



September 2017

10 Elul 5777 - 10 Tishrei 5778

Steve Smith Plays Klezmer Trumpet in Russia - page 33 Rabbi Ed's Hillel Retreat at KJCC - page 41 High Holiday Section - page 46

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

September 2017

10 Elul - 10 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Erica Lieberman- Garrett	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Sisterhood Meeting 1:00 p.m.	7	8 Joyce Peckman	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 Beth Hayden	16 S'lichot Pizza & Movie 6:00 p.m.
17	18	19	20 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 5:30 p.m. Service 7:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day One Service 9:30 a.m.	22 Rosh Hashanah Day Two Gloria Avner Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis	Shabbat Shuvah Service 10 a.m. Havdalah 7:30 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Services 9:30 a.m. Yizkor

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the monthly publication of the **Keys Jewish Community Center** P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha,

This issue of Chai-Lights ushers in the time of year when we prepare for the High Holy Days of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. It is a time of year that fills me with anticipation and affirms my feeling that we are actually very fortunate to be Jews. These Yamim HaNoraim (Days of Awe) are unique and bind us to the observances and customs of our predecessors. Who cannot be deeply moved when the majestic and haunting melody of Aveinu Malkeinu (Our Father, Our King) rises in supplication? How can one remain impassive when we ask to be written in the Book of Life (Sefer Chaim) for a good year? Or recite the words of the Unetaneh Tokef as we ask "Mi vichayeh umi *yamut*" (who will live and who will die)? While these are deeply personal and humbling days for all of us, as we review our successes and failures during the past year, these are also days when we can look ahead with anticipation to a new year, new plans, fresh intentions and a fresh beginning. Not only is the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishri the celebration of Rosh HaShanah, in our tradition it is the birthday of the world. The KJCC incorporates in its preparation for and observance of the Days of Awe



some very traditional events. We have an evening on which we observe S'lichot services. Slichah (the singular) literally means pardon or forgive. The plural (S'lichot) is used when referring to the High Holy Days and describes the penitential psalms and pivyutim (Jewish liturgical poems) composing the S'lichot service. It is a traditional lewish act to ask forgiveness from people one may have hurt or wronged, either purposefully or accidentally. during the past year before beginning the observance of a New Year. The KICC also observes Tashlich - the custom of "casting" away past sins by throwing bread crumbs on moving water. During the days of repentance that separate Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur we observe Shabbat Shuvah (Sabbath of Return or Repentance) and on the tenth day, we observe the most solemn day in our calendar, Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). It is customary on these days to wish each other a "Shanah tovah umetukah" (a good and sweet year) and "G'mar chatimah tovah" (may you be sealed for a good year). And so allow me to wish for you and each and every one of us. a Shanah tovah umetukah and G'mar chatimah tovah.

-B'shalom. Beth

Nosh

Israel 2018—Yesterday and Today

Whether you've never been to Israel or you have been many times, this will be an Israel experience unlike any other.

The State of Israel has come a long way since its founding. Through Socialism and Labor Zionism to free-market capitalism; from agriculture to manufacturing to the famed hi-tech "Start Up Nation;" with secular, national religious, ultraorthodox and Israel's new "secular spirituality" all playing a role.

The KJCC will be returning to Israel in the Spring of 2018 and we'd like to have you join us Our theme will be "Israel: Yesterday and Today" —with special emphasis on today.

We will see first-hand how Israel is changing, e.g. in relations with her Arab neighbors, the national narrative, and a once-secular society now looking for, and finding, new modes of Jewish spiritual expression.

We will explore all of these and more in people-to-people encounters with scholars, guides, and everyday Israelis. We will also delve into Israel's historic past, with visits to new discoveries at archeological sites that teach us about the ancient roots that shape the land and its people today.

Though we will see "sites" this is not a sightseeing tour. It is a 10-day encounter with the people and movements that are shaping Israel's present and future destiny.

Come, be engaged and inspired. For further information, please contact Scott Pearl, KJCC's volunteer trip organizer, at 954-655-8330 or smpearl@gmail.com.

Veterans Invited

If you know any returning veterans who would like to participate in High Holiday services, please invite them to be part of our KJCC *mishpocha* for the 10 Days of Awe. We would love them to join us for Rosh HaShanah dinner and our Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast as well, where we will be

pleased to welcome them and express our gratitude for their service. Please RSVP in advance, with the veteran's name, to Donna Bolton (lton9993@bellsouth.net).

Help Decorate Our Sukkah

Join us in the KJCC Meditation Garden on Sunday morning, October 1st, at 11:00 a.m., the day after Yom Kippur. The previous evening we will have feasted at our always-sumptuous Sisterhood Break-the-Fast. We'll then need some creative exercise. Let's once again make Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake's pergola gift into a gorgeous outdoor "booth" for Sukkot. Naturally, all who come (please bring your children and grandchildren) will have an assortment of treats and coffee to sustain them. We will practice our *lulavlestrog* blessings. (For our formal celebration of Sukkot the following Friday evening.) This is always fun, for kids of all ages.

Selichot: Prayers and Pizza

Our High Holiday cycle doesn't really begin on Erev Rosh HaShanah. Everything in Judaism is a continuum. Erev Selichot marks the inner beginning because on that night we say prayers for forgiveness in community and set the intent for all that is to follow. It helps us get in a state of receptivity and commitment and is our warm-up for the Days of Awe to come. So be at KICC on Saturday, September 16th, by 6:00 p.m. It is always a special night - warm, meaningful, entertaining and delicious. Services will be led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg, Pizza and salad will be served, and we'll watch that perennial, multi-layered film favorite, "Fiddler On The Roof." Many thanks to Linda Pollack for sponsoring this important ritual evening. (See ad on page 16 for RSVP information.)

Oneg Sponsors for September 2017

September 22nd – Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis in memory of Laurie's dad's Yahrzeit.

Yahrzeit Plaque

Patty Silver Schocket 10/29/1952 - 10/26/2016

Always in our hearts Sandy Feldman, M.D., Larry Binderow, Sasha Binderow and Jeffrey Schocket

Erev Rosh HaShanah Dinner

When we begin an important holiday, especially one that involves serious communal prayer, we all want to be around that big family table beforehand. Sisterhood will be offering its finest home-cooked foods, for meat lovers and vegetarians alike, on Erev Rosh HaShanah, September 20th, at 5:30 p.m. Make your reservation now and send your \$25 check (per person, not counting children under 13, who eat free) made out to KICC Sisterhood (P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070). It will be an auspicious, delicious and homey event as we prepare to be written into the Book of Life. Please see the ad on page 8 for more information, including RSVP. Hope to see you there.

Break-the-Fast With Us

On Saturday evening, the last day of September, we will have been in prayer and fasting mode all day long at KJCC. The experience will be deep, engaging, and multi-layered, as are all services led by Rabbi Richard Agler. So by the time we hear that final Tekiah g'dolah blasted by our shofar players, we will be feeling both uplifted and ethereal. We will have confessed our failures to live completely ethical, loving lives. Some of us (more every year) will have stayed at shul all afternoon to take part in Rabbi Agler's "fast" talk. (Yes, we'll be listening to and discussing more Leonard Cohen.) We will be hungry. And happy. Come to KICC Sisterhood's incomparable Break -the-Fast feast. Call or e-mail Erica Lieberman-Garrett – 305-393-1162, hippiejap@hotmail.com - or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585,

September Birthdays

lst	Mildred Finkelstein
2nd	Lloyd Wruble
	Chase Barrett
4th	Debby C. Block
	Steven Greenbaum
7th	Mindy Agler
	Morton Silverman
7th	Stellar Levy
8th	Susan Horn
9th	Jacob Klimpl
	Gerri Emkey
13th	Andy Tobin
13th	Lisha Lane
13th	Shawn Borisoff
l6th	Larry S. Schur
17th	Éllen Ecker
18th	Shirley Krissel
19th	Barbara Bernstein
19th	Brenna Nobil
19th	Joel Bofshever
19th	Steven Schur
22nd	Fred Hudson
23rd	Lauren Schur
24th	Noah Bitton
25th	Marla Berenson
25th	Michel Bitton

susangordon424@yahoo.com – to co-ordinate your dish and say how many will be coming. There is no charge for this joyous event. Please see the ad on page 28 for more information.

Toss Away Your Sins

One of the loveliest rituals of the High Holidays, and the shortest service, is Tashllich. We meet on Thursday, September 21, Rosh HaShanah Day One, at the Ocean Pointe Resort in Tavernier, at 4:00 p.m. Using pieces of bread, we metaphorically cast our "sins," the acts which did not reflect our best selves, into the ocean. We pray, we throw away and then we sing. The seagulls love it. This service will be led by Cantor Michael Dzubin.

News from a KICC Graduate

We like to hear from our one-time B'nei Mitzvot out in the world. Harry Friedman is pictured here with his boss for the last few months, Congressman Carlos Curbelo (R-FL). He will contin-

ue to work as an intern in the Congressman's Kendall office throughout his senior year. Harry is a student at Coral Reef High School in Miami. in the Engineering Magnet Program, and hopes to enter the Naval Academy when he graduates. We at KICC, Harry's mishpocha since



he was seven years old, wish him well and are confident that he will succeed. A hearty mazel tov to Harry Friedman and his proud parents, Jane and Steve, who sent us this news. Come back to us often, Harry. We love your chanting of Chatzi Kaddish and will always want to hear more of your adventures in the world.

Activities for the Upcoming Season

Plans are already being made for the upcoming season's activities. We know we'll be having an advertisers' dinner again. Sisterhood is planning their roster of events, as are the Adult Education, Ritual and Art Committees. (Gloria is working on a fabulous program on Kabbalah to be taught by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.) If you have ideas for lectures, or specific films or documentaries, or group reads, or off-the-rock activities, please contact Medina Roy, our Adult Ed chair, at hiitsmedee@gmail.com. For ideas about art classes, contact Gloria Avner, geetavner@gmail.com. We are what we think

September Anniversaries

		Years
7th	Jay & Nancy Hershoff	18
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov	33
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith	39
27th	Gary & Lyn Sherman	
30th	Marsha & Tom Garrettson	27

Please Send Those Dues Packages In

All membership renewal packages went out in July. (They're sent, of course, to addresses we have on file. If you didn't get your package, please write or call Donna Bolton.

lton9993@bellsouth.net or 305-393-1351.) Yes, it's vital that we get our members to renew, and donate as generously as they can, but there is another important aspect to the packets, too. It's to make sure we have accurate and updated information from you. If you've moved, or changed your cell phone, or your e-mail, please remember to let us know.

Still, there's another aspect of the information that probably causes more consternation than any other: the form that lists yahrzeits and the other that offers you names you have listed in our annual Yizkor Book in the past. For yahrzeits, Alan has set up the database to reflect either the religious or secular date, but not both. So please be sure you know which you've chosen; that can actually affect the month in which names are read from the bemah. And if you have additional names to be listed in the Yizkor Book, please make sure your form is returned no later than September 3rd.

Yahrzeit Plaque

Frances Weiser February 6, 2003

Forever in our Hearts Andrew & Randi Grant

about and endeavor to do.

Two High Holiday Poems by Gloria Avner

Yes, she's an artist, and yes, she's a writer of prose, and, yes, she's becoming the editor of Chai-Lights, and yes, she sings. But did you know she's also a published poet? Here are a couple of poems, inspired by the Days of Awe, we thought you'd enjoy.

Iewish Woman

Briskets in the slowcooker for the New Year feast I like that I am part of a world-wide confederation of women humming to ourselves hands smelling of garlic.

Tashlich

Four-year-old Sean and 102-year-old Pauline throw bits of bread into the ocean like thousands grouped along European creeks and Asian rivers leaning over bridges watching gulls and needlefish gobble our sins.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Gene Silverman, 305-664-3316.

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 Beth Hayden 305-773-0067.

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

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

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

KICC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

KICC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-978-6256, for annual rates.

LIVE GREEN - RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, iDevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial to provide them to Haiti, where they are desperately needed.

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

In Memoriam Geptember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Sam Roazen	Goldie Berman	Mae U. Stark	
By Sylvia Berman <><><><>	By Sylvia Berman <>><>><>>	By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Molly Feldblum	Morris Abramson	Jim Boruszak	
By Marc Bloom <><><>>>>	By Joel & Toby Bofshever	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Lillian Goldstein	Sydney Edelman	Ronald Repka	
By Joan Boruszak	By Dale Chasteen	By Nancy L. Cohn	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Evelyn O. Coltman	lda Hitzig	Sadie Suchman	
By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin	By Foster Davidson	
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\			
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Albert Improta	Hannah Improta	H. Melvin Berkon	
By Carol Field	By Carol Field	By Jamie & Laura Goodman	
<><><><><>	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Nettie Gorson	Beverly Harvey	Leonard Roberts	
By Janice Gorson	By Mitchell Harvey	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	
<><><><><><><><>	<><><>	<><><><><><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Sadie Klimpl	Burton Margolis	Anne Hendin Margulies	
By Michael Klimpl	By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	By Stanley & Jenny Margulies	

In Memoriam Beptember 2017

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Toby Mitchell	Melvin Richardson	Lorraine Martell	
	By Lori Richardson & George Smyth		
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
David Gulkis	David Schur	Max Rosenfeld	
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Lee Schur <>><><>>	By Morton & Gene Silverman <>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Mollie Silverman	Irving Kopecky	Roger Starr	
By Morton & Gene Silverman	By Adam & Judy Starr <>><><>>>>	, , ,	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Charlie Temkin	Jim Boruszak	Evelyn O. Coltman	
By Robert Temkin <><><><>>	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>	By Barnet O. Coltman	

MISHEBERACH - A PRAYER FOR HEALING

When the Torah is read, we are granted an especially opportune moment to invoke blessing for those in need of divine intervention. So for hundreds of years it has been a tradition, before the Torah is returned to the ark, to recite the names of those who are ill, asking that Hashem, who blessed our founding ancestors, also bless those in need of healing. The person is not called by the standard Hebrew name (ex: Moshe ben (son of) Amram). Instead the mother's name is invoked (Moshe ben Jochebed.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

The KICC is non-denominational, but we too have incorporated the Misheberach prayer into our Friday evening service, after the dvar Torah (Torah talk.) We maintain a list of long-term and short-term names, as well as inviting names to be called from the congregation. There are even post cards at the back of the room to be used by anyone who wants to inform a friend or family member that they have been the subject of our community's

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's Misheberach list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

We cordially invite you to our

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

On Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 5:30 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishig meal of matzo ball soup, chopped liver, brisket, turkey, kasha and knishes, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Reservations are necessary by September 15th if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Members - \$25 Member Children under 13 - no charge Non-Members - \$30 Non-Member Children under 13 - \$10



Sisterhood Susan Gordon

would like to welcome all of you who are taking the time to read my first message as Sisterhood President. Yes, it's now official. After over 30 years of involvement at the KJCC, holding numerous positions and different titles, I have finally accepted the job of Sisterhood President. It is the right time. I feel very positive and highly motivated to work with such a wonderful group of supportive and enthusiastic women. Many thanks to Erica for being my mentor for the past two years as we worked closely together in the roles of Sisterhood President and Vice President. I learned a lot from her, and she will continue to assist in her new position as Sisterhood Treasurer. I am also pleased to announce that Jane Friedman has once again accepted the position of Vice President. We all know that she does amazing work with food preparation, and she will purchase everything food and kitchen-related, the primary focus of Sisterhood. (Not to mention her amazing work with her KICC produce garden in season.) Geri Smith does a thorough job recording the minutes at our Sisterhood meetings; we are fortunate to have her as Recording Secretary. If you have received a beautiful, wellwritten note of thanks from Sisterhood, know that it came from Michele Riley, our Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to all the women who attend monthly Sisterhood meetings and do so much for our congregation. I would like to encourage all female members of the KJCC to join us for a meeting. All are welcome. Participation is fun, important, and it deepens friendships.

We held our summer meeting on August 6th, accomplishing an amazing amount of High Holiday planning in just over one hour! I feel blessed to be working with a focused and organized group of women who share the common goal of making KICC the most fulfilling environment possible in which to enjoy one another's camaraderie, while celebrating our common



bond of Judaism. Although many have been

away during these past few summer months, our small group of remaining Sisterhood members have been very busy, beginning with a fabulous dairy dinner for Shavuot on June 2nd, prior to services. It was enjoyed by about 48 people. Two days later, on Sunday, June 4th, a group of 12 women met at the Bavside Grill to enjoy each other's company at our annual Sisterhood luncheon. During the June 11th KICC Board meeting. Sisterhood presented a donation check in the amount of \$2,000 to the KICC. Earlier that week, we distributed the *Tikkun Olam* (repair the world) funds which were raised by the Women's Seder. The recipients this year were the Talia Agler Girls Shelter in Nairobi, Kenva, VNA Hospice in Tavernier, and our own KJCC Scholarship Fund. On June 13th, the High Holiday Planning Committee met at the KICC to begin work on the upcoming dinners and events for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. So much Sisterhood activity within only two weeks! Who says that things are guiet at the KJCC during the summer? Throughout the summer we continued to have multiple Onea sponsors for each Shabbat, and every Oneg was well-attended, in spite of what we call the slow season. Please contact JoycePeckman@gmail.com to sign up to sponsor your Oneg celebration in coming months. The "Chai-Light" of the summer at the KJCC was our annual Shabbabaque and celebration of Pauline Roller's 102nd birthday on Friday, July 7th. Eighty-five people came. It was a great party!

I look forward to a wonderful, nourishing year with my m*ishpocha* at the KJCC. Thank you for showing your confidence in me as Sisterhood President.

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.

June, July & August Contributions

Bookplate

Swartz, George & Muriel

In Honor of

Pauline Roller's 102nd birthday

In Memory of L.R. Coltman

Coltman, Barnet O.

In Honor of **General Fund**

Begam, Delores Please, pray for us KICC Sisterhood KICC

Kwalick, Teresa Pauline Roller's birthday Margulies, Stan & Jenny future of KJCC donation Rabbi Ed Rosenthal KJCC hosting Hillel seminar Swartz, George & Muriel Shabbabaque Aunt Pauline Roller

Zoren, Karen

In Memory of

Dorothy Horn

General Fund Avner, Gloria Rick McNew Avner, Gloria Dorothy Horn Iim Boruszak Boruszak, Joan Peckman, Joyce Rick McNew Steinbock, Stephen

KJCC Scholarship Fund

KICC Sisterhood

Oneg Sponsorship

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Bloom, Marc & Family Bofshever, Toby & Joel Coltman, Barnet Garrett, Erica & Ron Gross, Tomar, Randy & Jonah Hartz, Steve & Jan Hayden, Beth

Oneg Sponsorship

Itkin, Art

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena Knowles, Richard & Barbara Margolis, Gary/Blum, Laurie

Pearl, Dr. Scott & Mary Anne Peckman, Joyce

Rose, Skip Salant, Renee

Williams, Rita & Jim

Yahrzeit

Boruszak, Joan Dorf. Natalie

Dorf, Natalie

Grossman, Stuart

Roy, Medina Kwalick, Teresa

Taramona, Hermine L.

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Kaplan, Ronald

Kaplan, Ronald Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Riley, Michele

Tallent, Lilian Starr, Adam & Judy

Solas, Elaine

Starr, Judy

Tallent, Lillian

Yahrzeit Plaque

Feldman, Sandy, M.D. Grant, Andrew & Randi In Memory of

In Memory of

Dorothy Schafer

Emanuel Schafer

Robert Robinson

Catherine Kaplan

Margaux Grossman Leon Kirschenbaum

Priscilla Leshin

Bill Kwalick

Les Rutman

Sidney Kaplan

Paula Travers

Ralph Tallent

Bernard Solas

Olga Schuman

Manya Starr

Ida Estrin

Frieda Feinberg

Patty Silver Frances Weiser

Contributions to KICC (cont.)

Membership Renewal Contributions

Chai-Lights Fund

Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Margulies, Stan & Jenny Pollack, Linda Roy, Medina Sheinker, Miltra Sherman, Robert & Adriana

Chai-Lights New Year's Greeting

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Dorf, Natalie Gordon, Susan Hayden, Beth Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie Peckman, Joyce Shapiro, Libby Sheinker, Miltra Smith, Stuart & Geri Wruble, Lloyd & Rae

General Fund

Blumenfeld, Marvin Goldfinger, David & Toby Gross, David & Patti Hartz, Steve & Jan Kreitman, Marcia & Hawver, John Pollack, Linda Solas, Elaine

Holocaust Education Fund

Roy, Medina Steinbock, Stephen Tallent, Lillian

Meditation Garden

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Wruble, Lloyd & Rae Roy, Medina Steinbock, Stephen

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Avner, Gloria Coltman, Barnet Gross, David & Patti Kreitman, Marcia & John Hawver Margulies, Stan & Jenny Olsen, Jerry & Sheila Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Linda Roy, Medina Sachs, Joseph & Susan Smith, Stuart & Geri Steinbock, Stephen Wohl, Joan

Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedakah Fund

Roy, Medina

Scholarship Fund

Roy, Medina Tallent, Caire Tallent, Lillian Willner, Sherrie

Tikkun Olam Fund

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Steinbock, Stephen Tallent, Lillian

Yizkor Book 5778

Agler, Rabbi Richard & Mindy Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary Bernard, Joel & Stark, Joan Brodie, Thomas & Renee Cline. Meredith Coltman, Barnet Dandrea, Robert & Joni Sages Dorf, Natalie Emkey, Frank & Gerri Goldfinger, David & Toby Gordon, Susan

Contributions to KJCC (cont.)

Membership Renewal Contributions

Yizkor Book 5778 (cont.)

Gorson, lanice Gross, David & Patti Hartz, Steve & Jan Hayden, Beth Itkin, Arthur

Kaplan, Ronald & Deborah

Kaplan, Sandra Kluger, Nancy

Kreitman Marcia & John Hawver

Krissel, Michael

Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie

Olsen, Jerry & Sheila Peckman, Joyce Pollack, Linda

Riley, Michele Roy, Medina Sachs, Joseph & Susan Shapiro, Libby Sheinker, Miltra Sherman, Robert & Adriana Silverman, Morton & Gene Smith, Stuart & Geri Steinbock, Stephen Swartz, George & Muriel Tallent, Lillian Temkin, Robert Willner, Sherrie

How Certain Contributions to KICC Can Instantly **Become Permanent, Living Memorials**

Wohl, Joan

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

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

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

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

World Jewish Report Medina Roy



Iconic Einstein Photo

The most famous photo of Albert Einstein, with him playfully sticking out his tongue at the photographer, has sold at auction for \$125,000. The buyer's identity has not been revealed. UPI photographer Arthur Sasse took the photo in March 1951 while covering Einstein's 72nd birthday party at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Einstein was tired of photographers asking him to smile for a photo, and when Sasse tried to get him to do so, the scientist stuck out his tongue instead. When the photo - which was signed by Einstein - was published, the famed scientist was so pleased that he ordered nine copies to give to close friends. (www.forward.com, 7-28-17)

Another Win for the Chicago Cubs

Fans of the Chicago Cubs waited over 100 years before winning a World Series championship. (Not individually, of course.) And now, another 100-plus-year wait is also over: Wrigley Field now has kosher food! A subsidiary of the Chicago-based Danziger Kosher Midwest catering company began running DanZtand in late July. The company's representative, Sam Mashiach (yes, you read that right), met with Cubs officials and convinced them that Wrigley was the perfect place for kosher food. It is now the thirteenth major league ballpark to serve kosher food. (www.tabletmag.com, 7-13-17)

2017 Tony Awards

Back in June, a play inspired by the peace process that led to the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accords in 1993 was awarded Best Play at the 2017 Tony Awards. "Oslo," written by American playwright J.T. Rogers, is a political thriller; it won rave reviews and is slated to become a movie. It tells the story of the littleknown, behind-the-scenes role of a Norwegian couple (social scien-

tist Terie Rod-Larsen and diplomat Mona Iuul) who coordinated a series of highly secret talks between Israelis and Palestinians that ultimately led to the handshake between Yitzchak Rabin and Yasser Arafat on the lawn of the White House. Both men went on to earn the Nobel Peace Prize, which they shared with Shimon Peres. (Mona Juul is now Norway's ambassador to the United Kingdom. Her husband, Terje Rod-Larsen, now heads the International Peace Institute and continues to work on various crises around the world.) "To the ladies and gentlemen of the Oslo Accords who believed in democracy, who believed in seeing peace, seeing their enemies as humans, I give this up to them." said playwright Rogers upon accepting his Tony award. "Oslo" earned a total of seven nominations. (www.timesofisrael.com, 6-12-17)

Argentina's Nazi Documents

The Argentine government recently donated close to 40,000 World War II era documents to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The documents are digitized copies of letters, newspaper articles and reports produced by Argentina's Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 1939 and 1950, including information about Nazi war criminals. Approximately 5,000 Nazis, escaping Europe at the end of the war, found their way to Argentina with the aid of former Argentine President Juan Peron. Peron's government had established escape routes through Spain and Italy. One of these war criminals was Adolf Eichmann, architect of the "final solution of the Jewish question." He was identified by Israeli intelligence in 1960, kidnapped and brought to Israel where he was tried and executed. In one of history's ironic parallels, Argentina was also the primary South American destination for

some 4,800 Holocaust survivors. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 7-31-17)

Wearable Radar

Ohio State University medical researchers are conducting a clinical trial using a vest that features radar technology originally developed by the Israeli military and rescue teams to be able to see through walls and rubble of collapsed buildings. The doctors are using it to better detect signs of heart failure in patients at home, preventing unnecessary trips to the hospital for the nearly six million people in the United States with the condition. Until now, cardiologists have not had a way to monitor patients at home for fluid changes in the lungs, a possible sign of congestive heart failure. The standard has been for patients to weigh themselves daily and report symptoms such as swelling or shortness of breath. But this method "doesn't catch the progression of the disease early enough and that's why hospitalization and rehospitalization rates for heart failure have changed very little in the last 20 to 30 years." says Dr. William Abraham, director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. The vest was created by Sensible Medical, an Israeli developer of medical wearables. Radar goes through the chest wall and obtains an accurate measurement of water inside the lungs through readings that last about 90 seconds. The results are then uploaded and delivered to the patient's electronic health record, where they are reviewed by a cardiologist or nurse. Wexner claims that the results are promising, with an 87 percent reduction in heart failure hospitalizations when using this method of lung fluid monitoring, and that such remote monitoring has the potential to help keep a better eve on other types of chronic conditions for patients at home. (www.digitalcommerce360.com, 6-28-17)

Water From Air: A Game Changer

The city of Miami Gardens in South Florida has launched a pilot program with Water-Gen, an Israeli company whose technology captures humidity from the air and extracts

drinking water from it. Miami Gardens, suffering from major water problems, is the first U.S. city to participate in this pilot program. This device will enable us to measure its use for clean drinking water if needed for hurricane relief and any other emergency water situation that may arise," said Mayor Oliver Gilbert III. The company's largest generator can yield as much as 825 gallons of water per day, costing only 10 cents a gallon, mostly in energy costs. Florida gets much of its drinking water from the Floridian Aguifer and the Biscayne Aguifer in addition to surface water from Lake Okeechobee and other lakes. Increases in population have placed a substantial strain on these sources. Hurricanes can also cause water contamination. Earlier this year, Water-Gen signed deals - valued at \$150 million - to produce drinking water in India and Vietnam, two countries that have long faced shortages. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, some 1.2 billion people nearly one-fifth the world's population - live in areas where water is scarce. (www.forward.com, 6-21-17)

Who Exactly is Millie?

Have you been wondering about the GE commercial on television featuring Millie Dresselhaus, the little old gray-haired lady? In the spot, children dress up as Millie for Halloween, babies are named after her and there's even a Millie emoji. The ad celebrates women in science, promoting GE's goal to place 20,000 women in technical roles by the year 2020. So who is this Millie Dresselhaus, the "queen of carbon science?" Millie was the first woman to win the National Medal of Science in Engineering. She was the first female Institute Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and had a 57-year career at MIT. Millie Spiewak was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Polish Jewish immigrants. She earned a PhD from the University of Chicago in 1958 while studying under Nobel laureate Enrico Fermi. Winner of just about every scientific award short of the Nobel Prize. Dresselhaus was the recipient of the *National Medal of Science* in 1990 in recognition for her work on electronic

properties of materials as well as expanding the opportunities for women in science and engineering. She was the director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy from 2000-2001; from 2003-2008, Dresselhaus chaired the governing board of the American Institute of Physics. In 2014. President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Several theories in physics carry her name. She died in February 2017 at age 86. (www.huffingtonpost.com, 2-8-17 and www.wikipedia.com)

\$8.15 Million Prize with a Pair of Deuces!

Scott Blumstein, 25, pulled "a deuce on the river" - the final card of a poker round to win with a pair of twos in a dramatic finish in the World Series of Poker, the game's most prestigious event. The Temple University graduate, who holds a degree in accounting, took home \$8.15 million in the Texas Hold 'Em tournament in Las Vegas. Blumstein topped the field of 7,221 players, the third largest in history. (www.ita.org, 7-24-17)

In Memoriam...

* Shulamit "Shula" Cohen-Kishik, a spv for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, who worked undercover in Lebanon for fourteen years, died in May. She was 100. A native of Argentina, she was raised by Zionist parents who moved the family to pre-state Israel. Shulamit married a wealthy Jewish-Lebanese businessman from Beirut when she was sixteen and the couple settled in Lebanon. She began working for the Mossad when she was 27, spending the next 15 years helping to bring persecuted Jews from Arab countries to Israel. She managed to get herself accepted into Lebanon's high society, and as a result was able to gather intelligence information about Arab military activities. In 1952 she was caught smuggling and spent 36 days in jail, just three weeks after giving birth. Cohen-Kishik continued her secret activities for another nine years before things became too dangerous and she moved to Rome. When she returned to Lebanon in 1961, she was immediately arrested for espionage. While in prison during the trial she was tortured and

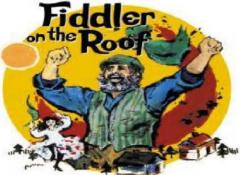
sentenced to death by hanging. The verdict was reduced to 20 years of hard labor because she was a mother of seven. Following the Six-Day War in 1967, Cohen-Kishik was released in a secret prisoner exchange. She then immigrated with her family to Jerusalem, where she spent the rest of her life. "I did what I did because I wanted to, because I loved the country and I wanted to help its establishment," she said. Her son Itzhak Levanon was Israel's ambassador to Egypt from 2009 to 2011. (www.jpost.com, 5-23-17)

* Judith Jones, the Jegendary editor who rescued Anne Frank's diary from her publisher's reject pile, died at the beginning of August. She was 93. Jones was an American cookbook editor who early on in her career pushed to have "The Diary of Anne Frank" published in English. In 1950, she was working at the Paris office of the American publisher Doubleday when she happened to notice the intriguing photograph of a young girl's face in a pile of rejected submissions of manuscripts and books. It was that of Anne Frank on the cover of the advance copy of the French translation of her diary. Iones' boss found her in tears reading the discarded manuscript. "We have to publish this book," she told him. Persuaded by Jones, Doubleday published "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" the next year. (Anne's diary has now been translated into 70 languages, and published in over 60 countries. More than 30 million copies have been sold.) Iones is also credited with launching the career of Julia Child with the publication of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." She retired in 2013. (www.thejewniverse.com, 8-4-17)

Did You Know...

* A street in Manhattan - the southwest corner of West 84th Street and Central Park West - was recently named "Elie Wiesel Way," in honor of the Nobel laureate, one of the great post-World War II voices for Jewishsourced humanism and healing. Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Elie Wiesel was perhaps the most eloquent voice for peace in our world. New York City is proud to honor his memory." (www.tabletmaa.com, 6-14-17) >

Saturday, September 16, 2017 6:00 pm Pizza and Movie followed by Slichot Services led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg



In prerevolutionary Russia, a Jewish peasant contends with marrying off three of his daughters while growing anti-Semitic sentiment threatens his village.

Starring: Topol, Norma Crane, Leonard Frey, Paul Michael Glaser, Molly Picon

Runtime: 3 hours



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Photo Gallery

Welcome back. There's a lot to catch up on. The photo at right, the oldest in this month's collection, was taken on May 24th, during a midweek movie shown to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, the day during the 1967 Six-Day War

when Israeli troops unified lerusalem under Jewish rule for the first time in almost 1,900 years.



The two center photos were taken at the oneg after an Erev Shabbat service on May 26th led by Medina Roy. At top, Joel Bof-

shever and Ken Atlas explore the latest Bovshever family photos. Below, just after Bernie Ginsberg had chanted the Kiddush, Stan Margulies and Medina perform the hamotzi.

At right, Steve Smith with his horn during a free concert in Key Largo of the Keys Community Band. (See elsewhere in this issue the full article about Steve's trip to St. Petersburg, Russia as lead trumpeter in a klezmer orchestra.)

Scenes from the June 2nd Shavuot Erev Shabbat dinner at KJCC. Two checks were presented, both from funds generated by the Women's Seder that spring. The first, at far left, to Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler to help support the vital work of the Talia

Agler Women's Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya; the other, near left, to KJCC president Beth Hayden for the KJCC Scholarship Fund.









As has become a recent KJCC tradition, Bernie Ginsberg led a Tikkun Leil Shavuot discussion again this year after the oneg on

June 2nd. We didn't, once again, stay up all night (so as not to miss, as our ancestors almost did, the giving of the Torah), but Bernie did lead a discussion of the **Book of Ruth. And Linda** Perloff made and brought some of her nonpareil cheesecake...





Some photos from the Sunday, June 4th end-ofseason Sisterhood luncheon at The **Bayside Grille in** Key Largo. As has become another tradition, the final meeting of the year is strictly social and not a formal meeting at all...





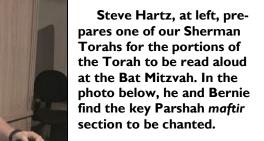
Photos this page were taken at the oneg after services on June 9th. That week's oneg was sponsored by Steve and Jan Hartz, at left.



On June 9th a donation was delivered to the Upper Keys VNA/Hospice, from tikkun olam funds raised by the Women's Seder in March. Representing KJCC are Erica Lieberman-Garrett, left, and Steve Steinbock.



On June 11th, right after the Board meeting, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Hartz and Jeff Schocket began inspections of the Torahs that might be used for the following month's Bat Mitzvah of Oceana Gross.





In the photo at right, Sisterhood president Susan Gordon pre-

sents its annual check to KJCC president Beth Hayden. At right, four of the five current Sisterhood officers, from left: Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Treasurer; Susan Gordon, President; Jane Friedman, Vice President; and Geri Smith, Recording Secretary. Missing was Michele Riley, Corresponding Secretary, who summers in New England.





The state of the s

Just prior to leading services on June 16th from the bemah, Erica Lieberman-

Garrett played an overture of "Fiddler" music on the piano we keep for the Upper Keys Concert Association series during their offseason.

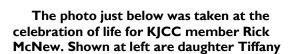
All the other photos were taken at the oneg following services that same evening...



At the oneg on June 23rd, an early birthday cake celebrated the upcom-

ing 102nd birthday, on July 4th, of KJCC matriarch Pauline Roller. (The cake was also in honor of the two grandsons of Barney Coltman, who sponsored the oneg.)

Notice the giveaway basket of freshpicked garden herbs (above right). Our garden continues to be the gift (from Harry and Jane Friedman) that keeps on giving.



and wife Roberta. with Susan Gordon at right.



The photos above and at right show KJCC members Gunther and **Shirley Karger of** Homestead at their local 4th of July parade. (If you're reading this online, note their patriotic socks in the higher

photo.) In the shot just above, Gunther displays the plaque he was given for "continuing service to the community." (He's former Air Force.)



Yes, that's a chuppah, above. We'd gotten a request to rent the sanctuary for a tropical wedding on June 30th. They came, they said "I do," and they left, just in time for services to start.

The three photos closest to this text were taken on Friday, July 7th, during both the service and the oneg. This was, of course, the service that followed the annual Shabbabaque and celebra-

tion of Pauline Roller's century-plus birthday. (See the full coverage of the Shabbabaque itself later in this issue.)





The photos left and above were taken at the July 21st service. Gary Margolis led the service and Beth Hayden sponsored the oneg.

Nature (or perhaps nature's god) decided that the end of July would be birthday time for lots of KJCC's special collection of Blooms. At left, as sponsors of the July 28th oneg, are Marc, daughter Rachael and Rachael's daughter Madison, all celebrating birthdays. (Marc's other daughter, Molly, also celebrates around the same time.) Standing next to Marc, at the table lovingly hand-built for KJCC by Bobby Singer, are Scott and Mary Anne Pearl.

The L'Shanah Tovah Page

The KJCC family from here in the Keys and across the country send their wishes for the best possible New Year. Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 5778.

Shana Tovah To our KJCC family Mindy & Rich Agler	My Mishpocha, I wish you good health, happiness and peace in 5778. Love, Gloria Avner	Wishing all my friends at KJCC a happy & healthy New Year. Natalie Dorf
Erica Lieberman-Garrett wishes a Shana Tova & healthy 5778.	A happy & healthy New Year to KJCC family! Blessings to all with love, Susan Gordon	A good and sweet year to all the KJCC. Beth Hayden
To my dear KJCC friends, students and Mishpocha, L'Shanah Tovah 5778. Yardena Kamely	L'Shana Tovah to our KJCC community. From Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum	Jeff & Cheryl Margulies want to wish our KJCC family a happy & healthy New Year.
Joyce Peckman wishes you a joyous year of prosperity, health & friendship.	To our dear KJCC friends A happy and healthy 5778. Libby Shapiro	Miltra Sheinker wishes all our KJCC a happy & healthy New Year.
Dr. & Mrs. Bob Sherman wish all our friends a happy & healthy New Year.	To our KJCC family, happy and healthy 5778. Geri & Stu Smith	Wishing all a happy & healthy 5778. Lloyd & Rae Wruble



Saturday, September 30, 2017 Dairy Dinner after the final service

We welcome your home cooked dairy dish, prepared with love, to share with your KJCC Mishpocha

Please Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162, or Susan Gordon susangordon424@yahoo.com (305) 766-3585 to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space

> RSVP: by September 25th Sponsored by the KJCC Sisterhood No Charge

Shabbabaque 2017: Independence, Burgers, and a Birthday

or more years than some of us can count, we have celebrated Independence Day on the closest Shabbat to July 4th. We round up two or three grills, assemble our volunteer grillers (many thanks to Skip Rose, Jeffrey Schocket, Barat Barefoot,

for services. Gene Silverman read a special note of congratulations to Pauline one of the few remaining KICC founding members - sent by State Representative Holly Raschein. Pauline smiled until her cheeks hurt, had her photo taken with

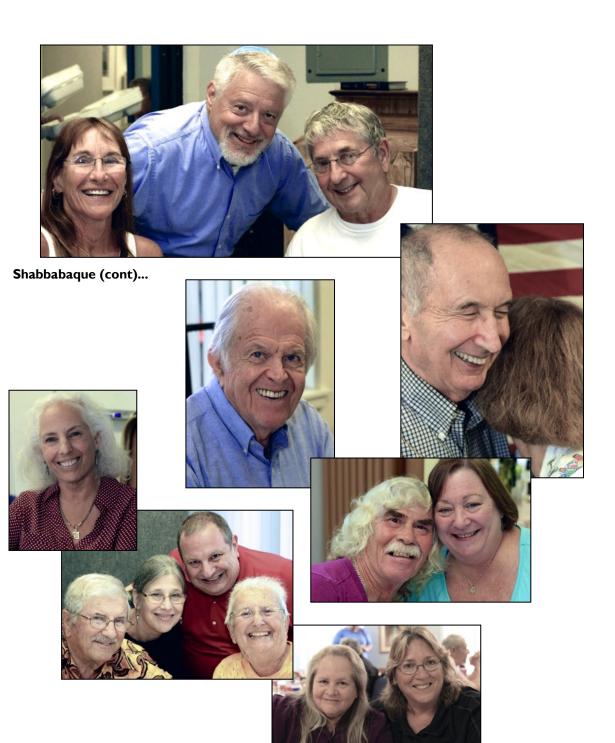
Steve Steinbock, Ioel Bofshever - and Marc Bloom on hot dog detail). Marc, Jane Friedman and Barbara Knowles do an excellent job of shopping and preparing food for the event and Susan Gordon's team of enthusiastic decorators get into full swing. It's tradition. But two years ago something changed. It was Pauline Roller's 100th birthday on July 4th and time to put on a big bash. We did it. And then she had her 101st. and we did it again. What a joy

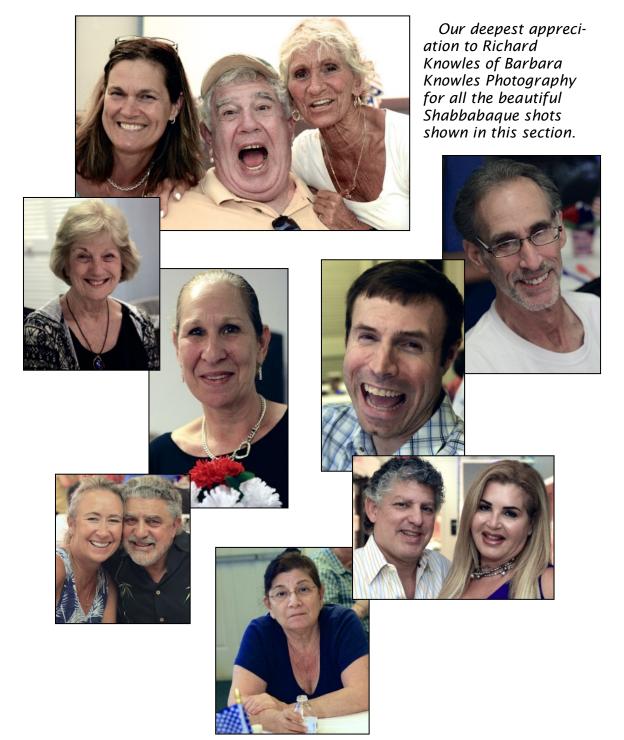
myriad fans (see accompanying photos) and had a wonderful time before she went home to the Plantation Kev Health and Rehabilitation Center. We celebrate the birth of our nation on the same day as we celebrate the birth of our matriarch. Somehow it seems fittina. >

and mitzvah it was this year to have the opportunity to celebrate Pauline Roller again and her 102nd trip around the sun. Eighty-five people came to wish her well. Everyone enjoyed the food and cake, and many stayed









It Could Have Been the Tower of Babble

by Steven Smith, M.D.

n the story of the Tower of Babel, all men and women originally spoke the same language. The great flood was over and God had promised not to destroy his people ever again. One might think harmony would then reign. But humans have short memories. This was not to be. The people began to feel they were God's equals and started to build a tower meant to reach the heavens. God countered their arrogance by splitting them into 70 nations, each of which spoke a different language. Mass confusion reigned. No one could understand

what others were saying, the tower building stopped, and the 70 frustrated groups migrated to different parts of the world.

As we know, a lot has happened since then. I'm writing because I have recently had an experience that is strangely parallel to this story, yet in reverse. Mine had a completely different outcome.

Recently, as a result of a series of odd circumstances. I found myself playing in the Vienna Klezmer Orchestra, the only full orchestra in the world of this type, despite being merely a "comeback" or "wannabe" musician, with little recent experience.

In December of 2016. I responded to a Trumpet Bulletin Board post on the Internet (yes, such a thing exists) looking for someone to fill in for the Second Trumpet Player of



the klezmer orchestra for a series of concerts they'd soon be giving in St. Petersburg, Russia. I soon had a "Skype audition" by the Principal Trumpet Player and was accepted for the job. (I don't think that it was my musical ability that landed me the job as much as it was my willingness to pay my own way and fill in without compensation.) As fate would have it, in mid-April the Principal Trumpet player became ill and was told by his physician that he could not go to Russia. Suddenly. I was promoted to the position of Principal Trumpet and Flugelhorn, which was way

> above my pay grade, my talent, and the experience level of my recent 15-month comeback. (I had played trumpet seriously as a vouth. and worked in bands all through college. But I'd stopped playing when I entered med

school, and the non-playing gap had lasted over forty years.)



played simply as an orchestra, sometimes we accompanied the Vienna Jewish Choir. In the final Gala Concert, we accompanied a choir of over 500 international singers made up of all the participating choirs.

The highlight of the various venues was the Mariinsky Concert Hall, considered one of the world's finest. Just as it is the dream of most serious musicians in the United States to perform in Carnegie Hall, it is the dream of most serious Russian musicians to perform in the Mar-

iinsky Concert Hall.

We also attended meetings, ate two meals, and watched some of the choral groups perform at St. Petersburg's Grand Choral Synagogue the second-largest synagogue in Europe, built late in the 19th century on granted by Czar Alexander II. (Technically St. Petersburg was offlimits to Jews, who were legally confined to the Pale of

a special exemption

Settlement. But the Czar granted exceptions to retired members of the military, people with academic degrees, first guild merchants and specialty craftsmen. At the time the Grand Synagogue was built there were ten other synagogues serving the useful Jews of St. Petersburg.) Shabbat services were held at our hotel.

The Vienna Klezmer Orchestra (it's official name, the Wiener Klezmer Orchester) was founded in 2016 by Roman Grinberg and Sasha Danilov. Roman Grinberg has been shaping the Jewish music scene in Vienna, Europe and beyond for over thirty years. He wrote many of the original pieces and arranged all the music for the orchestra as well as the Choir. Sasha Danilov. the orchestra's conductor, also has dedicated his life to klezmer and Jewish music. Both are consummate professionals who have performed all

On July 1st I left Florida for Vienna. On July 3rd I rehearsed some of the pieces with the orchestra for two hours. On July 5th we left Vienna for St. Petersburg. the old Czarist city built by Peter I and the site of the Fifth European Jewish Music and Choir Festival. We rehearsed and performed in the festival from July 6-9. 2017. We performed three concerts, with a 16-piece repertoire including the musical styles of Eastern European Klezmer, liturgi-

cal music with a modern twist, swing, pop. classical. waltzes. Chasidic. and Israeli Music. Some-



Steve Smith poses with who he thought would be first trumpet, above, but that chair ended up being filled by Steve. At the famed (and full) St. Petersburg Mariinsky Concert Hall at concert's end, center.

over the world. The orchestra consists of amateur as well as professional musicians who are interested in playing this music. In fact, many of the orchestra's musicians are not lewish.

The Vienna lewish Choir (Wiener Judischer Chor) was founded in 1989 under the leadership of Roman Grinberg. The Choir performs in Austria on a regular basis and has performed all over the world, including in Boca Raton. Florida. It has 60 dedicated members. In 2013 it and Vienna hosted the Second Furopean lewish Choir Festival with more than 300 participants from 11 countries. The other festivals previously were in London on two occasions and once in Rome.

"Music

is the only

common

language

understood

throughout the

world."

The possibilities for Babel revisited become clearer when vou visualize the range of homelands among the festival's participants. Other performers include the Choir Polyphonies Hebraiques de Strasbourg, with members from France, England, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Germany, and Switzerland; the Ensemble Choral Copernic from Paris: the Zemel Choir from London: the Coro Ha Kol from Rome: the Ierusalem Oratorio Chamber Choir; the Ramatayim Men's Choir, also from

Jerusalem; Renanim Europe representing France, Belgium, and the Netherlands; the Jewish Youth Choir, "Eva," from St. Petersburg: and lastly, the band "Dobranotch," also from St. Petersburg. In total, over 600 people participated as performers for this festival.

As an American participant, my foreign language skills were almost nonexistent. With primary languages of the participants including English, German, Spanish, French, Dutch, Flemish, Luxembourgish, Italian, Hebrew, and Russian, the potential for this event to become a Tower of Babble was very high. Several factors prevented this from happening: 1) The events and combined rehearsals were conducted in English and Russian. Europeans, Israelis, and Russians are all fluent in

multiple languages. 2) Everyone singing Jewish prayers and songs pray and sing as members of the community. In addition, singing beautiful melodies from the depths of one's soul makes one focus on the prayer or song. Also, the choirs act as a messenger of the community in front of G-d to help prayer or songs reach heaven. We are praying or performing for G-d. not trying to compete with G-d. 3) Music is the only common language understood throughout the world. If you were to place a piece of sheet music before a musician or singer from any of the countries listed above, all would read and interpret it in a similar fashion unrelated to their native language. Even if my fellow participants were not multilingual, the music was a common

> language understood by participants and audience alike.

As a Levite, it was interesting for me to learn, through the Chief Rabbi of St. Petersburg, M. M. Pevzner, that at the time of the Temple Levites were singing and playing musical instruments while the Kohen was performing a sacrifice. Iewish music was not only a decoration for the service, but also an integral part. Rabbi Pevzner also said, "people who promote Jewish music and performing arts do important work and deserve the deepest respect." (I'm sure all the

other performing Jews enjoyed hearing this as much as I did.)

For those interested in seeing first-hand how the universal language of music unified such a diverse group, including this English-speaking Florida Keys resident, and prevented this event from turning into "The Tower of Babel," videos of some of the performances are available at the following web address:

https://m.facebook.com/groups/IFest17/

A short video of the orchestra alone was posted on July 9, 2017 and the combined orchestra and all the choirs on July 11, 2017. Another good video of the Gala Concert combined performance is a July 10th link to an Instagram post. There are other videos as well of many of the choirs.

Enjoy!!! I certainly did.>

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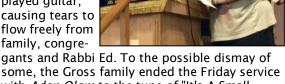
Oceana's Bat Mitzvah Weekend

by Randy Klein-Gross

On July 14th and 15th, the Keys Jewish Community Center welcomed the Klein and Gross families and their friends from around the world with open arms. Everyone was touched by the warm and close connection felt between the Gross family. the KICC congregants, and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. Director of Tampa area's

had passed away, missing this special day. Her Grandma Nella, who fought in Israel's Six Dav War, loved the song "Eli, Eli." so cousins Einav and

Ieff Silverstein sang and played guitar, causing tears to flow freely from family, congre-



some, the Gross family ended the Friday service with Adon Olam to the tune of "It's A Small World."

Suncoast Hillel, and founder of the Tikkun HaYam movement to "repair the seas." Rabbi Ed

calls the KICC his home away from home and our congregation was delighted to experience his enthusiastic leadership in full Shabbat services for the first time.

The Friday night service, led by both Oceana and Rabbi Ed. involved the participation of a lot of family and friends. At the end of the service, Oceana spoke of her grandparent and great grandparents who

The Saturday Torah service started with the reveal of a beautiful sheer tallis Oceana picked out. gifted by her grandparents. Tina and Arnold Klein.

Oceana had been so nervous about walking while holding a Torah for the processions that she bought sparkly Converse shoes for the occasion.



Steve Hartz blessed us with his voice and inspiring words as he did a *mitzvah* by chanting four Torah portions for the *aliyas*. Rabbi Ed then called Oceana -Hebrew name Galia Bat Reba v' Tomar - to the Torah for Parsha

Pinchas' conclusion. the *maftir* portion, and the haftarah blessings. Her chanting sounded so perfect, one could have thought she had the whole thing memorized (and one might have been right). The way Rabbi Ed talked to Oceana was both meaningful and relevant. The speech to Oceana, given by

KJCC President Beth Hayden, was so moving, both grandmothers asked for a copy. Well beyond the actual gifts given by the KICC congregation and Sisterhood to Oceana. Susan Gor-

don's presentation of the book and kiddush cup made the whole room see the love and pride this extended

mishpocha has for Oshi. It may be a long time before we get to see this rite of passage again and Oshi set a high bar.

Oceana's speech moved many congregants as she thanked those who helped her get to this place in her life and then analyzed Parsha Pinchas as it is relevant to her and society today. She was particularly strong on how it relates to the power and rights of girls



and women. Candy was thrown, the mazel tovs shouted and sung, and all moved

to the social hall, still kvelling (Yiddish for swelling with pride) for a *l'chaim* and lunch.

The Saturday luncheon was shared with many KICC congregants, who mingled with family and

friends of the Bat Mitzvah. Randy and Tomar were quite amused with all the interesting connections



made that day.

The festivities continued with a sunset sail aboard a local catamaran and a party at the docks of Rainbow Reef, filled with crocodiles. tortoises and snakes. Good

food was served and a meaningful candle lighting ceremony was held. Floating candles were lit in a fish tank by family and friends.

Sunday morning we had brunch and then most of the family and lots of friends

went divina and snorkeling. Our second stop was

to the underwater "Christ of the Abvss" but after adhering a varmulka to his head, the statue's

name was unofficially changed to "Moses of the Deep." Enjoy the pictures.

Thanks to everyone who was part of the special weekend. <

MARCH OF THE LIVING, INTERFAITH VERSION

In part because we've had so much practice. Jews do the remembering thing about as well as anyone. Chanukah is a remembering thing, as is Passover. So are Sukkot, Shavuot, and many of the minor holidays. We are reminded in prayer after prayer that we are to remember to do (or not do, or be, or not be) something-or-other, often because we were once slaves in

One of the great innovations of the Torah was that it instructed its followers not only how to worship their God but also how to live a moral life in society

with each other. It did this with a level of detail and scope that previous attempts, such as the Code of Hammurabi (from the Babylonian king who preceded Moses by about 500 years) did not begin to attain. When the rabbinic era emerged after

Eavpt.

the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans, they greatly expanded on what Jews would be taught to be the meaning of life, its essence, and the many ways it was to be honored and valued. (Yes, this was a change. There's an awful lot of devaluing or casual taking of life in the Torah stories. The rabbis, in essence, eliminated capital punishment as one of their steps to make life itself, not just its practice, more sacred. Perhaps they were only being practical, to help assure that the then-fragile Jewish people survived. But either way they utterly changed the culture and its laws.)

Judaism has evolved a great deal in the last 2,000 years, but the emphases on remembering and the value of life still are among its fundamental teachings. Some

might insist that the primary way for modern Judaism to treat the enormous meteorite of memory offered us by the 20th century - the Hol-



ocaust - would be simply to repeat the facts and stories over and over, to "never forget," that that would be enough.

But one event, that has grown in scope and importance since its founding in 1988, refused to focus only on death and loss and sadness. Because a rebirth, a declaration of the indomitable resilience of the Jewish people, also was a direct result of the Holocaust: - the modern State of

> Israel. That event is known as the March of the Living.

Each year, on Yom HaShoah. Holocaust Remembrance Day, thousands of young adult Jews from around the world, together with their

guides and leaders, gather in Poland to experience with their own eyes and feet and hearts several Nazi death camps - including Auschwitz/ Birkenau and Maidanek - where the attempt to systematically eliminate the Jewish people actually took place. They pray, they weep, they see the mountains of shoes, they see the names of

relatives they never would know, they see the stains of cyanide gas on the concrete walls where people who once lived with dignity stood helpless and naked and shivering from the cold. They embrace each other, and memories become permanent.

But the true beauty of this program is that, like Judaism itself, its strongest focus is not on death but on life. The next stop for the participants after the death camps

is the thriving State of Israel, on Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day. There they experience parades, and celebrations, and the tears of joy that proclaim the preeminence of life and its ongoing miracle. Hope and the Jewish reverence for life both thrive.

both thrive.

Last year, KJCC's own Rabbi Richard
Agler and Dr. Bernie Ginsberg joined the
Miami contingent of that year's March of
the Living, Rabbi Agler as (for the third or
fourth time) spiritual guide and teacher,

In the garden at St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church, I-r: Rabbi Richard Agler, Bernie Ginsberg, Father Tom Graf, presenters and host of the event.



and Bernie as group physician. They came back with lots of photos and their own precious memories. Shortly after they returned they made a presentation at KJCC, sharing the trip's warmth and importance.

There is, happily, a thriving interfaith community in the Upper Keys, of which Rabbi Agler is a regular participant. Of its

Christian participants, none is more eager to spread tolerance and understanding than Father Tom Graf, the pastor of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Islamorada. (Tom virtually grew up in a synagogue in the Bronx, where his father was the shamus. He knows our prayers as well as many of us do.) On June 28th, in conjunction with

Keys to Peace, Father Tom asked Bernie and Rabbi Agler to come to St. James to share their photos and memories of last year's trip. Some sixty were there to hear, including nine other clergy from the Upper Keys. Bernie

showed the photos and talked about the trip's details, more than once choking up when discussing a particular photo. Later, Rabbi Agler, borrowing from the themes he'd discussed at last year's KJCC High Holidays, asked the audience to consider some profound questions: How could human beings do such a thing? How could some people allow *other* people to do such a thing and not protest? And where was God during all this?

There was not a sound in the room when Rabbi Agler finished. It took a while before someone was brave enough to break the reverential silence and ask a question... >

—Sam Vinicur

A Tikkun HaYam Retreat

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal is on a quest. When he took the reins of the Suncoast Hillel chapter a number of years ago, he realized that there were dozens (or more) lewish environmental organizations in this country, but surprisingly, none that focused on the marine environment. It says right in the beginning of Genesis that "the seas belonged to God." So Rabbi Ed invented the term Tikkun HaYam, an intentional play on the familiar Tikkun Olam. He's been working tirelessly ever since to bring Jewish social ardor to bear on behalf of the oceans, which comprise a full 70 percent of the earth's

surface. He recently brought a number of other Hillel professionals together on a retreat, to educate and inspire them to help spread the vital message. Part of the retreat took place in the ocean, the rest in the sanctuary and social hall of KICC.



On the first evening of Rabbi Ed's retreat at KJCC, all the Hillel professionals gathered in the KICC Social Hall for a group photo, representing south, central, west and northern Florida. That's Rabbi Ed in the second row far right.

KJCC—My Home Away From Home

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

he first time I came to the KICC was during spring break in 2011. There were ten of us all together, nine students from Eckerd College and myself. We came to volunteer with the Coral Restoration Foundation, and launch our program of Tikkun HaYam (Repairing the Sea). We slept on the floor in the classroom, cooked our meals in the kitchen, ate in the social hall, showered at the Methodist Church next door, and we did our part to try to save the endangered coral of the Keys. I had spoken to Stuart Sax, who was President at the time, about whether

it would be possible for our group to stay at the KICC. Ever con-

scious that students are

on very limited budgets, I had to do whatever I could to keep the costs down for the students, and staying at a synagogue seemed like the perfect way to do just that. Stuart was open to the idea, but concerned about having a group of college students in the synagogue over spring break. I guess he had seen too many spring break students in Key Largo; but he wanted to help. So he took our request to the Board, and they agreed to allow us to stay... with the proviso that we clean up every day and respect the space. I told Stuart that our policy is to leave any space we use cleaner than we find it. So every morning our group deflated their air mattresses (the floor is really hard) rolled up







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On evening two, the featured speaker was KJCC member Patti Gross, representing the Coral Restoration Foundation. Everyone is holding up blue marbles she passed out, symbolizing our home. the blue planet.

their sleeping bags, put away their clothes, cleaned the floors. did the dishes and put away all

their food. To make a long story short, it was an incredible experience for the students (and for me). and no one even knew we had been there. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

Six vears. fifteen Coral

Restoration trips, one Adaptive Dive Experience and close to a hundred students later, the KICC is my home away from home. I am the proud holder of an honorary life membership (along with my wife, Mindy) and love this congregation. So, when I came back in July with a group of my colleagues from Hillels across the State, I was proud to share this treasure with them. You can read about the Florida Hillel Professionals Tikkun HaYam Retreat in the accompanying article written by my colleague Sam Friedman from the University

of Central Florida Hillel. He will tell you about the impact of the Retreat on him. The impact it had on me was of profound happiness that the awareness of the responsibility which we have - not only as humans and caring people. but specifically our moral obligation as Jews to preserve and protect the marine environ-



ment - was beginning to spread beyond my small Hillel at Eckerd College and on to other universities in Florida. Seven of my colleagues from three different Hillels came to Key Largo for five days. They earned their open water scuba certification, learned about the Marine Environment, and studied "Water Torah." It was



Rabbi Ed is a tireless and passionate advocate for God's seas. It was Ed who coined the phrase "Tikkun HaYam."

made possible through the generosity of the Maurice A. & Thelma P. Rothman Family Foundation in St. Petersburg; all my colleagues had to "pay" was to then go home and make a good faith effort to create a Scubi Iew chapter at their own Hillels.

Based on Sam's article, I think we will see new chapters start to pop up across the State. The next step will be to move beyond the campus to the community. If we continue to raise awareness in the Jewish Community about this responsibility we have, then maybe more good can be done to protect the Marine Environment.

The incredible hospitality, openness and love which the members of the KICC have shown to my students and to me over the years has had a tremendous impact on us all. For each of four consecutive nights, KJCC members helped us with the sanctuary a/v system, watched the films with us and then

put out snacks and drinks so we'd feel welcome and comforted after a long day of instruction and study. It is my hope, as the Scubi lew program spreads and we see students from across the State come to Key Largo to expand the work done by my students from Eckerd College, that they, too, will experience the happiness and fulfillment of a relationship with the Kevs Iewish Community Center. I do know they'll always be made to feel at home.



The final group photo, after four long days of diving and studying.

ter.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to travel with Central Florida Hillel's Director of Engagement, Danielle McKinstry, and Director of Jewish Student Life, Andrew Max, to Key Largo for a five-day "Scubi-Jew" retreat and training with other Florida Hillel profes-

> sionals that was organized by Suncoast Hillel's Executive Director, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. The retreat focused on tikkun hayam (repairing the seas, and a term that by all evidence was coined by Rabbi Ed) and included open water and "dive against debris" certifications for all participants, as well as intensive Jewish ecological learning.

What we saw and what we learned was both awesome and worrisome. The ocean is majestic and overwhelming; it provides the earth with 70 percent of our oxygen and covers 71 percent of its surface.

Here in our own tiny corner of the planet in Florida, we are blessed with over 2,200 miles of tidal coastline and the third-largest reef system in the world. We have 663 beaches, 11,000 miles of rivers and streams, 5,400 lakes, and 27 springs (more than any other state). And with every breath of the tide those bodies of water are flowing into and out of each other.

From an economic standpoint our waterways contribute nearly \$562 billion to the Florida economy annually. Those waterways are also in great peril.

The south Florida reef system, for example, is all but dead. The fish are leaving and in their absence, the jellyfish are swarming. Miles of beautiful coral are now bleached out and dying due to pollution, littering and dredging. During our final dive, we brought up vards of discarded fish line that we had to cut from now-lifeless coral. We found countless hooks and lures, a snorkel, and more

For the Sea is His, He Made It... (Psalm 95.5)

by Sam Friedman Assistant Director, Central Florida Hillel

ost people with a moderate amount of Biblical knowledge can recite the opening line of the Torah without having to give it much thought:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

But what comes next? The text continues: Now the earth was astonishingly empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water (Genesis 1:2).

If this is true, then before there were animals and humans, before there was a sun or moon or stars, even before G-d spoke light and all of creation into being - there was wapieces of plastic than you can imagine.

It was gross. It was shameful and a real threat to our very own lives. Our waterways deserve better than this and so do our children and, hopefully, generations to come.

And it's time we gave back.

As Rabbi Rosenthal shared with us, "when the Jews get involved in a cause, meaningful change happens," and

As Rabbi Rosenthal shared with us. "When the Jews aet involved in a cause, meaningful change happens."

as a result of our experiences, we at Central Florida Hillel have decided to get involved. We will be kicking off the school year by hosting a reverse tashlich beach clean-up on the Sunday between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. (Location details to be determined.) We will also be

making a concerted effort to reduce our use of plastic, increase our recycling efforts, and offer more environmental learning opportunities for our students including diving, snorkeling and experiencing the many wonderful aquatic opportunities available in central Florida so that they can learn to appreciate the precious resources that we have been entrusted with to preserve.

In Pirkei Avot we are taught that we are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to desist from it. We owe it to the water (it was here before us), we owe it to ourselves (it sustains us), and we owe it to future generations to make a difference. So, as we say on Birthright: "Yalla! Let's go."

At left, Patti Gross gives a one-hour seminar on the dire and deteriorating condition of the Keys coral reef. In the photo just below, the tree just outside the KICC kitchen window showed our Hillel guests the beauty of a Keys poinciana in full, glorious bloom.

> In closina. I'd like to offer special thanks to the Maurice P. & Thelma A. Rothman Family Foundation for sponsoring Scubi-Jew training, the Keys

Jewish Community Center for hosting us, and to Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of the Hillels of the Florida Suncoast for inspiring us all to be better Hillel professionals, better stewards of the sea, and better Jews. &



These Hillel members are focused on "Tikkun HaYam"- repairing the seas — and are making a stand to "dive against debris." www.repairtheseas.org

High Holidays 5778

It's that time of year again. Time to prepare for your journey through the Days of Awe. Here, a few thoughts from your guides — KJCC Head of Ritual Gloria Avner, Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael A. Dzubin.

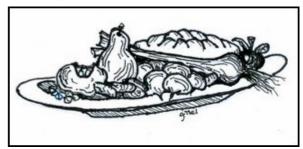
The Month of Elul: A Head Start on the Path to Forgiveness

by Gloria Avner, KJCC Ritual Chair

If you are reading this in early September, you are lucky. We still have 20 days of Elul in which to get ready for *Yamim Nora'im*, the Ten Days of Awe we know as the High Holidays. A few years ago, the High Holy Day period seemingly leapt upon us with no warning, a mere 48 hours after Labor Day ended. Many of us were still in summer mode. Without a separate August Chailights to help us prepare, the auspicious month of Elul was nearly over by the time we had the opportunity to read our Rabbi and Cantor's messages.

We can breathe easier this year, and take advantage of *Elul*, the month before *Tishrei*, a month without any holidays, when God is compared by our sages to a King walking through his fields, accessible to each of us if we try to "return," to make *t'shuvah* towards God and conscious ethical living.

There are lots of ways to use the energy of this special month in our search for forgiveness and eventual sealing (inclusion, at least for another year) in the Book of Life. Our *machzor*, High Holiday prayer book, lays it out: "*Teshuvah*, *Tzedakah*, *and Tefilah*" (return to Godly behavior, Charity, and Prayer) but Elul is also a month of great classic stories. They give us good hints and



Ceremonial, symbolic and auspicious foods start off the New Year.

take us back to the roots of Judaism. Let's look at some. These stories - the midrashim - are the rabbis' way, ancient and modern, of explaining why and how our ancestors did what they did. They give us a window on the ideas and values behind certain actions. Most of us know the story of the binding of Isaac. Even though Abraham is willing to sacrifice his son, he is given a reprieve by God, who sends a substitute, a "scapegoat," in Isaac's stead. Some are disturbed that God would ask such a thing of Abraham, but there is a *midrash* that says God always creates a solution for every crisis before the problem comes into being. While other cultures of the time engaged in human sacrifice, we did not. Abraham and his actions mark the beginning of a huge shift in the belief systems of the nations to whom we are supposed to be a "light." The midrash says that God created the sacrificial ram, and the dove who would carry the symbolic olive branch telling Noah the flood was over, long before either event happened - a strong trust-in-God message.

A lesser-known *midrash*, the "great" one known as *Midrash Rabbah* 38, is my favorite. Here we find the explanation of how Abraham (then called Avram) came up with his "big idea," monotheism. When I used to tell this story to our schoolchildren, their eyes would go wide in wonder – and understanding. We're at the beginning of a new year. What could be better than reviewing the beginnings of our religion – the concept of one invisible God?

Terah, Avram's father, is a dealer in carved wooden idols. (Yes, that in itself holds great irony.) Terah sells the idols to people who believe that these statues, whom they call "gods," each with its own name and attributes, have the power to help them solve their problems. Avram has no patience with these beliefs or with his father's participation. Another midrash tells that Avram has been imprisoned as a boy. In solitary confinement he ponders the nature of the universe. What brought it into being? Is it the Sun that is all powerful? The Rain? Is it the plethora of small gods claiming powers of creation that neighboring tribes pay homage to? The realization comes to him that there is a greater power beyond anything that we

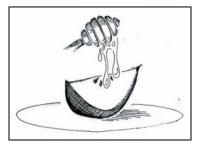
can understand, a supreme creator who is responsible for all of nature and that man must pay attention and act in harmony with that Creator. When he is finally released from prison, he is appalled at his father's occupation.

One day Terah is called away and leaves his shop in the hands of his son. A woman comes in with a fine grain offering for one of the "gods." Avram asks her why she would give an offering to an object no different from the wood with which she makes fire and cooks. He then starts to destroy the statues. The woman is frightened. Don't worry, says Avram, I will leave the largest one intact. If he is as powerful as you believe him to be, surely he can reconstruct the others.

You can guess the rest of the story. Terah returns, is furious at the destruction. but cannot deny the truth of his son's insights. Avram leaves his home, vowing never to return, and goes off to plant the seeds of a religion



that will lead to the core belief system for hundreds of millions of the world's people. all based on Avram/ Abraham's resolve to be true



to the One God. Moses brings it down to us from Mt. Sinai, carved in stone.

Now, here we are in the days leading up to the Yamim Nora'im, the Ten Days of Awe. Will we have the courage of Avram to be true to our beliefs, to look deep within, analyze our behaviors, admit where we have not been our best selves? Will we apologize to those we've wronged, and resolve to make changes? Those are the opportunities of the month of Elul, and on this month's last Shabbat before Rosh HaShanah, we will come together as a community for Selichot. to say prayers for forgiveness together. The experience will be powerful, but even more so if we have done serious introspective work in these mercy-filled days of Elul. The rabbis teach that the letters of the name Elul stand for the verse in the Song of Songs: "Ani L'Dodi v'Dodi Li. (I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is Mine.)" With such encouragement, and with the words of Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin in our ears and hearts, we should be able to make the most of this vear's High Holidays.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good vear. Ketivah Vechatimah Tovah. >

A Message From the Rabbi...

by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

n the year since last Rosh Hashanah, the turbulence in the wider world has not abated. It may not be at Great Depression or World War levels (thank God) but most of us would agree it has been unsettling nonetheless. In times such as these, the message of the High Holydays is more needed than ever.

So many of us remain captive to matters of



the moment. We are in over our heads with our connection of choice, be it Facebook, Twitter, the cellphone, TV or internet news feeds. But as they reach for us, the High Holydays remind us that there are better compulsions to have and there is (much!) more to life than this.

I've been reminded of William Wordsworth frequently in recent years. In 1807 he wrote. "The world is too much with us." We shudder to think what he might say now. We know that our psyches need a break. So do our spirits and souls.

We know too that the Torah ordains for us a rest one day in every seven. Those of us whose Sabbath observance includes disengagement from the wider world can testify to its value. (If yours doesn't, I invite you to consider it.) We are much the saner for it.

But even if we keep Shabbat faithfully, it takes more than that to keep ourselves in spiritual balance. When it comes to helping us reorient. redirect and re-ground our

lives, nothing compares to the power of the High Holyday season. Much of its quality comes from its sheer quantity, a month of preparation followed by ten Days of Awe followed by almost two more weeks of meaningful joy.

There is so much to explore. How are we

falling short as individuals, as a community, as a nation and as a world? How can we break the inertia and turn our slow-moving personal battleships around? And how can each of us make the most of whatever time we have left? Now as always our tradition has much to say on these subjects. Come the new year, we will do our best to bring its insights to life.

The color for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is white, a symbol of purity. We acknowledge that purity is not a legitimate expectation. But droplets of it can and do find their way to us. touch us and maybe even begin to transform us. For our part, being open to the possibility is the way to begin.

Mindy joins me in expressing gratitude for being a part of this wonderful community. We wish every member of our KICC family a shana tovah u'mvurechet--blessing and goodness in the year ahead. >

Thoughts as we strive to be a "light unto the nations..."

by Cantor Michael A. Dzubin

recently returned from a wonderful opportunitv to serve as one of the lewish Chaplains at the Boy Scouts of America's National Jamboree in the mountains of West Virginia, where I was able to provide spiritual and religious guidance, as well as Jewish ambassadorship to between 25 and 30.000 Scouts and leaders (as well as up to 7.000 staffers) from all over the country, and guite a lot from other countries.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting hosted a public reading of a letter written by our nation's first president, George Washington, in 1790 to the "Hebrew Congregation" of Newport, Rhode

Island. The letter read, in part, "It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that

they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support." (As an aside, in an acknowledgement of the importance of the Boy Scouts, the president of the United States has historically been the honorary president of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Every sitting president since 1937 has been invited to address Jamboree participants, and the chance to hear words of guidance, wisdom and inspiration from our president is something that our Scouts and Scout leaders have looked forward to at each lamboree.)

Jewish teachings and ritual observance primarily aim to achieve a perfection of the human relationship, and to create a better society, as evidenced by the Ten Command-

ments. Out of the 613 Commandments listed in the Torah, God chose these ten to issue to the Israelites during his face-toface meeting (so to speak) at Mount Sinai. The rabbis point out that the first five commandments dictate how we should relate

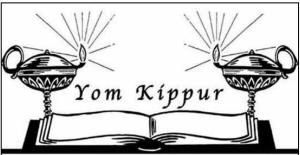
with God, and the back half of the Ten Commandments instruct us how we should relate with each other. However, Rabbi Noson Weisz points out that "the predominant theme of the tablets is that it is impossible to separate one's interactions with other people from one's interactions with God. making connections between the "God side" and the "Man side." The great sage Hillel summed up the essence of *Torah*, and by extension, Judaism, by saying "What is hateful to you, do not do to others." Rabbi Akivah, at the beginning of the 2nd century C.E., cited "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:17). When the Talmud speaks of the characteristics of Israel, it does not do so in terms of the unique ritual observances, but rather, it says "Three characteristics does this (Jewish) people possess: they are merciful, modest and perform

deeds of kindness." Jews who lacked these qualities were considered unworthy members of the people. Maimonides went so far as to declare that "there is reason to be suspicious of the Jewish credentials of one who is cruel." The "good heart" is actually the *Talmud's* prerequisite for a truly pious and observant person. The Talmud instructs one who "aspires to piety and saintliness" to follow the laws which deal with monetary, civil and criminal matters. On the other hand, it warns that acts of injustice, brutality, dishonesty, deception, slander, and unkindness are all religious transgressions against God, no less than they are crimes against man. Notice that the Al Het (an important prayer throughout the Yom Kippur services, in which we confess our collective "sins"/mistakes) consists primarily of ethical/moral transgressions, rather than ritu-

al ones. The laws of Yom Kippur emphasize that God will forgive transgressions against Himself, but will not forgive transgressions we make against our fellow men. unless we first apologize, make up for our mistakes and gain forgiveness from

the people that we have wronged. These laws include: G'milut Hassadim (acts of (loving) kindness); Tsedakkah (often mistranslated as "charity," but it comes from the word *Tsedek*, which means "righteous," and therefore really means "the right thing to do"): Lashon HaRah (literally "the Evil Tongue"; laws relating to slander, revenge and deceit); and Khoshen Mishpat -Jewish civil law, which includes laws pertaining to work and wages.

The separation of church and state practiced by modern societies (including ours) has an unacceptable consequence from a *Torah* perspective: moral relativism. For example, we evaluate the president of a major corporation (let's say Exxon) amorally in terms of his office. The way he treats his wife and kids has no bearing on his iob performance. He can be an excellent corporate president, even if he isn't a very "good" person. A person's private life, in other words, is



his own business. However, the Torah takes a different view, teaching us that God relates to each person in terms of his level of spirituality in all aspects of his life, but that He judges on a curved grading scale, based on the individual's role in society. The moral flaws of the president of a corporation ranks much lower than those of a teacher, who is held up to a much higher standard; and political leaders, who are charged with the preservation of our social values, are held to an even higher one. Similarly, a rabbi must not only teach the Torah and the Jewish way of life by what he (or she) says, but also by what he or she does; the idea is to personally reflect the values and teachings that each wishes their congregants to practice. It is common for (non-orthodox) congregants to run into each other at the store on Shabbat and think nothing of it, but they would be shocked and appalled if they were to find their rabbi there during that same shopping trip!

Jewish law even sets the qualifications expected of one who serves as a permanent Shaliah Tsibbur (emissary of the congregation, who represents and leads the congregation in prayer before the Almighty), or Cantor (Hazzan in Hebrew) of a congregation. According to the Shulkhan Arukh (literally "set table," or Table of Jewish Law), any layman who possesses the educational background and the religious merit (and every Jew should!) is privileged to conduct all parts of the religious service. It states that the cantor should know the meaning of the Hebrew prayers, and possess the faith to say them with sincerity. He (or now she) must not be a dull or foolish person, but one who can intelligently discuss and participate in the affairs of the community. He or she should be wellversed in the various melodies and chants that are appropriate for different services. He or she should be a modest person, and personally acceptable to the congregation, and should possess a pleasant voice. Finally (and perhaps most importantly), he or she must be a worthy and suitable person, who is not tainted by any reputation for religious or moral transgressions. One who is known to



commit religious or moral transgressions is disqualified, and must not be chosen. In fact, the Talmud warns that where an unsuitable or unworthy person is permitted to act as Shaliah Tsibbur on account of his pleasant voice alone. his prayers are regarded by our religious tradition as unacceptable to the Holy One. It is, in fact, considered an abomination. "Those who do this, withhold good from Israel" (Mishne Berurah: 12 on Orakh Hayim 53:4). If there cannot be found one who possesses all of these qualifications, the one with the most wisdom and good deeds should be chosen. Benjamin Franklin: "It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it."

All of us are expected to shoulder our responsibilities to follow God's commandments (both in relation to God, as well as to our fellow humans), live proper lives, and do our best to be "a light unto the nations." It is told of the immortal Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaKohen Kook. Talmudist, mystic, philosopher and first Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land, who passed away in 1935, that on his deathbed he was attended by one of the most illustrious physicians of the day. Ray Kook turned to his famous doctor and whispered. "I am pleased that we have lews who are great; now we must strive to have great Jews."

I pray that I am found to be worthy as a Shaliah Tsibbur, and that we all strive to become a Holy Nation, and indeed a "light unto the nations."

-L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu! (May you all be inscribed for a Good Year!) >

KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule 5778 (2017)

Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin

Saturda	y, Se	ptember	16th

Pizza/Movies/*S'lichot* Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 20th

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner – RSVP required 5:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh HaShanah Service 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 21th

Rosh HaShanah, Day I.

Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.
Break after shofar Sounding 12:00 noon
Musaf Service 12:15 -- 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon 1:30 p.m.
Taschlich at Ocean Pointe 4:00 p.m.

Friday, September 22nd

Rosh HaShanah, Day 2

Shacharit (Morning Service) 9:30 a.m.
Break after shofar Sounding 12:00 noon
Musaf Service 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon 1:30 p.m.

Friday, September 22nd

Erev Shabbat Service and Oneg 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23rd

Shabbat Tshuvah
(led by Cantor Michael Dzubin) 10:00 a.m.
Followed by Kiddush 12:00 noon

Havdalah Service at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

Friday, September 29th

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre Service 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 30th

Yom Kippur morning service 9:30 a.m.
Yizkor (Memorial Service) 11:30 a.m.
Children's Service 11:30 a.m.
Break after morning service 12:15 p.m.
Musaf 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon activity times are approximate:

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler 2:30 p.m.

Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler 4:00 p.m.

Neillah (Story of Jonah)
and Maariv Service 5:45 p.m.

Havdalah 7:15 p.m.

Break-the-Fast 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 1st

Sukkah Decoration at KJCC 11:00 a.m.

Friday, October 6th

(actual start of Sukkot: October 4th in evening)
Family Sukkot Service (oneg in Sukkah)
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7th

Sukkot potluck at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 13th

(actual dates 12,13)

Yizkor Service, plus Simchat Torah service and celebration (including Rabbi Agler's famous seven-minute Torah reading), followed by Chocolate Extravaganza Dessert Table.

7:30 p.m.



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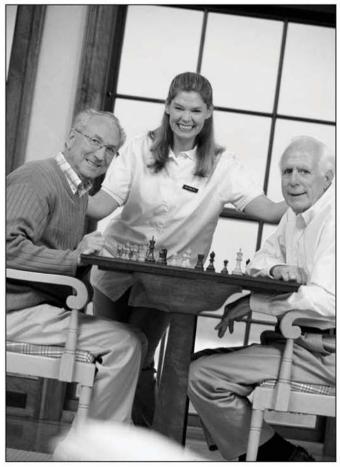
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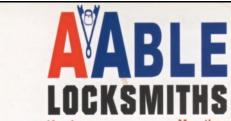
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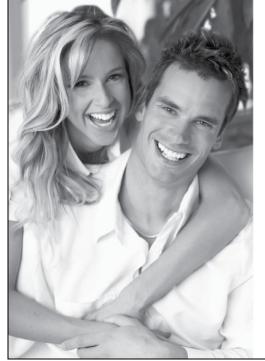


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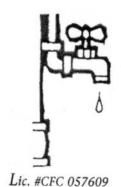


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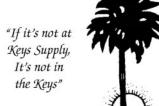
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