bernie Ginsberg has graciously agreed to be our leader. We will meet on Sunday evenings at KJCC. The first will probably be sometime in April, so watch your e-mail for an announcement.

*-Gloria*

## BOOK PLATE

### TO HONOR LINDA POLLACK

Woman of the Year  
2010 Women's Seder

*By Jim and Joan Boruszak*

## April Birthdays

3rd.....	Claire Cooper
3rd.....	Harvey Kay
3rd.....	Lauren Abrams
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
6th.....	Faychesca Graham
7th.....	Harvey Schwaid
9th.....	David Feder
9th.....	Gene Silverman
10th.....	Abigail Everson
10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
10th.....	Ilese Vorcheimer
11th.....	Max Logan Gershowitz
12th.....	Richard Knowles
13th.....	Moira Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Grossinger
14th.....	Timothy J. O'Connor
14th.....	Rosie Biskar
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
16th.....	Ella Gilderman
17th.....	Katie Greenman
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
20th.....	Larry Gilderman
21st.....	Susan Temkin
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Randolph Green
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
25th.....	Jared Scott Gershowitz
25th.....	Shirley Stein
26th.....	Maryann Boruszak
27th.....	Aaron Schmidt
27th.....	Beverly Robins
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Jordan Neidenberg
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman
30th.....	Rachel Barrett

## BOOK PLATE

### IN HONOR OF STEVE STEINBOCK

Happy Birthday

*From Jim and Joan Boruszak*

### A Yizkor Service In April

Just a reminder that the third of the four Yizkor services for this year is scheduled for this month. The KJCC Passover Yizkor service will be held on the preceding Friday, April 2nd, during regular Friday services. Yizkor, or remembrance, is said four times a year--on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Passover, and Shavuot.

### Don't Forget Chai-Lights

If you have any comments about Chai-Lights, we'd love to hear them. And if you have any information or events that might be of interest to your fellow members, let us know and we'll get the word out. Contact us at [chailights@keysjewishcenter.com](mailto:chailights@keysjewishcenter.com).

### A Mishebeyrach Thank You

*The following letter was sent to KJCC by a long-time Keys resident who'd recently been at Mariner's Hospital for an extended stay and had received one of our Mishebeyrach cards:*

Dear members of the Keys Jewish Community Center,

I cannot begin to thank you enough for your many prayers and amazing support during my recent illness. It means so very much to Betty Anne and me. I am happy to say I am home on the road to recovery.

I am so incredibly grateful to live in the Upper Keys community and have so many lasting friendships.

Thank you again,

-I. E. Schilling

# KJCC GIFT SHOP

COME TO THE KJCC GIFT SHOP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!



WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

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**Yes, we have yahrzeit candles - traditional or electric!**

plus JEWELRY, MEZUZAHS, SEDER PLATES, MATZOH SWEEPERS,

CHALLAH PLATES, CHALLAH KNIVES AND MORE

If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.



## Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

**General Donations** - can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

**Gift Shop** - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

**Jewish Youth Enrichment Program** - will assist in involving our children in Jewish activities. Call Neal Rakov 852-9400.

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

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

**Picture Postcards** - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities 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 Nancy Kluger, 852-4353.

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

**Advertisement in Chai-Lights** - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low 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.*

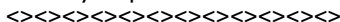


# *In Memoriam April 2010*

In Memory Of

**Bozsi Schon Grunhut**

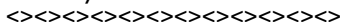
By Stephan & Eva Ban



In Memory Of

**Joseph T. Cline**

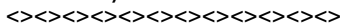
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

**Marty Graham**

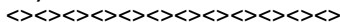
By Bea Graham



In Memory Of

**Belle Scaller**

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Grossman**

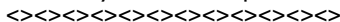
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

**Fred Klimpl**

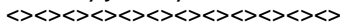
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**George Nobil**

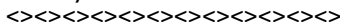
By Jim & Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

**Nat Feldblum**

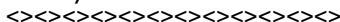
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

**Mark Hitzig**

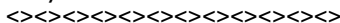
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**David Bernstein**

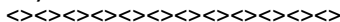
By Laurence & Renee Green



In Memory Of

**Harry Grossman**

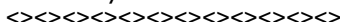
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Stella Hartz**

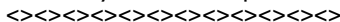
By Steven Hartz



In Memory Of

**Marilyn Janet Barr**

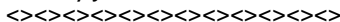
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**Erwin Moss**

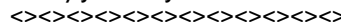
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Baruch Epstein**

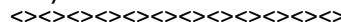
By James & Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Frances Wolfe**

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

**Lawrence Gross**

By Margaret Gross



In Memory Of

**Shirley Grossman**

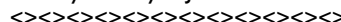
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Nathan Klein**

By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

**Minnie Birnbaum**

By Mario & Linda LaGrotte



In Memory Of

**Sam Sax**

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

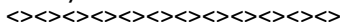


# *In Memoriam April 2010*

In Memory Of

**Rabbi Milton Greenwald**

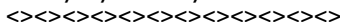
By Paul & Susan Roberts



In Memory Of

**Herman Rubin**

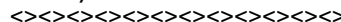
By Myron & Myrna Rubin



In Memory Of

**Sam Sax**

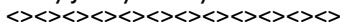
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Dolores Feldman**

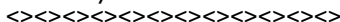
By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket



In Memory Of

**Warren J. Sheinker**

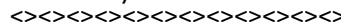
By Miltra Sheinker



In Memory Of

**Ginger Lewis**

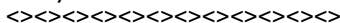
By Robert Silk



In Memory Of

**Louis S. Smith**

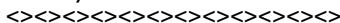
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Morris Smith**

By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Claire Smith**

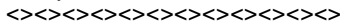
By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

**Cantor Alex Chapin**

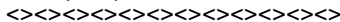
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

**Ida Tallent**

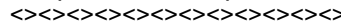
By Ralph & Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

**Benjamin Terner**

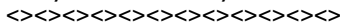
By Salomon & Mary Terner



In Memory Of

**Luis Terner**

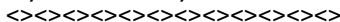
By Salomon & Mary Terner



In Memory Of

**Samuel Zalmanovich**

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich



In Memory Of

**Donald Rich**

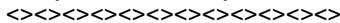
By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich



In Memory Of

**Irwin Cutler**

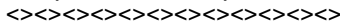
By Donald & Nancy Zinner



In Memory Of

**David Wernicoff**

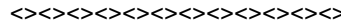
By Donald & Nancy Zinner



In Memory Of

**Baruch Epstein**

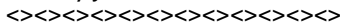
By James & Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Erwin Moss**

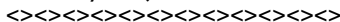
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Benjamin A. Savage**

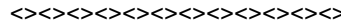
By Marjorie Present



In Memory Of

**Nat Feldblum**

By Marc & Ellen Bloom



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## **YEDA VE'TORASHA** Yardena Kamely



### **Kashariyot: Heroines of Yom Ha'shoah**

**I**n one of his Days of Remembrance addresses Elie Wiesel said: "How does one mourn for six million people who died? How many candles does one light? How many prayers does one recite? Do we know how to remember the victims, their solitude, their helplessness? They left us without a trace, and we are their trace. We tell these stories because perhaps we know that not to listen, not to want to know, would lead you to indifference, and indifference is never an answer. Whoever hates, hates everybody. Whoever kills, kills more than his victims.

"We didn't even talk. Some of us tried. No one wanted to hear. But we did not become bitter. We believed naturally that one must bear witness. It wasn't easy. We knew, silence is forbidden; talk, impossible. But things are different today. Young people listen, they want to know. They visit our Museum, listen to survivors, and they want to learn how to prevent our past from becoming their future.

"... this fiery memory remains and we, you and I, you and all of us, now are its very privileged custodians."

The story of the female couriers of Nazi-occupied Europe is a story of resistance that has largely remained in the shadows, yet it is a story of incredible bravery by a group of Jewish girls and women who served as a life-line between Jewish communities throughout war-torn Europe.

These women, says Emanuel Ringelblum, wrote "a glorious page in the history of Jewry." As he wrote in a diary entry in May of 1942: "These heroic girls, Chajke and Frumke

- they are a theme that calls for the pen of a great writer. Boldly they travel back and forth through the cities and towns of Poland. They are in mortal danger every day. They rely entirely on their 'Aryan' faces and on the peasant kerchiefs that cover their heads. Without a murmur, without a moment of hesitation, they accept and carry out the most dangerous missions. Is someone needed in Vilna, Bialystok, Lemberg, Kowel, Lublin, Czestochowa, or Radom to smuggle in contraband such as illegal publications, goods, money? The girls volunteer as though it were the most natural thing in the world. Nothing stands in their way. Nothing deters them. How many times have they looked death in the eyes? How many times have they been arrested and searched? The story of the Jewish woman will be a glorious page in the history of Jewry during the present war. And the Chajkes and Frumkes will be the leading figures in this story. For these girls are indefatigable."

The word "courier" does not do these women justice. They were much more than messengers. True, they carried mail and information back and forth from place to place. They smuggled forged identity cards, documents, underground newspapers and money into the sealed-off ghettos of Nazi Europe. However, they were also the first to smuggle guns, grenades, ammunition and other weapons into many of the ghettos. And in addition to the strictly "messenger" part of their job, these girls who risked their lives to move from ghetto to ghetto also served a very human purpose - they inspired and brought

hope, along with information, to Jews who would otherwise have been cut off from the entire world, as if to reassure them that they had not been forgotten. They were, literally, lifelines that connected Jewish communities and isolated ghettos to each other and to the outside world. As such, we refer to these girls and women as “*kashariyot*,” from the Hebrew word “*keshet*,” which means connection.

Jews who lived in the ghetto needed to find some way to reach the outside world and communicate with each other. Out of this need, the courier system was born. Youth movements were the first to send their members across borders to reach other ghettos. However, it became increasingly dangerous for Jews to be found outside their ghettos; the Germans, early on, began to impose the death penalty on anyone so found. At this stage, the Jews trapped in their ghettos began more and more to rely on women as *kashariyot*.

This occurred for a number of reasons. First and foremost, a Jewish man could easily be identified. In addition, men who were out and about on the streets generated suspicion – why weren’t they at work? It was much easier for women to stroll the streets, seemingly carefree, on the way to meet with friends, or casually shopping. Women were also more likely to speak the local language; many women had been educated in Polish secular schools, while the boys had undergone mostly religious instruction in *Cheder*. The girls, therefore, spoke Polish fluently, without an accent or a Jewish inflection that could give them away, and felt more at home on the Polish street.

An additional reason why girls and women made excellent *kashariyot* was their intuition. Bronka Klibanski, a courier who connected the ghettos in the area of Bialystok and Grodno in Poland, wrote: “In comparison to men, it seems to me that we women were more loyal to the cause, more sensitive to our surroundings, wiser – or perhaps more generously endowed with intuition...” This intuition helped them to sense when someone on the street was star-

ing at them a little too long, when someone could be trusted, when a contact was actually a Nazi collaborator, and when to cut and run.

At the very beginning, when the Germans were first creating ghettos in which to isolate the Jews, the *kashariyot*’s primary functions were to reconnect the Jewish communities, political parties and youth movements. As such, logically, most of the couriers came from, and were called into service by, the youth movements. In this stage, their main role was carrying information, news and written bulletins from one ghetto to another.

Once the Germans began to actually exterminate the Jews, however, the role of the *kashariyot* changed; they spread the word about the killing units and the shooting operations. It was the information spread by the *kashariyot* that enabled Jewish leaders in different places and communities to put the pieces together and to realize that the German plan really was to exterminate the Jews of Europe.

Now the *kashariyot* took on yet another role. They had to warn communities where slaughter had not yet occurred, so that those communities could take some action. With the new role of warning the Jews came the parallel task of assisting them in mounting armed resistance against the Germans. As they smuggled weapons into the ghettos, the couriers also helped smuggle Jews out of the ghetto.

With immense bravery, the *kashariyot* faced incredible dangers every minute of every day, and yet somehow found the strength to continue with their missions, or to die trying. They are icons of heroism, and they shatter many stereotypes: that the Jews went to their deaths like sheep to the slaughter, that women are less capable of sustained resistance than men. Despite all this, the glorious history which should be their due has not yet been fully written. In light of the achievements and heroism of these young women in the nightmare of the Holocaust, we can only be in awe of them. ◇

*Holocaust Remembrance Day for 2010—Yom Ha’shoah—is Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.*

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## Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



This past month was certainly one to remember. It began with our fashion show at Snooks, a new location for us. I had the fun task of modeling. When I went to Angelika, Lauren Sax had me try on outfits that were beyond my normal “comfort zone” – and I found that they were wonderful! Lauren can be my personal stylist any time! After a delicious lunch, Stuart gave a professional presentation, worthy of BRAVO. Georgia Landau, Joan Stark, Leslie Dillon and Erica Garrett were stunning as they showed off short sets, stylish pants and gorgeous evening wear. Thanks to Joan Stark for organizing, to Susan G for the loan of her sound system, to Nettie, Rene, Elaine, Lee and everyone else who helped make the afternoon a success.

Three days later about twenty of us went to see “Miss Saigon,” a beautiful musical complete with helicopter! (Well, almost...but the effect was impressive.) Thank you, Nancy and Carol, for coordinating the tickets.

And then we had our annual “play with clay” event, making covered containers – for honey, *charoset*, *maror*, or just for the fun of it. Beth is an amazing teacher, and each of us becomes an artist under her gentle tutelage. We never know exactly how our handiworks will turn out until Beth brings them to be displayed at the Women’s Seder.

The Women’s Seder is always a highlight for Sisterhood. Not only do we feast, sing and socialize. We celebrate our accomplishments as women as well as our history and the freedoms we enjoy. This year we had the pleasure of honoring Linda Pollack. Linda, it seems to me, functions much like the heart of the KJCC. As treasurer of KJCC, former Sisterhood president and advisor to so many of us, she is central to the energy and functioning of

nearly every aspect of our community. Gene Silverman toasted Linda eloquently, and Beth presented her with a specially made ceramic goblet.

In the ongoing tradition of *Tikkun Olam*, funds collected at our seder are to be distributed to the Women’s shelter, the food bank, and the KJCC Scholarship fund. A commemorative tablecloth, signed by those present, was created to be used in future years. Thanks to Pauline and Gene for manning the front door, to Joan and Erica for coordinating the menu, to Beth for handling reservations and pottery displays, and to everyone who cooked and set up and cleaned up.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at Hawk’s Cay was an unqualified success. The venue was gorgeous, the weather perfect. The food was delicious, the music was great, and the dance floor was full. A good time was had by all. The best part was seeing over a hundred of us looking our best. It was wonderful getting together with many of our members who live far from KJCC and who we don’t often see. In a surprise addition to the program, the Joel S. Cohen award was presented to Rene Rose for the tireless, often undisclosed and unheralded work that she does for the KJCC. The hard work of Gene Silverman and Sofy Wasser made this lovely evening possible. Thank you.

This month, we are looking forward to the Miami Acting Company’s production of “The Producers” at the Murray Nelson Cultural Center in Key Largo. The 2 p.m. performance takes place on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Contact Linda Pollack to reserve your \$25 ticket while they are still available! ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## *Book Plates*

Boruszak, Jim & Joan  
Boruszak, Jim & Joan  
Rose, Skip & Rene

*In Honor of*  
Linda Pollack  
Steve Steinbock  
Steve Steinbock

## *Yartzeit Contributions*

Azzato, Maryann  
Gilderman, Larry & Stephanie  
Isenberg, Henry & Patricia  
Lippman, Lillian  
Olsen, Jerry & Sheila  
Temkin, Robert & Susan  
Weber, Larry & Judy  
Weber, Larry & Judy

*In Memory of*  
Paul Charlap  
Elsie Gilderman  
Harry Phillips  
Jennie Lippman  
Louis Weinstein  
Anne Temkin  
Deborah Eichler  
Alice Weber

## *General Fund*

Pollack, Joel & Linda  
Wohl, Milton & Joan

*In Memory of*  
Dorothy Goldstein  
Dorothy Goldstein

## *General Fund*

Levi, Nancy

*In Honor of*  
Jim and Joan Boruszak

*Holocaust Education Center*  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

*In Honor of*  
Theresa Steinbock

*JNF Certificates Sent By*  
Rutkin, Linda

*In Memory of*  
Moti

## *Meditation Garden*

Peckman, Joyce  
Roy, Medina  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren

*In Honor of*  
Steve Steinbock  
Steve Steinbock  
Steve Steinbock

*KJCC Tree of Life Leaves*  
Pollack, Joel  
Swartz, George & Muriel

*In Honor of*  
Linda Pollack  
Steve Steinbock

## *Oneg Fund Sponsors*

Peckman, Joyce  
Solas, Bernard & Elaine  
Shiloh, Chanoch & Jan  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol  
Ulpan Class

*In Honor of*  
Amy Solas' engagement  
Hanya Edith Shiloh  
Marianne Cimkowski

## *30th Anniversary*

Avner, Gloria  
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark  
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake  
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin  
Dorf, Barry & Natalie  
Graham, Bea  
Graham, Doug & Rozi  
Hayden, Beth  
Hermann, Bob & Eileen  
Horn, Ron & Dorothy  
Horn, Susan  
Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein  
Mayk, Israel & Nissan  
Peckman, Joyce  
Prober, Mel  
Rose, Skip & Rene  
Sachs, Joseph & Susan  
Schocket, Jeff & Patty  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine  
Schur, Lee  
Seder, Jules & Nettie  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine  
Singer, Mary Lee  
Smith, Stuart & Geri  
Steinbock, Steve & Carol  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Vinicur, Sam  
Wasser, Mark & Sofy  
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### 10,000 Cookbooks in 50 Years

Dalia Carmel's two-bedroom apartment on Manhattan's East Side once held 10,000 cookbooks that she collected over a fifty year period. She's now whittled it down to 1,500 volumes, having donated 8,000 of her collection to New York University's Fales Library, which holds one of the largest food-focused collections in the country. Carmel, 75, began her collection in 1960 after immigrating to the United States from Israel. She particularly enjoyed collecting Jewish and Israeli cookbooks and was able to track down cookbooks from synagogues in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and even a Jewish nursing home in Turkey. But Carmel's prized possession is a small hand-sewn notebook containing 70 recipes written in German and Czech given to her by her friend Anny Stern, a Holocaust survivor. The book belonged to Stern's mother, Mina Pachter, and was compiled by a group of women in the Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Dalia Carmel lists six essential cookbooks for a Jewish home. They are:

*A Drizzle of Honey: The Life and Recipes of Spain's Secret Jews*, by David M. Gitlitz & Linda Kay Davidson.

*Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited*, by Arthur Schwartz.

*Jewish Cooking in America*, by Joan Nathan.

*Mama Leah's Jewish Kitchen*, by Leah Loeb Fischer & Maria Polushkin Robbins.

*The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey From Samarkand to New York*, by Claudia Roden.

*The Sephardic Kosher Kitchen*, by Suzy David. (*The Forward*, 3-3-10)

### An Unlikely Spy

It turns out that Mosab Hassan Yousef, son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef—a Hamas founder and one of its leaders in the West Bank—

has been spying for Israel for over ten years and has been considered the most valuable source regarding the Hamas leadership. The intelligence he supplied to Israel exposed a number of terrorist cells and prevented dozens of suicide bombings and assassination attempts on Israeli officials. Capt. Loai, Yousef's handler, said that Yousef collaborated with Israel because he wanted to save lives. "So many people owe him their life and don't even know it...The amazing thing is that none of his actions were done for money."

Yousef, 32, who converted to Christianity a decade ago, now lives in California after fleeing the West Bank in 2007. His memoir, "Son of Hamas," has recently been released in the United States; with it, Yousef hopes to send a message of peace to Israelis. "The Hamas leadership is responsible for the killing of Palestinians, not Israelis...I tell you with certainty that the Israelis care about the Palestinians far more than the Hamas or Fatah leadership does."

After learning that his son was a spy for Israel, the elder Yousef, who has been held in an Israeli prison since 2005, has disowned his son. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 2-24-10)

### Jewish Success at the 2010 Olympics

The 2010 Winter Olympics may be over, but the *kvelling* by a few Jewish families goes on. Two American Jews – Steve Meisler and Charlie White – earned medals in Vancouver. Meisler won a gold medal in the four-man bobsled race and White took silver in ice dancing along with his partner Meryl Davis. Other Jewish athletes who did not earn medals but participated nonetheless were Ben Agosto, American ice dancer; Israeli brother

and sister ice dancing duo Alexandra and Roman Zaretsky; Israeli skier Mikail Renzhin; and biathlete Laura Spector from Massachusetts. (The biathlon combines cross-country skiing and target shooting. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 3-3-10)

### **Lemba's Jewish Roots**

Genetic tests carried out by British scientists have revealed that many of southern Africa's Lemba tribe—who total 70,000 to 80,000 and live in central Zimbabwe and northern South Africa—have Jewish origins. According to their oral tradition, the Lemba are descended from seven Jewish men who left Israel 2,500 years ago and married African women. Their customs are similar to Jewish ones, in that they refrain from eating pork and other foods forbidden by the Torah, they wear yarmulke-type skull caps, conduct ritual animal slaughter and even put a Star of David on their gravestones. Their sacred prayer language is a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic. Members of the priestly clan of the Lemba, the *Buba*, have a genetic element also found among *Kohanim*, the Jewish priestly line. However, despite their roots, many Lemba are now Christians or Muslims. (*World Jewish Congress*, 3-8-10)

### **The Good News...**

A Gallup poll in the United States found that Israel is among Americans' most favored countries in the world, coming in fifth after Canada, Britain, Germany and Japan, with an approval rating of 67 percent of respondents who were asked to provide their opinions about 20 countries. Some 63 percent of those polled said their sympathies lie more with Israel than with the Palestinians in the current situation, which is the highest level of support Israel has enjoyed for 19 years. (*World Jewish Congress*, 3-3-10)

### **The Bad News...**

Anti-Semitic incidents in Canada have risen to record levels, with an 11.4 percent increase in incidents in 2009 over the previous year. This translates into the highest number ever reported in the 28-year history

of B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights reporting. The highest number of incidents for any month, 209, occurred in January, coinciding with Israel's war in Gaza. The majority of incidents, 672, occurred in Ontario. (*World Jewish Congress*, 2-26-10)

### **Ten to Watch in 2010**

The Forward, the legendary Jewish newspaper now published in both English and Yiddish, has come out with a list of "10 up-and-coming Jewish political hopefuls." The list represents Jews who are either just entering the national scene or are viewed as possible future leaders. They are:

- Richard Blumenthal, (D) Attorney General of Connecticut;
- Ted Deutch, (D) Florida state senator;
- Lee Fisher, (D) Lieutenant governor of Ohio;
- Paul Hodes, (D) Congressman from New Hampshire;
- Beth Krom, (D) Irvine (CA) City Council-woman;
- Josh Mandel, (R) Ohio state representative;
- Deb Markowitz, (D) Secretary of State of Vermont;
- Steve Poizner, (R) California state insurance commissioner;
- Jay Ramras, (R) Alaska state representative;
- Doug Turner, (R) private businessman from New Mexico. (*The Forward*, 2-17-10)

### **Hold On to Your *Shtreimel!***

With the exception of the traditional *shtreimel* fur hats for the *Hareidi* (ultra-orthodox) religious community, Israel may soon become the world's first fur-free nation. A bill in the Knesset that would expand a current law and ban all import, export, production and marketing of fur was approved in early February. The *shtreimel* would be the only exception aside from the other minor exception, that being cow hide, which is "only a secondary use after cows are slaughtered for meat." Wool from sheep and hair from camels and goats were not included in the bill because no slaughter or cruelty is involved. Agricultural Minister Shalom Simchon said that Israel "should set an example and serve its Biblical role as a 'light unto the nations.'" ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 2-8-10)



## 2010 Sophie Brody Award

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, has announced its selection of the 2010 Sophie Brody Award, an annual honor given to “encourage, recognize and commend outstanding achievement in Jewish literature.” The criterion for eligibility for this award is limited to works published for adults in the United States in the preceding year. The winner is “The Book of the Unknown: Tales of the Thirty-Six,” by Jonathan Keats. The three honor books are “Lucky Child: A Memoir of Surviving Auschwitz as a Young Boy,” by Thomas Buergenthal; “The Jewish Body,” by Melvin Konner; and “Clara’s War: One Girl’s Story of Survival,” by Clara Kramer and Stephen Gantz. (*American Library Association, www.ala.org, 1-17-10*)

## The “Forgotten Exodus”

The Knesset, Israel’s parliament, has passed a bill that aims to secure compensation for Jewish refugees from Arab countries and Iran, and making the issue an integral part of any future Middle East peace negotiations. According to the bill, a Jewish refugee is an Israeli citizen who left one of the Arab states or Iran following religious persecution. Approximately 850,000 Jews were forced to leave Syria, Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in the decades following the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, due to widespread discrimination and persecution. Some research estimates that about one billion dollars worth of personal and community assets were left behind by Jews who forfeited all when they left their old countries for the new one. Former Canadian Justice Minister, Irwin Cotler, a member of *Justice for Jews From Arab Countries* (JJAC) said, “This speaks to the question of, among other things, the... narrative of the last 62 years where the question of Jews from Arab countries has not been part of the narrative. There have been more than 160 U.N. resolutions on the matter of refugees. All 160 dealt with Palestinian refugees only...there is no justice and no truth if it does not also address the plight of Jews

seeking justice from Arab countries.” (*www.latimes.com, 2-14-10 and World Jewish Congress, 2-13-10*)

## In Memoriam

Dr. Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College, died recently at the age of 94. Lander, an ordained Orthodox rabbi, founded the college, a competitor to Yeshiva University, in 1971 with a mere 35 students. The institution now has over 23,600 students enrolled in its many graduate and undergraduate programs, with campuses in 29 locations around the world, including one in Miami Beach, which opened in 2006. Lander was Touro’s president from its inception until his death, making him one of the longest-serving college presidents in the United States. Dr. Lander held a PhD in sociology and was a pioneer in Jewish and general higher education. He served as one of three directors of New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia’s Committee on Unity, established in 1944, which became the city’s first Commission on Human Rights. Lander served as a consultant to three U.S. presidents and served on the commission that established the historic “War on Poverty” program. (*www.israelnationanews.com, 2-9-10 and World Jewish Congress, 2-15-10*)

## Did you know....

-The 16-year-old who sang Canada’s national anthem at the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver is jazz-pop phenom Nikki Yanofsky, a Jewish girl born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. (*www.myjewishlearning.com, 2-18-10*)

-The sixth annual Jewlicious Festival was held in Long Beach, California, February 19th through the 21st. The festival organizers’ goal was for a “metaphorical immersion... covering a huge variety of Jewish topics to appeal to young Jews with a wide range of backgrounds and interests.” Rabbi Yonah Bookstein, the festival director, said when asked the purpose of the festival: “to help prevent a generation from opting out...and leaving the Jewish community behind.” (*The Forward, 2-23-10*) ◇

# Photo Gallery



KJCC's own Maryon Gould is shown with I Believe Foundation founder Kathy Lasseter and the plaque honoring Maryon with the I Believe Foundation Humanitarian Achievement Award for 2010. The plaque reads: "In appreciation of your tireless efforts in always being there for others." As many of you know, the foundation seeks to promote the support, care and comfort of children in Monroe County.



The KJCC Book Club met Wednesday, February 3rd at Bea Graham's home in Silver Shores. Elinor's off to Canada (yes, she took Herb), so there's at least one open spot. Contact Bea or Joyce if you're interested.



At left, friends gathered to help Gerri Emkey celebrate earning her doctorate in education. (Elvis? Is that you?)

At right, the Oneg sponsors from the early service on February 26th, Joe and Kathy Shabathai and Jim and Rita Williams. Kathy had told everyone to come hungry. She made sure that no one left that way.





What terrific events we have celebrated since Chai-Lights last came to our doorsteps. We had our first-ever morning reading of the *Megillat Esther* on February 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a delicious Sisterhood brunch,

an event made all the more delicious by the costume parade, songs, antics, and participation in the *Megillah* reading by the children of the KJCC Religious School. It was also a delight to see so many of our members in costumes and masks (most of the masks made by our young scholars and budding young artists). Most important, we had a great crowd and fulfilled all of the required *mitzvot*. Almost forty of us read the *Megillah*, drowned out the hateful name of Haman, collected and distributed charity, and gave out treats of *Shalach Manot*. (Thanks as usual to Joyce, who did her usual wonderful job of organizing and leading the *Megillah* reading.) Oh, did I forget to mention one of the most important *mitzvot*? We were not remiss. We drank.

-Gloria



One of the highlights of each season is the KJCC Sisterhood Fashion Show. Though the event had to be postponed once because the original venue kept forgetting to pay their electric bill, the gang who attended at Snooks on Thursday, May 4th had wonderful food, a wonderful show and a wonderful time. Stuart and Lauren Sax again hosted, bringing their Angelika's magic: Stu is a spieler without peer; and Lauren, the taste maven extraordinaire, knows exactly what looks good on everyone. Take a look.



**Above and right are scenes from Monday, March 1st during the last of Yardena's lecture series on Jews of the Diaspora: the Jews of China. Obviously word had gotten out that this series was really interesting.**



**On March 5<sup>th</sup>, with barely a week's notice, KJCC members, along with hundreds of other congregations spanning the full breadth of the United States and Canada, participated in celebrating "Shabbat across America." Starting with candle lighting and Kiddush at Bill and Freda Ferns' Greek Isles Grill in Pink Plaza, about thirty of us welcomed this special Sabbath as the family we are, gathering as at a home to have Shabbat dinner, with good cheer, warmth, great food and the knowledge that we are a small family growing larger and ever-more-connected to each other and Judaism. I was proud of us. And of all the others who gathered in different places. We looked great! And Freda and Bill, who never get to go to Shabbat services anymore, were thrilled to have Shabbat come to them.**

*-Gloria*

# **Congratulations on our 30th Anniversary Event from our many Sponsors**

<b>Barry Alter</b>	<b>David &amp; Toby Goldfinger</b>
<b>Gloria Avner</b>	<b>Maryon Gould</b>
<b>Ivan &amp; Jean Bader</b>	<b>Bea Graham</b>
<b>Sylvia Berman</b>	<b>Douglas &amp; Rozi Graham</b>
<b>Edward &amp; Diana Bernard</b>	<b>David &amp; Patti Gross</b>
<b>Joel Bernard &amp; Joan Stark</b>	<b>Herb &amp; Elinor Grossman</b>
<b>Alan Beth &amp; Candy Stanlake</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Jan Hartz</b>
<b>Nancy Cohn</b>	<b>Elizabeth Hayden</b>
<b>Wes &amp; Rita Conklin</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Eileen Hermann</b>
<b>Alan &amp; Susan Cooper</b>	<b>Ron &amp; Dorothy Horn</b>
<b>Foster Davidson &amp; Carol Laskin</b>	<b>Susan Horn</b>
<b>Barry &amp; Natalie Dorf</b>	<b>Estelle Incociati</b>
<b>Arthur Feinberg &amp; Patrice Gerard</b>	<b>Henry &amp; Patricia Isenberg</b>
<b>Bill &amp; Freda Ferns</b>	<b>Michal Kamely</b>
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## Thank You!

## *-This Month in Jewish History-*

# April

538 – In the third Synod of Orleans, France declares that Jews aren't permitted to be seen during Passion Week (the week before Easter) because "their appearance is an insult to Christianity."

711 – Tarik, a Moslem general, attacks the south of Spain at today's Gibraltar. He defeats Roderic, last of the Visigoth kings, at the Battle of Xeres. Tarik is helped by Jews. After each city is conquered (Cordova, Granada, Malaga,) Jews are often given positions of safeguarding Moslem interests.

1298 – In Rottingen, a German knight accuses local Jews of profaning the host. (The wafer eaten by Christians said to symbolize the body of Jesus. So wouldn't that also be, symbolically, cannibalism?) He incites the local populace to riot, and twenty-one Jews are murdered. The killing spreads to a hundred and forty communities in Bavaria and Austria. Tens of thousands of Jews are either killed or wounded.

1389 – A priest in Prague is hit with a few grains of sand thrown by small Jewish boys playing in the street. He insists there is a Jewish plot against him. Thousands are slaughtered, the synagogue and cemetery are destroyed, and homes are pillaged. King Wenceslaus insists that the responsibility rests with the Jews for venturing outside during Holy Week.

1486 – The first prayer book (Siddur) is printed in Italy by Soncino, the only time the Siddur is published during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Typically, hand-copied manuscripts are used.

1492 – The Edict of Expulsion for all Jews is passed in Spain. Jews are technically not under the jurisdiction of the Inquisition, so the Church levels a ritual murder accusation

against them in Granada and is thus able to call for the expulsion of both Jews and Marranos. Torquemada, the director of the Inquisition, is often said to have been of Jewish descent.

1533 – Pope Clement VII, in an effort to stop the Inquisitions, acts against New Christians in Portugal, and issues the *Bulla de Perdao*, essentially a pardon for all past offenses. Unfortunately, the pope dies a few years later and the Inquisition does not.

1657 – After a battle of almost two years, Asser Levy, one of the original 23 accidental Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam, is allowed to serve on guard duty. Levy, the ritual slaughterer of the town, has his slaughterhouse on what is today Wall Street. He further petitions to be allowed rights as a burgher, or freeperson of the town.

1775 – Pope Pius VI, partly in reaction to the Reformation, issues the *Editto sopra gli ebrei*, re-instituting all anti-Jewish legislation. The forty-four clauses prohibit possessing Talmudic writings and erection of gravestones, forbid Jews from passing the night outside the ghetto, and more. The regulations are in effect until the arrival of Napoleon 25 years later, who tears down the ghetto walls of medieval Europe.

1890 – Nathan Birnbaum (no, not George Burns, another Nathan Birnbaum) coins the term Zionism in his journal *Selbstemanzipation*.

1898 – Fifteen Jews serving on the battleship U.S.S. Maine are killed when it is sunk in Havana harbor. Five thousand Jews serve during the war. The first member of Roosevelt's Rough Riders to reach the top of San Juan Hill is a Jew, Irving Peixotto.

1925 – Hebrew University is opened in Jerusalem by Lord Balfour, on Mount Scopus. ◇



# 30th Anniversary Gala

*I*t all started with a newspaper ad, thirty years ago. Jews in the Upper and Middle Keys weren't sure if there were any other landmen around. There were. Well, look at us now. KJCC continues to grow, with over 170 families and individuals on our membership rolls. Some maintain their memberships even if they're now hundreds or thousands of miles away. So

we decided to throw ourselves a party, to celebrate thirty years of KJCC and each other and the ways we, together, enrich and expand each others' lives. We invited everyone, and well over 100 of us came, including a sprinkling of honored founding members. So enjoy the photos, and who was there, and what a remarkable and enduring group we are.





The highest individual award KJCC has to offer, the Joel Cohen Award, went to Rene Rose this year. Her response was captured beautifully in the photos left and left below. As with most of the photos you see here, these were taken by KJCC member Richard Knowles, who dedicated his evening to helping make ours memorable. There are hundreds of shots from the 30th Gala available on their web site, [BarbaraKnowles.com](http://BarbaraKnowles.com), where KJCC members are welcome to browse and, if they like, purchase keepsake photos.









# *As We Hide the Afikomen, Does It Help Reveal to Us What is Hidden?*

*by Gloria Avner*

We all know that the true purpose of Passover is to pass over our story, our strategies for survival, to the next generation, to pass on our faith in the one God, who (Mi Chamocha) delivered us out of the hands of Egypt, to our children and our children's children. The meaning of Hagaddah, after all, is "The Telling."

Before we can tell though, the young ones have to ask. Bring on the "Four Questions." The singsong chant takes on a life of its own. Year after year I see how much the children like to sing these questions, well before they know what they are asking or the significance of the answers. Little by little they get it, almost by osmosis, through the yearly repetition. They may even start to wonder, after hearing yet again about the four sons, which of the children they are most like.

But a seder service can be long, and the explanations, depending on who is leading the service, can be dry and tiring to a child. Ever inventive, with an eye on the prize, the ultimate goal being the integration of the story in a child's mind, some great Jewish teacher implemented a great device, integral to the story, to keep a child (his own?) awake throughout the evening: matzoh replaced the carrot on a stick sometimes called reward.

For centuries during the Passover seder in Jewish homes, one of three pieces of unleavened bread, the middle matzoh, is broken in half, wrapped in a napkin, hidden, and later retrieved to be served as the last morsel of food eaten at the end of the lengthy observance of this ancient Jewish feast. We call this bit of unleavened bread the "afikomen." Depending on whom you talk with, the roots of the word are either Greek (epikomion-that

which comes after) or Aramaic. It symbolizes the Paschal lamb. For our children, the afikomen is a focus for their attention until the end of the seder. It works.

In some families the children "steal" the matzoh and are paid a ransom in order to get it back to the table. In other families it is hidden and the children search and are rewarded. The children associate fun and challenge, joy and treats, with this most important observance of their heritage. But there are also lessons here. They search for and reveal what is hidden. Unity reigns once more, and the last bit of matzoh meets its designated honor, to be consumed, intimately joined with both the celebrant and the celebration.

In Judaism, we see time and time again that what is hidden is also endowed with special meaning. (Some Jews from Middle Eastern countries saw the afikomen as having special powers and kept a piece of it as a good luck charm.) The broken, unhidden piece of matzoh remains on the Passover table. Two parts make up the whole, one visible, touchable, edible, and one hidden. Because we can only see one half, do we assume that that is all there is, that there is no wholeness? No. Unity remains, even when there is real or perceived loss. We are conjoined to believe in the wholeness of our heritage, our tribe, and our laws.

As we grow in learning and interest in meanings below the surface of things, we are rewarded with understanding and appreciation of the complexity of our heritage. That is the adult prize of what is hidden in the napkin. (I love the recent custom initiated by Jim and Joel to hide the afikoman not in some dark cupboard in a far corner of the dining room, but in an agreed-upon place in their minds, which the children must intuit. Of

course it also helps us have a less-crazy post-dinner hour.)

We are living in ever-more-stressful times, particularly in a world of downward, painful economics. Often, things seem “broken.” Honoring the mitzvah to free ourselves from our own restrictions just as our ancestors freed themselves from the slavery foisted upon them in Egypt (how interesting that the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzraim, actually means “from tight spots, restricted spaces.”) is a challenge. Can we unlock ourselves from self-imposed slavery? Can we lead ourselves to freedom? Will a broken piece of matzoh somehow help us in our release to a higher, more meaningful life? It can if we remember that broken parts in our lives do exist in completion. The parts just need to be found. Just as God guided Moses, gave our people manna to eat in the mornings of our wanderings, and water in the desert to drink from Miriam’s well, we would be well-advised to trust in God the Provider.

We eat the afikomen, the last bit of food we are commanded to eat during the seder, without which the seder cannot be concluded. The children, satisfied with their prizes, have been involved with

the seder to the very end, whether they stole the matzoh or merely found it. Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of encyclopedic volumes about Jewish history and custom, tells a story about a friend who once volunteered to conduct a seder inside an Israeli prison. “Everything was done according to Jewish law,” he said. “But,” as his friend told him later, “the warden did announce that the stealing of the afikomen would not be permitted.” Oh he of little faith. ◇

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# Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

*Israel's Independence Day this year falls on April 19th. It's an enduring miracle that, after two thousand years of prayer, next year in Jerusalem is now a reality every year. It also helps to understand big stories by considering smaller ones. Here are a couple for this year.*

## The War Before the War

Most of us know that the State of Israel was born on May 14, 1948. (As was our Medina, née Medina Kirschenbaum. On that same day Bernie Ginsberg celebrated his first birthday.) That was the day the British left. It

is also widely known that on the next day five Arab armies—from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, supported by irregulars from other Arab countries—invaded, intent on destroying the neonatal Jewish state quickly, with coordinated attacks from all directions except the sea. Many believe this

was the beginning of the fighting, and the War for Independence, but in reality it merely began phase two of the war. Fighting between Jews and Arabs already had been raging continuously for almost six months, ever since the November 29, 1947 Partition Resolution of the United Nations, as both sides prepared for the impending British departure. What follows is an abbreviated (though representative) history of the fighting even before the State of Israel was proclaimed:

*Nov. 17, 1947:* Golda Meir meets secretly with Transjordan's King Abdullah. Abdullah

asks that the coming Jewish state be part of Transjordan (which changed its name in 1949, by the way, after it had seized the West Bank and East Jerusalem). Golda says no.

*Nov. 29, 1947:* The U.N. votes to partition what's left of the British Mandate—Transjordan, occupying about 80 percent of historic Palestine, had been created by the British in 1922 to appease Arabs angry about



**May 14, 1948: David Ben-Gurion proclaims the Jewish state.**

the beginnings of Zionist immigration—into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem to be internationalized. Both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. support the resolution. All Arabs reject it.

*Dec. 1-3, 1947:* Arabs begin their blockade of Jerusalem, while in the city Arab resi-

dents riot.

*Dec. 12, 1947:* An Irgun bombing at the Damascus Gate kills 20 and wounds 50.

*Dec. 15, 1947:* Arabs cut water pipes to Jerusalem. Though pipes are repaired by the British, Jerusalem prepares for siege.

*Dec. 30, 1947:* Irgun bombs a crowd of Arabs outside the Haifa Oil Refinery. Six are killed. Arabs then storm the refinery; before the British can arrive, forty-one Jews are killed. The "Haifa Refinery Massacre" becomes a rallying cry for both sides.

*Dec. 31, 1947:* The Old City Jewish quar-



ter is placed under siege. Palmach forces attack Balad as Sheikh in revenge for the Refinery killings.

*Jan. 7, 1948:* Irgun bombs an Arab crowd at Jaffa Gate stop of No. 3 bus. Arabs firing into Jerusalem kill four. Return fire kills five Arabs.

*Jan. 14, 1948:* A major attack of Arab irregulars on Gush Etzion, near Jerusalem, is beaten off, with up to 150 Arabs killed.

*Feb. 1, 1948:* Palestine Post is bombed by an SS-trained Arab explosives expert. Many are wounded. The paper puts out an edition at 6 a.m. the next day.

*Feb. 14, 1948:* A Haganah force raids Arab Sasa in the north, blowing up 35 houses and killing 60 Arabs.

*Feb. 22, 1948:* Ben Yehuda Street is bombed by the same group who bombed the Palestine Post. Up to 60 Jews are killed.

*Mar. 10, 1948:* Plan Daled is finalized. Originally conceived for when the British left, to defend Jewish areas of Palestine, its timetable is moved up because of the rapid worsening of the situation.

*Mar. 26, 1948:* A convoy gets through to Jerusalem, the last for two weeks. Residents line up for scarce water.

*Apr. 2, 1948:* In early phases of Operation Nachshon, the first Jewish brigade-sized operation, Haganah commandos blow up headquarters of Mufti Army commander; Haganah also attacks a key point in the Jerusalem blockade, but fails.

*April 3, 1948:* S. S. Nora docks, with 10,000 Czech rifles plus ammunition hidden in cargo. They are rushed to Haganah units preparing for Operation Nachshon and implementing Plan Daled.

*April 9, 1948:* Irgun and Lehi, Jewish underground groups, invade Arab village of Deir Yassin. Over 100 Arabs, mostly civilians, are killed. Despite vigorous Jewish claims that reports are grossly magnified and distorted, the event becomes known as the Deir Yassin Massacre.

*April 13, 1948:* In retaliation for Deir Yassin, Arabs attack a medical convoy en route to Hadassah Hospital. Among the 80 dead are doctors, nurses, patients, and the hospi-

tal's director.

*April 20, 1948:* Large convoy of 200 trucks to Jerusalem, including Ben Gurion and Rabin, is attacked and stopped. There are no further convoys until the "Burma Road" is opened.

*May 7, 1948:* Operation Maccabee begins, intended to secure the road to Jerusalem. The Arab Legion of Jordan begins to pour troops into the area. In constant battles over almost two weeks, Jews suffer over 150 casualties.

*May 10, 1948:* Kfar Darom in Gaza suffers a major artillery attack by the Muslim Brotherhood. In Operation Barak, also in Gaza, Arab villages are destroyed and a key bridge blown up to help deter an Egyptian invasion.

*May 13, 1948:* Jaffa surrenders to Haganah. Arabs massacre 129 Jewish defenders at Kfar Etzion, most after they had surrendered.

*May 14, 1948:* The remaining kibbutzim of Gush Etzion surrender to the Arabs. British High Commissioner leaves Palestine. That evening, in advance of the Sabbath, David Ben-Gurion, in the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, delivers the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel. (See text on next page.)

*May 15, 1948:* Armed with full caches of modern weapons and a huge numerical advantage, Arab armies invade day-old Israel from the north, east and south. ♦

#### Israeli Standard Time?

There's a well known story in Israel that Yardena heard often as a child. As you can imagine, the wording of the Proclamation of Independence was not accomplished easily. There were many drafts. Zeev Sharef, the Council Secretary, was finally ready to deliver the final draft at 3:40 p.m. on May 14th. But the ceremony was to begin at 4:00. So he asked a policeman for help. The first driver refused to take him, saying he had to get home to hear the address on the radio. They finally convinced the man there would be no address unless Sharef was driven to the hall. During the drive Sharef learned that the man did not have a valid driver's license. The sin was shrugged off, and Sharef bounded up the steps to the hall two minutes before 4:00.

Excerpts from  
**The Declaration of the Establishment of the  
State of Israel**

Provisional Government of Israel  
May 14, 1948

*The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books. After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.*

*Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.*

*In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.*

*This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home...*

*...On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel... This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.*

*Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength*

*of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel...*

*...The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations...*

*...We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.*

*We extend our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.*

*We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.*

*Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).*

David Ben-Gurion

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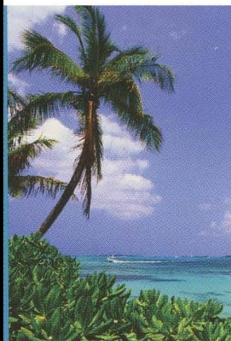
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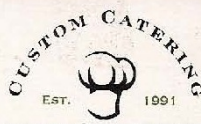
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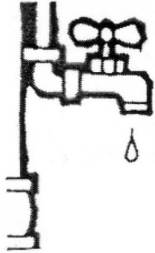
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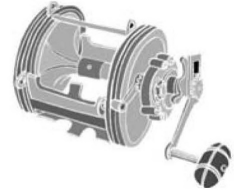
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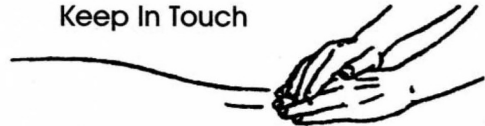


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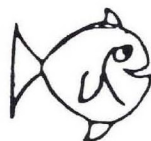
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