

# Chai~Lights



**November 2015**

**19 Cheshvan - 18 Kislev 5776**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

# November 2015 19 Chesvan - 18 Kislev

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood 9:00 a.m. KJCC Board 11:00 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6 Beth Hayden & Linda Pollack  <i>Stan &amp; Jenny Margulies</i>	7 Rabbi Agler Service 11:00 a.m.
8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13 Steve Hartz  Italian Night Dinner 6:00 p.m.	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur  <i>Gloria Avner</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanks- giving Day	27 Steve Steinbock  <i>Roy Pollack</i>	28
29	30					

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Steve Steinbock

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### CHAI-LIGHTS

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monthly publication of the  
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P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070  
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Sam Vinicur



Pick your classic metaphor: things have layers, or ripples. One never knows when a seemingly everyday occurrence might end up filled with meaning, the flung pebble that begets outgoing circles of new possibilities. It pays to keep one's eyes open and – despite the occasional problems borne by a life open to complexity – your imagination switch set to “on.”

(We Jews have been plumbing the elusive arts of understanding since Ezra returned from Babylon to Judah around 500 B.C.E. When the Torah was read aloud to the populace a translator was necessary; Jews had forgotten Hebrew in the several generations since the exile. Inevitably the translators also became explainers, and thus the first Biblical exegetes. This process, seeking and discerning meaning, continued with Hillel and Shammai, then fully flowered with rabbinic Judaism after the Romans destroyed Herod's Temple. It really is no surprise that our culture has produced so many scholars and writers and philosophers. Intentionally or not, Jewish religious study hones the mind. Read the poetry of our own David Gitin. The grandson of a rabbi, David practically demands, without remorse or coddling, that you translate imagery into meaning: find the meaning, find the richness. How intensely Jewish he was.)

It all began when we were photographing portions of our Holocaust Torah to send to Cantor Michael Dzubin prior to High Holidays. Bernie and Gloria noticed that many letters were broken or faded. We asked Rabbi Agler to look. He confirmed that the Torah needed restoration, checked with sources and recommended a sofer in North Miami Beach. Our Torah is there now.

I've asked the KJCC Board for permission to do a full repair, and they've agreed. It isn't unusual, by the way, for a Torah written on animal skin around the time of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral to need work. KJCC also did some repairs fifteen years ago. This time we're going to go further, to also brighten and clean the parchment. We'll ask the congregation to participate, and both Gloria and I are sure that we'll find the money we need. But the intriguing question is: will this just be something routine, another small component of KJCC life, or might it become something bigger, with more emotional depth and meaning? We've already seen a dramatic level of emotion from the Board about this iconic and irreplaceable Torah. Will whatever project we implement not only raise money but also, somehow, magically reach in and awaken the tender Jewish core of all our members? Will there be ripples? Stay tuned.

# Nosh

## New Memberships

We are always elated to welcome new members to our KJCC *mishpocha*. With each new membership, we feel like we have gained new relatives in our ever-growing extended Keys family. Over the past few months, we have welcomed Renee Salant & Sam Weis who live in Islamorada, Sydney! Faye-Davis who recently made the move to Key Largo, and who has become very involved in KJCC activities, and the Key Largo family of George Smyth, Lori Richardson, and her mother Ruth Riveles. Most recently, Scott & Mary Anne Pearl, who reside in Tavernier, and Mark & Jeanette Denker and their five children, of Ocean Reef Club and Boca Raton, have become members. It is wonderful to see our membership growing so well, and we welcome all members, both new and old (I don't really mean OLD) to attend weekly Shabbat services, special events, dinners, educational programs, and much more...In other words...come hang out with your family, the people who love you!

Susan Gordon  
KJCC Membership Chair

### Oneg Sponsors for November 2015

November 6<sup>th</sup> - Stan and Jenny Margulies in memory of their parents and grandparents.  
November 20<sup>th</sup> - Gloria Avner to commemorate her birthday.  
November 27<sup>th</sup> - Roy Pollack in honor of Will's birthday.

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**David Gitin**  
A Man of the Book  
by Gloria Avner

## Calling All Volunteers

Gene, Gloria and I were eating lunch at Mariners Hospital, and noted how many of our members volunteer there. It occurred to me that we are a hard-working, giving group of people. I would like to do an article in a future issue about the varied places our members (kids included) volunteer. If you give your time to help out anywhere, please send me just a few sentences describing what and where, and perhaps why... photos are optional. Please send it to [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com). Thanks.

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Henry Isenberg**  
by Patricia Isenberg

### BOOK PLATE

In Honor of  
**Bianka Kirschenbaum**  
100th Birthday  
by George & Muriel Swartz

## Let's Go Places — Volunteer Needed

Do you remember the outings to musicals and dramatic performances at Actors Playhouse and Biltmore Stage? Trips to dance performances at the Arsht Center? Rendezvous at Founders' Park? Some of these events brought in money to Sisterhood; others simply strengthened KJCC camaraderie. All were enjoyable. We need a point person to coordinate and perhaps suggest similar events in the future. It might involve collecting money and making reservations, or just listing names. It might involve having your name listed as the "go to" person if another member has an idea, then contacting the president for feedback. You might on occasion deputize someone to help. You will definitely get the gratification of knowing that you have provided enjoyment to others. Please contact Sam Vinicur or Joyce Peckman if you can help out.



## November Birthdays

2nd.....	Matt Temkin
2nd.....	Madalyn F. Tobias
2nd.....	Jeremy M. Schur
2nd.....	Brian Boruszak
3rd.....	Katherine Shabathai
4th.....	Herbert Grossman
4th.....	Zoey Barrett
7th.....	Michele Lindenbaum
7th.....	Joel Stein
8th.....	Nico Wilbur
11th.....	Cathy Dutton
13th.....	Tami Antelman
13th.....	Marilyn Greenbaum
14th.....	Larry Wolfe
14th.....	Rae Wruble
16th.....	Lorelei Alexander
17th.....	Jason Orans
18th.....	Ross Alexander
19th.....	Michael E. Schur
19th.....	Georgia Landau
22nd.....	Gloria Avner
22nd.....	John Luis Greenbaum
22nd.....	Christopher Gould
24th.....	Will Travis Pollack
24th.....	Arthur Lee Willner
25th.....	Nancy L. Cohn
26th.....	John Douglas Greenbaum
28th.....	Nicole Hudson
29th.....	Benjamin Rakov
30th.....	Steven Horowitz

## November Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jeffrey & Patty Schocket.....12
6th	Thomas & Renee Brodie.....22
14th	Donald & Nancy Zinner.....28
26th	Roger & Danna Levy.....48
27th	Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea.....12
27th	Stanley & Jenny Margulies
28th	Joseph & Leslie Reamer.....22
28th	Sam & Leslie Janowitz.....18
29th	Louis and Linda Ulman.....34

### Saturday Morning Torah Learning

Rabbi Richard Agler has graciously offered to lead Saturday Torah services on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Be there by 10:00 a.m. to join in an informal, thoroughly enjoyable experience. If you haven't come before, this is a great way to carry out those resolutions you made on Yom Kippur. If you have previously attended, I know you'll be there again. You may also want to save the date of December 12<sup>th</sup> when the next service is scheduled.

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Susan Schwaid**  
by Stephen Steinbock

### BOOK PLATE

In Honor of  
**Foster Davidson**  
by Gloria Avner

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Myron Rubin**  
by George & Muriel Swartz

### BOOK PLATE

In Memory of  
**Bernard Solas**  
by Elaine Solas

### BOOK PLATE

In Honor of  
**Pauline Roller**  
by George & Muriel Swartz

**BOOK PLATE**

In Honor of  
**Pauline Roller's**  
 100th Birthday  
*by Gloria Avner*

**BOOK PLATE**

In Honor of  
**Bianka Kirschenbaum**  
 100th Birthday  
*by Linda Pollack*

**BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of  
**Ellen Coltman**  
*by Barney Coltman*

**BOOK PLATE**

In Loving Memory of  
**Joel Pollack**  
*from Susan Horn and Dot Brooking*

**BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of  
**David Gitin**  
*by George & Muriel Swartz*

**BOOK PLATE**

In Honor of  
**Pauline Roller**  
*by Gloria Avner*

### 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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

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

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

**ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR:** To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

**KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation.

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

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, to make your donation.

**ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, 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.

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 November 2015*

In Memory Of

## Morris Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

[illegible]

In Memory Of

## Katy Kram

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

[illegible]

In Memory Of

**Eve W. Zinner**

By Donald Zinner

[illegible]

## ***MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING***

The 18th Century Jewish Mystic Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, wrote:

God of wholeness,  
God of healing,  
Hear our words,  
Accept our prayers; Send a special blessing  
Of healing  
To (name) son/daughter of  
(mother's name),  
among all those of Your children  
who are in need of  
Your healing blessing

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 Yochebed*.)

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 KJCC 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 prayer.

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 KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).

# KJCC Gift Shop



**Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks  
Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!**



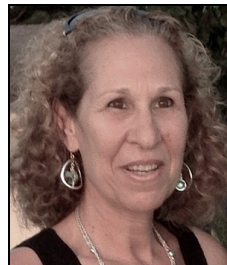
**For further information contact:  
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585**



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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



The beginning of October saw the flurry of High Holiday activities continue on a windy night in our KJCC succah. Rabbi Agler shook the lulav and we smelled the etrog. We had wine and snacks, then proceeded inside to another delicious oneg, this one featuring a special, scrumptious Dairy Queen birthday cake celebrating Mitch Harvey's birthday.

The next night our Sukkot celebration continued at Rabbi and Mindy Agler's home. As Carla and I helped set up the food, Gene Silverman was taking pictures of the water on the bay slowly encroaching the house. The storms had blown the sukkah down, so plan B- we looked at the bay from inside the house while we sniffed the delicious spices of the Havdalah.

Sisterhood met the next morning for our first earlier 9 a.m. meeting. We were tired and full, but managed to eat a healthy breakfast and conduct a good, quick meeting.

Our holiday season ended with Simchas Torah on Monday night, and a special oneg of cheese cake and flan ended the *fressing* for a while. Skip Rose thanked me at the board meeting for the six pounds that he gained over the holidays. Oy!! I thank all of our KJCC mishpocha who helped cook, shop, bake and sponsor all the lunches, dinners, onegs and havdalahs. Susan Gordon and Sydney! Faye-Davis made the rooms look so inviting and warm. I really liked the time spent with little Rachel Levine, who was so anxious to assist. Help gladly accepted.

This holiday my life has been enriched in ways that I could have never imagined. I hope that you also experienced this feeling.

We continued to enhance the spirit of our KJCC with our Shabbos Project weekend, which began with our Challah Bake. Last year in Toronto, I saw the promotion for this worldwide event, but missed the opportunity to join 4000 women who baked challah to

gether there. I loved the idea of a worldwide connection, and this year we joined the Shabbos Project.

My mom Maxine loves to bake and used to always make challahs for Shabbat – a big incentive to get home for Friday night dinner. Having never baked a challah before, I consulted my mom to get tips on making the dough and braiding the bread. How hard can it be? YouTube was helpful too!!

So we all gathered and made our dough, kneaded, waited, practiced our braiding, and took our challahs home for baking. The smell of my challahs baking brought back childhood memories and the mitzvahs and great traditions that we want to continue.

The Shabbat Dinner the next night, the Saturday lunch following Rabbi Agler's Torah Service, and finally the Havdalah service at Joyce Peckman's home completed our commitment to honor Shabbat and elevate our spirits and faith even further. I want to thank Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon who made this experience incredible. We may be small in numbers but we are all connected near and far!

Our annual Oneg letters have gone out and we have received many replies, including generous sponsorships for dinners. I feel grateful and thank all of you for this support. It shows Sisterhood that you all enjoy what is going on, and you continue to make it all possible.

We now look forward to November, which includes our November 1st, 9 a.m. meeting and our annual Italian Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Contact me by November 7<sup>th</sup>, at [hip-piejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hip-piejap@hotmail.com) or 305-393-1162 to reserve your spot. I hope to see you, and our returning snowbirds, there. ◇

# Contributions to KJCC

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

## Book Plates

Coltman, Barney  
Avner, Gloria

Isenberg, Patricia  
Solas, Elaine  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Steinbock, Stephen  
Horn, Susan & Brookling, Dot

Avner, Gloria  
Avner, Gloria  
Swartz, George & Muriel  
Pollack, Linda

Swartz, George & Muriel

## In Memory of

Ellen Coltman  
David Gitin, a man  
of the Book  
Henry Isenberg  
Bernard Solas  
David Gitin  
Myron Rubin  
Susan Schwaid  
Joel Pollack

## In Honor of

Pauline Roller  
Foster Davidson  
Pauline Roller  
Bianka Kirschenbaum,  
100th birthday  
Bianka Kirschenbaum  
100th birthday

## General Fund

Agler, Richard & Mindy  
Joel & Toby Bofshever  
Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah  
Cole, Ronald  
Congregation

Davidson, Foster  
Horn, Ronald & Dorothy  
Rose, Frank  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine

## In Honor of

Love offering

Sam, Gloria, Erica et al  
for making the holidays so special

Yontif

Maryon Gould's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

## General Fund

Williams, Jim & Rita

## In Memory of

our dear friend,  
Carol Steinbock

## Holocaust Education Center

Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah

## Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara  
Shabathai, Joseph & Katherine

## In Honor of

Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin  
for the inspiring services

## Sisterhood – Onegs

Coltman, Barney  
Harvey, Mitch  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Schur, Lee

## In Honor of

Erica's birthday  
Anniversary –  
Erica & Ron  
Bar Mitzvah Jeremy Schur

## Sisterhood – Onegs

Margulies, Stan & Jenny  
Nobil, Lynn

## In Memory of

Jose (Pepe) Cohen  
Our Parents, Joel & Sara  
Cohen

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Miller, Jeffrey & Lisa

## Yahrzeits

Fishman, Eina  
Isenberg, Patricia  
Kluger, Nancy  
Kluger, Nancy

Nettie Fishman  
Henry Isenberg  
Kurt Kluger  
Eliza Christensen

## Yizkor Book

Berk-Moshe, Zoe  
Knowles, Richard & Barbara

# KJCC Religious School — *B'reishit*

by Gloria Avner

Students, teachers and parents initiated this school year when we decorated our Sukkah, but the real beginning of classes occurred on Sunday, October 11th. With three teachers at the helm, Susan Gordon, Bernie Ginsberg, and Gloria Avner, a great exchange took place. And it all started with *B'reishit*, the beginning. Oshi Gross helped Bernie roll our student Torah back to the correct spot and they began to read this week's parshah. By the end of class, the students had read the story in English, learned key words in Hebrew, reviewed the importance of number seven and Shabbat, solved puzzles, blessed candles, grape juice and ice cream cake, made their own lamp black (the ink with which *sofers* write Torahs, as taught by Reb Bernie Ginsberg), asked amazing questions about God, the Creation, and past lives, and talked their teachers into telling them the stories of their own near-death experiences.

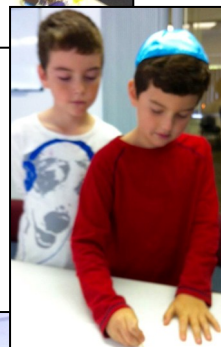
Their serious interest and curiosity were inspiring.

Oshi lit candles, Max Fink read the English story beautifully, Mikhaela Bitton excelled in deciphering new Hebrew words, and J.B. Fink captured the essence of Judaism in a spontaneous drawing of the Holy Ark, our Torah, and the *Ner Tamid* (eternal light). He would not leave class until we had written down in Hebrew for him the first two verses of *B'reishit* and made copies for everyone to take home. The last "lessons" of the day were dismantling our Sukkah and creating heartwarming, artful cards wishing Morah Yardena complete healing.

Onward in future weeks to mastering the blessings before reading from the Torah. Cole Silverman, Mikhaela, and Oshi are on their way to becoming *b'nei mizvot*. KJCC Religious School is alive and well. ♦



(Below) Bernie demonstrating how ancient --and modern-- scribes make their ink to write Torahs out of "lampblack".



Cards at right are from her students, wishing Morah Yardena a speedy recovery



# Photo Gallery

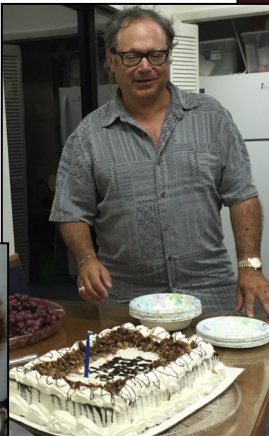
**Rabbi Richard Agler was a featured speaker at Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University Hospital conference on organ donation.**



**Sam, Gene and Bernie blossom among the new bimah flowers with floral designer Marisol.**



**Maryon Gould and friends Linda, Skip and Mary Lee celebrate her 90th birthday.**



**Above, Mitch Harvey cuts the cake at his birthday oneg. At left, Madison and Sean make good KJCC playmates. At right, Motorcycle Mama Linda hitches a ride in Austin with her friend Randy.**





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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### \$100 Million to Search for....Aliens?

Yuri Milner, a Russian-Jewish tech billionaire, is teaming up with renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking to search for intelligent extraterrestrial life. Milner, who has invested in tech companies like *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *Spotify*, is pledging \$100 million to *Break-through Listen Initiative*, a ten-year project using powerful telescopes that can reach farther than previous ones. The project will be able to scan ten times more area and is said to be 50 times more sensitive to sound or other wavelengths of communication than previous attempts. Hawking however, is worried about the dangers associated with the project. "A civilization reading one of our messages could be billions of years ahead," he said. "If so, they will be vastly more powerful and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria." ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 7-23-15)

### Scan Your Snacks

Want to know exactly what's inside that Granny Smith apple you're snacking on? Now, thanks to Israeli tech start-up *ConsumerPhysics*, you can see its chemical and caloric make-up and also find out if it's truly organic. According to Dror Sharon, co-founder and CEO of *ConsumerPhysics*, the company has just released "the first molecular sensor that fits in the palm of your hand." The gadget is called SCiO. How does it work? When you point the SCiO at the apple, it shines a light, stimulating the fruit's molecular make-up and creating a unique optical signature. SCiO then collects the light reflected, breaking it down for analysis and then translating the results, which are then sent to your smartphone. Within five minutes you know the food's chemical properties. As new products are scanned, the database of information available through SCiO is growing every day. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 9-21-15)

### Not Your Normal Catalogue

French publisher *Flammarion* has released a book belonging to Nazi leader Hermann Göring – commander of the Luftwaffe, President of the Reichstag and once Hitler's designated successor – in which he listed more than 1,750 works of art looted by the Nazis from Jews and others during World War II. Göring's catalogue includes paintings by Botticelli, Velazquez, Renoir, Monet and Van Gogh, as well as sculptures and tapestries. Previously, this comprehensive documentation of the theft was only accessible to scholars and others with special authorization. Now the catalogue is available to the general public. Detailed information about the works of art are included in the catalogue and it is expected to enable owners or their heirs to recover their property. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 10-2-15)

### "To Live Remaining Years in Dignity"

The Obama administration has allocated \$12 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to go to the *Jewish Federations of North America* (JFNA). The money is part of an initiative launched in 2013 by Vice President Joe Biden to address the needs of Holocaust survivors in the United States, a quarter of them living below the poverty level. The initiative includes matching private funds and will be disbursed over five years. The money will be used in a variety of supportive services for Holocaust survivors. Congressional sponsors of the funding included U.S. Representatives Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD). According to U.S. government estimates, there are currently some 130,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States. (*The Forward*, 10-1-15)

## To Correct a “Historic Mistake”

Earlier this year, Spain’s parliament adopted a law granting citizenship to the descendants of Jews who fled or were expelled from Spain over five hundred years ago during the Spanish Inquisition. As a result, the country has now granted citizenship to some 4,300 people who identify themselves as descendants of those Sephardic Jews. (“Sepharad” is the Hebrew word for Spain.) The decree aims to correct what the current Spanish government has called the “historic mistake” that forced Jews into exile in 1492. Applicants do not have to be practicing Jews, but their ancestry must be vetted by Jewish authorities. They must also pass tests showing their knowledge of the Spanish language and have some awareness of Spain’s history. The law allows applicants to maintain dual citizenship with another country. Portugal passed and implemented a similar law last year. (Baruch Spinoza was Portuguese, and only went to Amsterdam when forced to leave.) Historians believe that at least 200,000 Jews lived in Spain before Isabella and Ferdinand ordered them to convert to Catholicism or leave the country. As many as 3.5 million people around the world are thought to have Sephardic Jewish ancestry. According to the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, the majority of new applicants desiring citizenship come from Venezuela, Morocco and Turkey. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 10-2-15)

## Don Francisco Says “Adios”

In early September, after a 53-year run, Univision, the Spanish language television network, aired the final broadcast of “Sabado Gigante,” the Spanish language variety show. The popular Miami-based show was a consistent ratings-leader among Latino audiences, drawing an average of 2.2 million viewers each week. It was the top Saturday night Spanish-language show in the United States and the world’s longest-running variety show on television. (The show aired in 40 countries and ran for some 3,000 consecutive Saturdays.) What’s the Jewish connection to this story? It’s Don Francisco, the show’s 74-year-old Chilean creator and host. He was born

Mario Luis Kreutzberger Blumenfeld, the son of German Jews who fled the Holocaust before he was born. The family settled in Chile. The elder Kreutzberger, a tailor, wanted his son to join the family business and sent the young Chilean to New York to learn the trade. But once in New York, young Kreutzberger discovered television and, upon returning to Chile, his goal was to become the country’s Johnny Carson. He pitched his idea of an American-style variety show to enthusiastic television executives, but they had a problem with his name: it was “too difficult to pronounce and not easy to remember.” And so he became Don Francisco. Kreutzberger’s show premiered in Chile in 1962, the same year Carson began his 30-year tenure as host of “The Tonight Show.” In 1963, the broadcast was moved to Saturday and in 1986, it began broadcasting in the United States to appeal to the rapidly growing Spanish-speaking community.

([www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com), 9-16-15)

## Crazy Jewish News

Jordan Zeidman, 20, has successfully sued his mother for withholding the \$5,000 his grandmother – “Baba” – had promised him for his 2007 Bar Mitzvah. The gift was to go towards his college fund. The money was initially given to Zeidman’s mother Shirley, who made a deposit to the boy’s college fund with a note which read, “I owe Jordan \$190.00 + \$5,000 from Baba.” Shirley Zeidman claims she doesn’t remember writing the note but said it’s possible she did. The judge awarded Jordan Zeidman the money that his mother “held for [his] benefit and continues to hold, in violation of her fiduciary duty.” Shirley’s lawyer is likely to appeal the judge’s decision. If that happens, with court costs and interest, the final judgment could be closer to \$10,000. Oy. ([www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com), 8-26-15)

## In Memoriam

• Rabbi Eliyahu Avichail, founder and director of *Amishav*, the organization that represents the *Dispersed of Israel*, died in September. He was 83. He dedicated much of his life to researching the fate of the descend-



ants of the ten lost tribes. Avichail founded *Amishav* in 1975 to help the *Bnei Menashe* communities in India, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Israel. (*Bnei Menashe* are people who claim to be descendants of the Tribe of Menashe, one of the ten lost tribes.) The rabbi was also an educator, teaching at religious institutions. Along with his wife Rivka, Avichail won the *Yakir Yerushalayim* award for outstanding citizenship in 2012. Rabbi Avichail wrote six books on the Ten Tribes. As a result of his work, thousands of people – primarily from India and other communities – thought to be descended from the lost tribes, made *aliyah* to Israel. According to the rabbi's grandson, Avichail also helped *Marranos* in Spain return to Judaism and come to Israel. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 9-17-15)

- Daniel Thompson, who 50 years ago invented the bagel-making machine that could mass-produce hundreds of bagels an hour, making the bagel a staple of the American diet, died recently at the age of 94. Consumers were grateful for the invention, but to many stalwart bagel-lovers, the machine-made bagel was a tragic event; they claim that such bagels lost their “Jewish flavor.” The traditional bagel was originally a totally ethnic Jewish food, with roots going back hundreds of years in Europe. Until the mid-1960s, it was only available in the United States in cities with thriving Jewish neighborhoods. (In 1960, the *New York Times Magazine* described it as “an unsweetened doughnut with rigor mortis.”) The bagel was rolled by hand, coiled into rings and boiled in a kettle. Then it was baked in a wood- or coal-fired oven. It was said to symbolize the circle of life. A traditional bagel-maker would produce about 120 bagels in an hour. Thompson's machine allowed a single, unskilled worker to turn out 400. British-born, Thompson was the son of a Jewish baker. His family moved to Los Angeles when he was a baby. A California math and woodshop teacher, Thompson also invented the first wheeled, folding ping-pong table that became a fixture in many American basements. In 1963, his bagel-making invention ended up in the hands of Lender's, then a small Connecticut bagel-maker, which led

to frozen, bagged bagels. Lender's still uses Thompson machines to produce 750 million bagels a year. (By the way...the largest direct retailer of bagels in the country, which last year sold more than 224 million, is Dunkin' Donuts.) ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 9-21-15)

- Arpad Goncz, Hungary's beloved writer, translator and first democratically chosen president, died recently. He was 93. Goncz took part in the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising and was charged with treason. He was sentenced to life in prison by Hungary's Communist authorities. In prison, he learned English and later translated works by many prominent writers. Under a general amnesty in 1963 Goncz was released. In 1990, after a free election that ended four decades of communist rule, Goncz was elected president by parliament. Although his position was largely ceremonial, Goncz was credited by many for using his limited powers to enforce Hungary's fledgling constitution. Towards the end of World War II, Goncz had been called up to fight for Hungary – then allied with Nazi Germany – but escaped from his unit and joined the anti-Nazi resistance, rescuing Jews and others being persecuted. ([www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org), 10-6-15)

### Did You Know...

- Facebook will launch an Israeli-made satellite that will bring Internet access to sub-Saharan Africa. *Israel Aerospace Industries* is building the \$300 million satellite, known as AMOS-6, which will be operated by the Israeli company *Spacecom* in partnership with *Eutelsat Communications* of France. AMOS-6, set to launch in 2016, is expected to operate for sixteen years. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 10-6-15)

- This year, for the first time, Israel is submitting a Farsi-language film as its Academy Awards entry for best foreign language film. “Baba Joon” has already won the award for best picture at the Ophir Awards, Israel's version of the Oscars. The film is directed by Iranian-Israeli Yuval Delshad and produced by David Silver, who produced the Oscar-nominated foreign film “Beaufort” a few years ago. “Baba Joon” centers on a family conflict between three generations of Iranian Jewish men. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 9-22-15) ♦



# KJCC Meditation Garden

**Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.**

**Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.**

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).



# Tikkun Torah

## Making Both Repair and Mitzvah

by Gloria Avner

For the first time since the beginning of the new millennium, our Holocaust Torah is missing in action, absent from KJCC. When we rise to chant *Aleinu*, our *Aron Kodesh* (Holy Ark) looks like a mouth with a missing tooth. Don't be alarmed. The Torah is on a short Sabbatical in a spiritual rehabilitation center. We have transported it to experts for a consultation and repair, but we will continue to say our last *Kaddish* for the Torah's former owners in Susice at each service, just as we agreed to do when we accepted it on permanent loan from the Westminster Synagogue in London over 30 years ago.

The happy news is that in several months, we will welcome back a rejuvenated, corrected, beautified and completely Koshered Torah; there will be no more broken, crumbling or faded letters, dark age spots or weakness in the sewing of parchment. There will be great cause for celebration (by us and the souls connected to us who once lived in tiny Susice).

Our Torah is in good hands. The *sofers* (Torah scribes) that we met in North Miami Beach have trained under masters who had trained under previous masters, going back

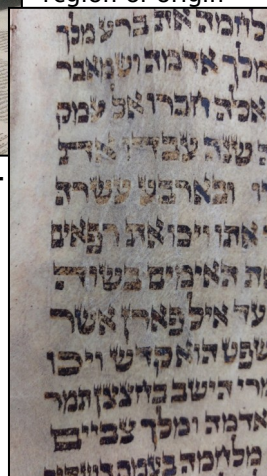
countless generations. These Orthodox men, warm and open to answering all our questions, are well versed in Torah and history as well as ancient and modern Hebraic calligraphy. Their art is such that they can duplicate any Hebrew typeface. (Just as there are myriad typefaces used in English – we recognize names like Palatino, Helvetica, Garamond, and Lucida Sans, the one you're reading now – there are also a variety of distinct styles used throughout history for Torahs. Who

knew?) As a matter of fact, the rabbis took one look at our Torah and exclaimed, "what a beautiful Bet Yoseph script!" By that script they also easily identified both the era when it was written, the 1880s, and our Torah's region of origin –



**Rabbi Eliyahu Golan describes the koshering process, as Bernie, Sam, Gene, and photographer Gloria listen intently.**

Bohemia, the once thriving Jewish sector of central Europe, its capital in Prague, now part of today's Czech Republic.





Trained *sofers* also get clues from the letters – their shape, size, and décor (crown-like fine lines etched on top of certain letters, which are the first initials of words making up sacred phrases in a sentence meant to protect us from misdeeds and malicious intent of others. Yes, it's very *kabbalistic*. All the letters, words, and even the sentence itself have literal and symbolic meanings too complicated for this student to relay after a one-hour visit, but save your questions). Yes, there were different strokes from different folks, times, and places.

It was fascinating to watch the initial examination. The first thing the *sofers* looked for (with quite a bit of excitement) was apparently a rare phenomenon – letters written inside of other letters. This kind of textual ornament was more than a decorative technique. It was symbolic code for special teachings used only by the *kabbalists* and understood only by their students. We could feel the sadness of our *sofers* when no letters-within-letters appeared. They quietly explained that the rarity was due to the fact that none of its practitioners – a certain group of Eastern European rabbi/teachers, or their students – survived the Holocaust.

Important as it is for a *sofer* to make every stroke of each word perfectly (see box), and to have a firm foundation in the special *halacha* (laws) for writing sacred text, it is just as important, our bearded guide related, to have the correct *kavanah*, or serious intent, when writing each word of the sacred Jewish story, especially when writing the name of God. Even as he spoke to us, pointing at the letters we use for *Adonai* in the scroll he was correcting, we could feel his awe at the responsibility in his serious but tender voice.

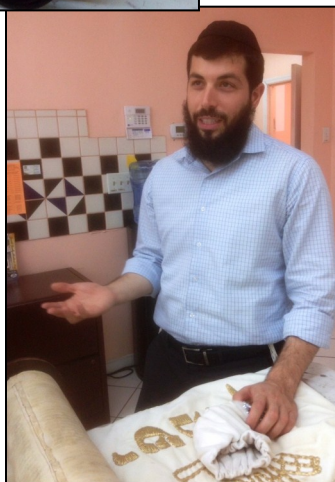
The *sofers* loved our Torah, handled it respectfully, and taught us a lot. They opened

**Below, Rabbi Menachem Bialo inspects our Torah and explains the possibilities for koshering and beautifying it. At right, a *sofer* repairs another Torah.**



up even more when they found out that our Dr. Bernie Ginsberg's great-uncle was a *sofer* himself, making his ink out of lampblack, scraping the soot from a glass container in which a kosher candle burned and then mixing it with a special oil. How surprising and yet somehow reassuring it was to hear, in their proud, excited voices, that these

*sofers* still make their ink the same way. And they still carve, with tiny, sharp exacto-like knives, the quills of turkey feathers to create the "nibs," or points, for their pens. They also use the exacto knife blades to scrape off letters that need to be replaced



or repaired.

Though our *sofers* are steeped in tradition, they taught us a modern lesson we needed to know: how to protect a Torah that

is kept locked in a safe with no air circulation. "Simple," they said, and proceeded to open our Torah so quickly – exposing its full 80-foot length by lightly folding it over and back upon itself multiple times (see photo) – that we were stunned. "Take it out and unroll it this way once a month so that air can circulate around it. Leave it out for several hours, and then put it back. Remember, this is organic material, a living thing." (Maybe we



can do this on the Shabbat mornings that Rabbi Agler teaches: then we can all appreciate the Torah's beauty up close, and share a special moment. It would be a very different use of the tables in our social hall.)

The experience of talking with and learning from these men was wonderful. Look at their tools. Look at the concentration on their faces. They will do a good job for us. The *tikkun*, or repair, will be costly, but KJCC has done it twice before, most recently fifteen years ago, and both times raised enough money to pay for the repairs and beyond. We are confident that we can do this again. What better way to celebrate our synagogue's double-chai anniversary? We have been in existence for nearly 36 years, a functioning, lay-led, heartfelt *mishpocha* of a congregation *where there had never been one before*. That, in itself, is a *mitzvah beyond measure*. But there is another rare *mitzvah* that we will all be able to perform when the *sofers* have nearly completed their task.

Many of you will remember standing at the lectern with a *sofer* fifteen years ago "helping" to write a letter or word. In Jewish

*Halacha*, each of us is commanded to write our own *Torah* during our lifetime. "Tough assignment," you say? Yes, but think about Rabbi Agler's words about how an "Amen" said at the correct time gives credit for having said the whole prayer. One letter, "written" by you with the help of our *sofer*, can count as the fulfilling of the whole *mitzvah*. Miraculous.

We will share more details soon. We are at *B'reishit*, the beginning of the Torah story, and also at the beginning of a big, important project. At KJCC we love making rare *mitzvot* possible. Our Holocaust Torah and the souls who created it and once read from it every Shabbos morning a hundred years ago will surely be dancing for joy at our honoring of their Torah and their lives. ◇

**Our *sofer* told us that before he was allowed to write a single letter on a Torah (much less a word), he had to practice thousands of horizontal strokes. Then, when his mentor approved, he was allowed to practice vertical strokes and finally the curves necessary to connect the two and make letters. After five full years of**

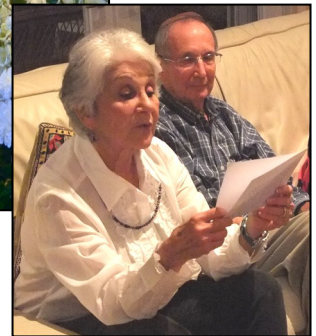


**practice and study of *halacha*, history, fonts and calligraphy, he was allowed to correct and repair Torahs. Hearing him speak with awe and reverence for his work left us confident that we and our Torah were in the right hands.**



# Shabbat Shuvah

For the first time in years, one of ours led Shabbat Shuvah services (the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). Bernie Ginsberg, as *Kol Bo*, acted as both our Rabbi and Cantor. Stan Margulies and Barney Coltman received *Aliyah* honors on behalf of the entire congregation.



The night of *Shabbat Shuvah*, Linda Pollack hosted a joyous Havdalah service. We counted stars, sang, ate, and deepened the flow of the Days of Awe. At left, Gloria lights the twisted Havdalah candle (symbolizing the transition from sacred back to secular). Above right, Gene participates in the reading of the Havdalah prayers.



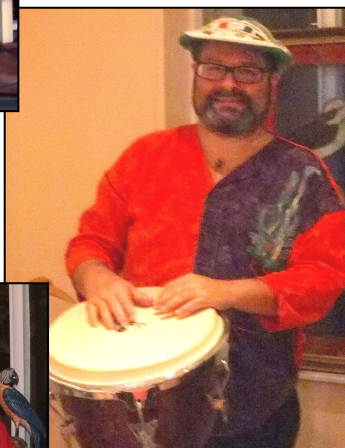


**Gloria, Susan and two Lindas are among those who were on the patio enjoying the lovely sunset and waiting for the appearance of the three stars that signal the end of the Sabbath.**



**Above, Mikhaela and Oceana excitedly show Linda Pollack's figurine collection to Susan Gordon.**

**Below, Linda Perloff and Mitch Harvey**



**Above, Richard Wolfe adds some rhythm to the prayers.**





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# Yom Kippur



No photos were taken during the intense and spiritual Yom Kippur Services, but we photographed the shofar blowing after sundown that signals the closing of the Gates of Heaven, the end of the service, and of the holy day. Bernie and Jonah delivered a powerful *tekiyah gedolah*.

Below, Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin lead the Havdalah service after the shofar was blown.

Below left, Zoe assists switching the books from High Holiday *Machzorim* back to our regular *siddurim*.



## *After the fast comes the feast...*







**On Sunday, September 27th the Religious School Students were joined by the adults as we decorated the succah.**









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# Havdalah October 3rd



High winds had blown down the Agler succah and tidal flooding forced us indoors, but the food was plentiful and the company fine, as we bid farewell to Shabbat.





## ***Simchat Torah***

**The Torah story is completed, and begun again. We carry them, dancing and singing, around the sanctuary. We unroll the students' scroll to its full length, from the bimah into the hall, and Rabbi Agler gives his famous seven-minute summary.**









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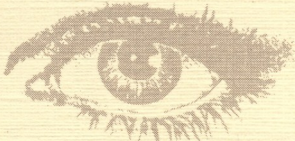


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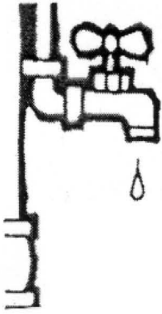
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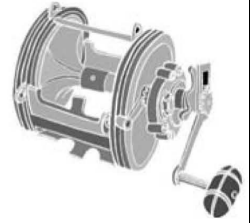
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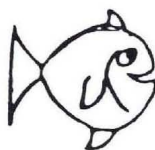
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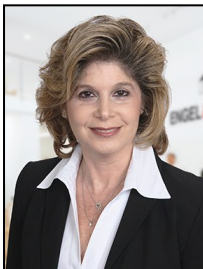
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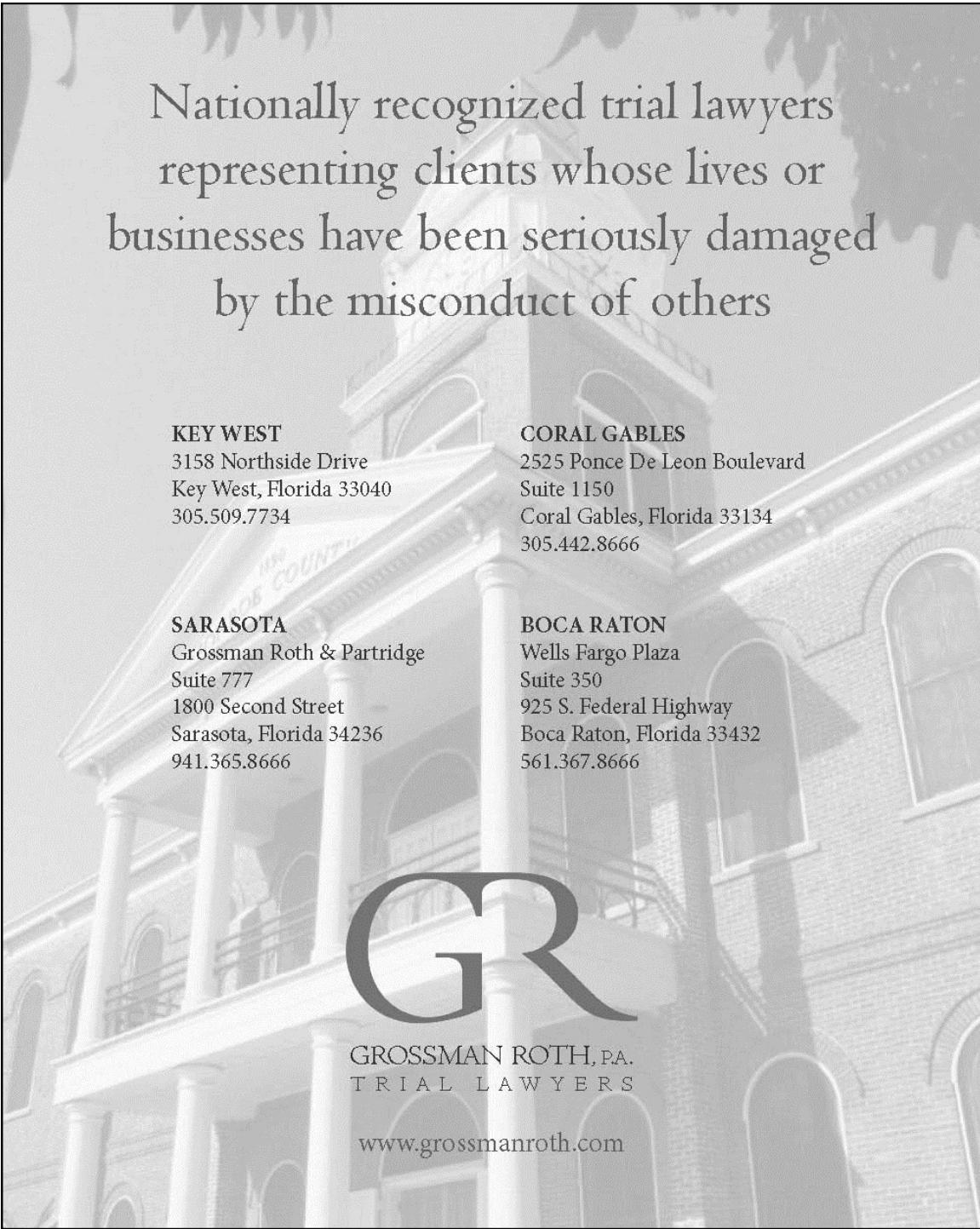
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