

Chai~Lights



April 2013

21 Nisan - 20 Iyar 5773

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

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April 2013

21 Nisan - 20 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8th (Last) Day of Passover	3	4	5 Richard, Barbara & Moira Knowles Yizkor Service Bernie Ginsberg <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yom HaShoah/ Holocaust Program 7:00p.m.	8	9	10 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	11	12 Medina Roy & Yardena Kamely Yom Ha'atz- ma'ut Service & Oneg <i>Susan Ellner</i>	13 Rabbi Agler Service & Discussion 10:00 a.m.
14 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	15	16 Yom Ha'atz- ma'ut	17	18	19 Steve Steinbock <i>Lauren & Stuart Sax</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Sunday School Students & Teachers 6:30 Service <i>Susan Gordon</i>	27 Chai-Yaking 1:00 p.m.
28 Lag B'Omer	29	30	<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</div>			

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President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



By the time you are reading this, we shall have completed our March schedule of events. I thought we would have just the Women's Seder and our annual second-night family Seder. But there was also the interfaith Seder in Marathon, and all KJCC members were invited to a community Seder at the Ocean Reef Club. It seems that our community mirrors the American Jewish experience, that Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday. Many thanks to Stuart Sax for co-leading the KJCC seder along with Gloria. No one could more ably have filled the large void caused by the passing of Jim Boruszak.

We also celebrated the conversion of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles to Judaism. They truly became full members of our congregation by leading a Shabbat service. Yardena concluded her fascinating four-part lecture series on the three Abrahamic religions. She will give a presentation on Yom HaShoah, The Holocaust, on Sunday, April 7th. The Purim play by the Hebrew school children, written and directed by the amazing Gloria Avner, was fun and will give the children lifelong memories of Judaism. I hope these pleasant memories will lead them to enter their own children into Jewish education and keep the faith alive, the real purpose of our synagogue.

Our March 8th Shabbat dinner honoring advertisers and new members was a resounding success, with almost 100 people attending; almost 70 attended the Shabbat service! There was an electric spirit (*ruach*) at the event. I hope it will be the beginning of well-attended Shabbat services from now on. My sincerest thanks to all who made it happen, especially Sam Vinicur, Medina Roy and Joyce Peckman.

Please remember that Yizkor service will be part of our regular Friday night service on April 5th. The weekend of April 12th will be another blockbuster of *Yiddishkeit*, with Friday services celebrating Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day). On Saturday we'll enjoy a Torah learning service by Rabbi Agler; his services are always an amazing display of scholarship and a Socratic investigation of what the Torah is trying to teach. Finally, that evening we will have a *Havdallah* led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of the Eckerd College Hillel. A month's Judaism in a weekend.

On a personal note, most of you know that I lost my long-term associate Dr. Joseph Goldberg (of Blessed Memory) in March. I want to thank all the members of the congregation who have expressed their support and comfort to Mrs. Susan Goldberg and myself. Shalom.

Nosh

Yom HaShoah at KJCC

This year, Yom Ha'shoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – is Monday, April 8, 2013. Our community is organizing observance of Yom Ha'shoah on Sunday, April 7th, 7:00 p.m. at the KJCC. "Never Again: Heeding the Warning Signs" has been designated as the theme for the 2013 observance. The KJCC Holocaust Committee will conduct a memorial service and present a documentary video about the historical events of 1938 in Europe.

We invite you all to join the KJCC in remembrance and participate in the international commemoration.

-Yardena

New Members

KJCC is delighted to welcome Tom and Renee Brodie of New York, New York as our newest members. Perhaps our warm and welcoming little Jewish outpost will be a siren song, luring you back to the Keys more often.

Oneg Sponsors for April 2013

April 5th - Barbara & Richard Knowles in honor of Moira & Richard's birthdays.

April 12th - Susan Ellner to celebrate her birthday.

April 19th - Lauren & Stuart Sax to mark Lauren's birthday.

April 26th - Susan Gordon to honor her birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

Kurt Kluger

December 2012

Skip and Rene Rose

What We Are Going to Do in Israel

You've seen the ads in Chai-Lights and the information in e-mails and on display at KJCC. We asked Rabbi Agler to reflect in a personal way what people will experience on his tour. Here's what he said. Perhaps it will help if you're still undecided about going:

- Ascend to Jerusalem. (Both meanings; it's high in the Judean hills.)
- Experience a dynamic country that has gone from agricultural to industrial to high tech in one generation.
- See the land, its history and its people participating in a 4,000-year-old saga that is still unfolding.
- Understand in a richer way the impact that the Land of Israel has had on Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Celebrate the vibrant life of Tel Aviv, stay on a kibbutz, visit a *moshav*.
- Meet with scholars, teachers and everyday Israelis.
- Walk in the footsteps of the generation that dreamt and built modern Israel, and actually see a magnificent country largely begun by dreams.
- Walk in the footsteps of King David and Solomon, the Maccabees, Kabbalists and Rabbis.
- Learn how Israel cares for her needy.
- Better understand the relationship between Israel and her neighbors.
- Welcome Shabbat at the Western Wall; there is no way to adequately describe the feelings.
- Experience Jewish life and culture as never before.

And much more!

There is still time for YOU to join us. Contact Dave Mont (305-393-9883 or moogoodave@yahoo.com) or go to www.arzaworld.com/ and Search "Keys" to register.

This year in Jerusalem!

-Rabbi Rich Agler

April Birthdays

1st.....	Bennet Beinfest
3rd.....	Claire Cooper
3rd.....	Harvey Kay
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
4th.....	Thomas Brodie
6th.....	Faychesca Graham
9th.....	David Feder
9th.....	Gene Silverman
10th.....	Abigail Everson
10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
10th.....	Ilese Vorcheimer
11th.....	Max Logan Gershowitz
11th.....	Miriam Gillespie
12th.....	Richard Knowles
13th.....	Moira Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Grossinger
13th.....	Shawn Borisoff
14th.....	Timothy J. O'Connor
15th.....	Rosie Biskar
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
16th.....	Ella Gilderman
17th.....	Katie Greenman
17th.....	Susan Ellner
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
20th.....	Larry Gilderman
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
25th.....	Jared Scott Gershowitz
25th.....	Samantha Schenker
25th.....	Shirley Stein
26th.....	Maryann Boruszak
27th.....	Beverly Robins
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Jordan Neidenberg
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman
30th.....	Rachel Barrett

April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder.....	47
7th	Salomon & Mary Terner.....	20
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew.....	32
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder.....	17
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz.....	6
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman.....	58

A Shabbat to Savor

Once again, KJCC ritual life will be enriched by rabbinic participation this month. On Saturday, April 13th, Rabbi Richard Agler will be leading a Shabbat morning Torah Service and discussion, starting at 10:00 am. Anyone who has attended his informal, warm, informative and stimulating services will tell you they are not to be missed. Later that day, when we say goodbye to Shabbat, we will gather at 7:30 p.m. in the Beth/Stanlake Gazebo in our Meditation Garden for a *Havdalah* Service led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. His Hillel Scubajew students, continuing their *Tikkun HaYam* work (repair of the sea), will be with us. We look forward to a talk and refreshments in our social hall after the service. (Here's a nugget not yet shared from Rabbi Ed's last *Havdalah* Service: At the end of Shabbat, just as the multi-wicked candle flame is doused in wine, try to get close and sniff. There is a *midrash*, according to Rabbi Ed, that for a brief moment you can smell the presence of the Garden of Eden.)

-Gloria

There's Always Something Extra at KJCC

On April 12th, during the service to be led by Medina Roy, Yardena will join in, adding commentary and song, as we all help celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day. A special oneg that night will feature Israeli food, Israeli dancing and Israeli music.

Bernie has said that one of the hallmarks of his presidency will be a stress on activities involving our children. So please mark the date of April 26th. The early (6:30) service that night will be led by the KJCC religious school students, supported by their teachers Yardena and Gloria.

Art and Artists: the Women of KJCC

It was a good month for KJCC artists. First, Beth Kaminstein mounted a successful three-week, one-woman show, titled "Fluxations," at Matecumbe Gallery in Islamorada, showcasing both her large-scale charcoal drawings and her subtly colored free-form pottery serving pieces. (The common theme uniting the two media, for this viewer, is sensuality).

Then Rosie Biskar hosted a one-day, one-woman show in her own home, beautifully sponsored and facilitated by Jon and Joanna Dreaver of The Art Box in Key Largo. More than 60 people wandered through each room of Rosie's home and studio, marveling at the skill, diversity, humor, and thoughtfulness of her passionate lifetime's worth of work.

To polish off the month, at the Artists' Reception held before the Annual Show of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles (a 10-day show juried each March at the Key Largo Library), two more

Meditation Garden Brick
IN MEMORY OF
EVE L. GREENSTEIN
4/21/1962 - 2/13/2011

Barney Coltman

KJCC artists received honors. Natalie Dorf won Second Place and a red ribbon in Oil Painting, and Gloria Avner won Second Place and a red ribbon in Watercolors. Natalie also won First Place and a Blue Ribbon in the recent Joe Cella "Birds in Nature Competition."

If you missed these shows, we're sorry, but don't worry. The KJCC Art Committee has taken note and is planning a Four-Women Show in the near future to showcase these artists among us in our very own home. Stay tuned.

-Gloria

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 Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, 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 at 305-451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES, BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

JNF TREES IN ISRAEL: A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, 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.

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.

Meditation Garden Brick
MAZEL TOV
RICHARD KNOWLES
AND
JANE FRIEDMAN
ON YOUR CONVERSION
Joan Boruszak & Lee Schur

BOOK PLATE
In honor of
Jane Friedman
3/22/2013
Mazel Tov!
Muriel & George Swartz

A New Shofar and Cover in Honor of Jim

The Keys Jewish Community Center is pleased to inform you that a shofar and cover case have been donated to the KJCC in memory of our own recently departed James Boruszak, may his memory be a blessing.

Those of you who were at the 2012 High Holyday Services know that Jim, a Kohane, loved the KJCC so much that under extreme duress he came, in a wheelchair with oxygen, to deliver the Kohanic blessings to the KJCC. It was one of the last and most memorable measures of his care for the KJCC and a measure of his gravity as a person and a Jew.

Every Rosh HaShanah, Jim would call the tropes for the shofar services – it was something he loved doing. It seemed appropriate, therefore, since the KJCC needed a new Shofar, to dedicate it to the memory of a person who did so much for all of us.

Bernie has vetted the new Shofar and it has a wonderful tone. It is a Yemenite Shofar, made from the horn of the African Kurdu. The Shofar traveled from Africa to Israel and from Israel to the Keys. Hopefully it will add a new, strong call to all of us on Rosh HaShanah and forever remind us of the very fine person who loved us all and did so much for all of us and the KJCC.

-Beth Hayden

BOOK PLATE

In honor of
Richard Knowles
3/22/2013
Mazel Tov!
Muriel & George Swartz

One Flame, Many Candles

On Sunday, February 24th, Lauren and I attended a very special and most thought provoking multi-denominational prayer service in Marathon. Those in attendance in the chapel at St. Columba Episcopal Church were treated to a presentation titled “One Flame; Many Candles” presented by the Rev. Betty Stookey and her husband Noel Paul Stookey who many of you may remember as part of the trio Peter, Paul and Mary. Betty spoke eloquently about our need to relate to each other no matter our religious beliefs and upbringing. She then sat back as Noel sang original songs focusing on peace, love and understanding. The evening concluded with the singing of “Blowin’ In The Wind” which both Noel and Betty agree is as relevant today as when it was first written (by Bob Dylan, née Zimmerman) and recorded nearly fifty years ago. The evening was dedicated to the Hammock House project at St. Columba which provides after school outreach programs for children.

-Stuart Sax

BOOK PLATE

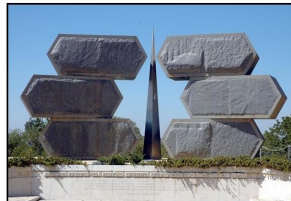
Congratulations and
Welcome to
Richard Knowles
March 2013
Joel & Linda Pollack

BOOK PLATE

Congratulations and
Welcome to
Jane Friedman
March 2013
Joel & Linda Pollack

Plan Now to Be Part of the Special KJCC Trip to Israel June 11-23, 2013, a Trip To Be Led by the Best Tour Guide Possible — Our Own Rabbi Richard Agler.

Bahai
Gardens on
Mt. Carmel
in Haifa



Yad Vashem
Holocaust
Memorial in
Jerusalem



The Eastern Gate



Dead Sea Scrolls



The Jewish Quarter

A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel soon, on June 11-23, 2013.

Current estimates for the trip are a range of \$3,000 to \$3,300 per person, depending on the accommodations package chosen. Because KJCC members might be coming from all parts of the country, air fare is NOT included in any price quotes. The group needs to be a minimum of twenty. The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you are interested, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.)

Tour features:

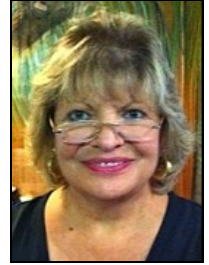
- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
- 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts,
2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- all program and entrance fees;
- tipping and all portage included.

Tour highlights:

- Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port;
- A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century;
- The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine;
- A visit to Yad Vashem.

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



As I sit here writing, it's mid-March. By the time this column is published, and you're reading it, it will be April.

But sweet memories make time irrelevant. I'm looking back to the end of February to our Purim play. Anyone who missed it didn't get to see the strangest-looking Haman imaginable, (hopefully the pictures taken include Bernie in his Haman disguise). He was so scary-looking, a cute little four-year-old girl starting crying until her Dad and I explained it was funny and nothing to be afraid of. A huge "Thank You" goes out to Gloria, Bernie, Yarden, Susan and KJCC students and to everyone who helped with food and clean up for that great audition our new President put on. If I've left anyone out (it's not intentional), please know that I appreciate all the help I get when an event is taking place. Next time Bernie is the star performer in a play written and directed by Gloria (applause), I will be sure to set up a video camera for future enjoyment.

It wouldn't be politically correct to praise one without the other since I came from a big family of five kids: Stuart's baby-naming service for his adorable grandson Liam did not go unnoticed either. Rabbi Agler was awesome as always and held everyone's attention. Stuart somehow ended up the star of the evening; his closing song of the service, Old McDonaldvich, had a farm with a mezuzah here, there and everywhere. It sure wasn't boring and didn't sound anything like the *Adon Olam* we're all accustomed to.

We want to thank Bernie and Medina, Joyce, Sam, and many more who made the March 8th dinner such a wonderful success. Usually, everyone comments OMG, "there was so much food." There *was* a lot of food, but also almost 100 people in attendance. Kudos to Bernie and all who reached out to our com-

munity and advertisers to make the March Shabbat dinner such a happy experience.

The Women's Seder will be over and done with before this is published. It's always a great celebration of, again, lots of food and a fun social event that brings all the women together to make pottery, favorite foods, sing and enjoy our time together. This year the honoree will be showered for her years of accomplishments and appreciation from everyone at KJCC. I can't at this writing reveal who got nominated but it is so well deserved, and even she will be surprised. As I'm sure all the women know, we have a tablecloth that I got to sign for the first time last year that will again be taken out and signed by all newcomers. I look forward to hearing about the success of the Women's Seder, as I regretfully will not be attending, but know with the work of Erica, Beth and many other energetic ladies, this Seder will be as successful as all the others.

Another important highlight was the Tuesday, March 26th KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder at The Islamorada Fishing Club. It is always a great time of "eating," singing, and reading our Haggadah. The service was led for the first time by the team of Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner, and it was another great night.

It seems that every time I write, we're eating or talking about food, which is what happens a lot at KJCC.

We look forward to many wonderful events in the months to come and enjoy seeing new faces as well as many familiar ones.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be Sunday, April 7th at 9:30 a.m., where we will again be eating and talking. I hope you'll be there with us. ♦

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

Pollack, Joel & Linda

Swartz, George & Muriel

In Honor of

Jane Friedman and
Richard Knowles

Jane Friedman and
Richard Knowles

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Agler for

Liam Jacob Sax

In Honor of

thanks to Rabbi
assisting in the naming of

General Fund

Agler, Richard & Mindy

Barrick, Marcy

Begam, Delores

Congregation

Lewis, Phil & Arleen

Roth, Alice

Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Honor of

Dave Mont's help!

Rabbi Agler

please pray for us

thank you for Kaskaset concert

Love to be here!

shabbat services and warm welcome

Liam Sax - baby naming

Ritual

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Honor of

conversion of Richard Knowles
& Jane Friedman

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Peckman, Joyce

Yahrzeits

Conklin, Wes & Rita

Conklin, Wes & Rita

Dorf, Barry & Natalie

Elson, Barry

Elson, Neil

Geller, Milton

Geller, Milton

Graham, Bea

Graham, Bea

Isenberg, Patricia

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Kluger, Nancy

Kluger, Nancy

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica

Olsen, Gerald & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

Tallent, Lillian

Temkin, Robert

In Memory of

Sam Hitzig, Yetta Hitzig

Sandra Kanarek, Mark Hitzig

Hilda Dorf

Selma Elson Greenspan

Selma Elson Greenspan

Anna Shore

Morris Shore

Selma Greenspan

Marty Graham

Harry Phillips

Monroe Kaplan

Eliza Christensen, Fanny Kluger

Otto Kluger, Kurt Kluger

Sam Lieberman

Louis Weinstein

Peter Steinberg

Sara J. Cohen

Ida Tallent

Anne Temkin

General Fund

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

In Memory of

Jerry Oshinsky,

Kurt Kluger

Joseph Goldberg

Jerry Oshinsky

Meditation Garden

Boruszak, Joan

brick in honor of Jane Friedman &

Richard Knowles

Schur, Lee

brick in honor of Jane Friedman &

Richard Knowles

Meditation Garden

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

In Memory of

Joseph Goldberg

Jerry Oshinsky

Sam Sax

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Yom Ha'Shoah

Seventy-five years ago, crucial changes were occurring in Central Europe. Few at the time understood the historic significance of the events during the years 1933-1938, and fewer still saw that those changes would lead to one of humanity's darkest hours. By 1938 the Nazis had been in power for five years, during which they systematically removed Jews from public life in Germany, taking their rights as citizens and limiting their possibilities to be employed. As the Museum notes: "In that pivotal year, the year before Germany invaded Poland and ignited World War II, the treatment of Jews took a dramatic turn for the worse." With the German Reich's annexation of Austria in March (an act of absorption known to history by a German word meaning unification, *The Anschluss*) and its seizure of the Czech Bohemian border areas known as the *Sudetenland*—which the nations of the world

failed to prevent at the Munich conference in September—an additional 200,000 Jews fell under Nazi rule and became targets of intense persecution, humiliation, and violence.

Many were desperate to flee, but no country would take them. Trying to resolve the worsening refugee crisis, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt proposed an international conference at Evian-les-Bains, France, in July 1938. Of the 32 nations represented, only one—the Dominican Republic—agreed to accept a large number of additional refugees. Then on November 9-10, 1938, came *Kristallnacht*, a wave of violence organized by the Nazis that resulted in the death of at least 91 Jews, the destruction of hundreds of synagogues and many more Jewish-owned businesses, and the arrest of some 30,000 Jewish men, most of whom were transferred from local prisons to the Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. Despite some protests, the overwhelming response by the world was...silence. The Nazis took careful note.

From then on, the Jews of Central Europe struggled to maintain their communities and their dignity, but the impact of these events was devastating. Again, from the Museum's literature: "Although newspa-

Newly arrived prisoners, with shaven heads, stand at attention in their civilian clothes during a roll call in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Some 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent there after Kristallnacht. (Photograph courtesy of U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.)



pers around the world reported on the escalating violence, very few nations, individuals, or groups chose to help. Those who did made a difference. Rufus Jones and Clarence Pickett, leaders of the American Friends Service Committee, a US-based Quaker aid society, were motivated to act and became ardent advocates for expanding refugee assistance for children. They worked closely with welfare agencies to help Jewish refugees in France, Spain, and Portugal.”

In Britain, Lola Hahn Warburg was one of several prominent British and German Jews who convinced the British government to allow Jewish children under 17 from Nazi Germany to immigrate to the United Kingdom through a special *Kindertransport* program. “The first group landed in Harwich on December 2, 1938, bringing some 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin that Nazi radicals had destroyed on *Kristallnacht*. Before it was ultimately halted by the outbreak of World War II, the rescue operation brought some 10,000 children, three-quarters of whom were Jewish, to relative safety in Great Britain.” Historians and researchers of the

Holocaust argue that looking back at the events of 1938, even more could have been done. “The signs of impending war and the Holocaust—territorial expansion, disregard for international law, persecution of people based on their identity—are undoubtedly clearer today than they were then. Nonetheless, opportunities for international intervention, such as at the Evian Conference, existed and could have saved many lives.” Today the questions to be asked are: Why did so many countries and individuals fail to respond to the warning signs? And what can we learn from the few who chose to act, despite widespread indifference? What might motivate us to respond to warning signs of genocide today? The historians tell us: “History teaches us that genocide can be prevented if enough people care enough to act. Our choices in response to hatred truly do matter, and together we can help fulfill the promise of ‘Never Again’.” ♦

Note: all the material in unattributed quotes is taken from 2013 USHMM literature. We thank them for being so generous with source material.



The Kindertransports

Between December 1938 and September 1939, close to 10,000 unaccompanied refugee children from central Europe were permitted entry into Great Britain. They arrived in a series of transports, which came to be known as the *Kindertransports*. The first group, which arrived in Harwich on December 2nd, 1938, consisted of 200 children between the ages of 12 and 17 from Berlin and Hamburg, the Berlin children from an orphanage that had been destroyed during *Kristallnacht*. The children

were divided into two categories: those guaranteed by private sponsors and those under the auspices of the Refugee Children's Movement (RCM). In addition to the RCM and its local committees, several Jewish organizations assisted the refugee children. Upon their arrival in Britain, the children were housed in temporary reception camps, such as the Dovercourt Bay, Pakefield, and Broadstairs holiday camps. After a few weeks they were taken to foster homes or hostels throughout the country. Others lived on agricultural training farms set up by the Youth Aliyah organization in Britain.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



An “Accidental Hero”

Guy Preissler, an Israeli high-tech entrepreneur who lives in New York City, became the hero of the day when the driver of the bus he was traveling on suddenly lost consciousness. Preissler took over the wheel of the runaway vehicle, managing to bring it to a halt without serious injuries to any of the passengers or people on the street. New York’s Metropolitan Transit Authority reported that the driver, who had 30 years’ experience, regained consciousness after the incident. He and two passengers who sustained light injuries, were taken to the hospital and later released.

(www.timesofisrael.com, 2-1-13)

Black is Beautiful in Israel

At the end of February, 21-year-old model and former Israeli army officer Yityish “Titi” Aynaw was crowned “Miss Israel,” the first Ethiopian-Israeli to win the national beauty pageant. Aynaw was born in a small town in northwest Ethiopia and orphaned by the time she was ten. Her mother’s parents, who had come to Israel in 2000, arranged for her and her brother to join them. She had a tough time acclimating to Israeli society but picked up the language quickly. Aynaw has been working as a saleswoman at a clothing store since her army discharge. During the pageant competition, she cited American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr. as one of her heroes. (www.tabletmag.com, 3-13-13)

“Girl in the Red Coat”

Oliwia Dabrowska, the Polish actress who played the little girl in the red coat in Steven Spielberg’s award-winning film “Schindler’s List,” said in an interview that the experience left her traumatized. Dabrowska, now 24, was only three years old when she appeared in the film, and although she promised Spiel-

berg she would not see the movie until she turned 18, she first watched it when she was 11. The brutality she saw horrified her, particularly the scene where SS officer Amon Goeth, played by Ralph Fiennes, arbitrarily shoots women and children from his window. The red coat is probably the most symbolic part of the movie. It is one of the rare instances in the almost exclusively black-and-white film where Spielberg uses color. It portrays the moment Oskar Schindler spots the girl during the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and has a change of heart, making the decision to try to save as many Jews as he can. Dabrowska said it took her many years to overcome the trauma but she admitted that eventually she came to feel honored. “I realized I had been part of something I could be proud of,” she said. “Spielberg was right: I had to grow up to watch the film.” (www.guardian.co.uk, 3-4-13)

First Seder in 500 Years

On March 25th, Ribadavia, a town in northern Spain, held its first Passover seder since 1492, the year the Jews were expelled by Ferdinand and Isabella during the Spanish Inquisition. The seder was organized by the city’s tourism department in partnership with the Center for Medieval Studies, a Ribadavia-based organization that researches the history of Iberian Jews prior to the Inquisition. Its purpose was to “breathe new life into its old Jewish quarter.” Like many Spanish cities, Ribadavia had a sizeable Jewish population prior to the 1492 expulsion, when Jews were forced to either emigrate or convert. Since the 1990s, several cities and towns in Spain and Portugal have undertaken tourist projects that highlight their Jewish past. (www.jta.org, 3-11-13)

A “Day of Solidarity”

Oberlin College in northern Ohio is routinely listed as among the most liberal, activist and gay-friendly schools in the country. Following a series of racial, anti-Semitic and homophobic incidents, the school recently suspended classes to convene a “Day of Solidarity.” Swastikas and other anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic graffiti were discovered on the campus along with someone wearing a Ku Klux Klan-like robe and hood. “This event...has precipitated our decision to suspend formal classes and all non-essential activities...and gather for a series of discussions of the challenging issues that have faced our community in recent weeks,” read a statement by the president of the college, Marvin Krislov, who is Jewish. All students, faculty and staff were asked to participate in the day’s events. Oberlin was founded in 1833. It was a center of abolitionist activities in the 1800s and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. (www.clevelandjewishnews.com, 3-4-13)

World’s Richest Jew

Larry Ellison, co-founder and CEO of Oracle Corporation, is the world’s richest Jew, according to *Forbes* Magazine’s 2013 list of world billionaires. He came in at number five overall, with a net worth of \$43 billion. Ellison was among five Jews in the top 25 on the list. Seventeen Israelis were among the record 1,426 billionaires – 200 more than in 2012. Other notable members of the tribe listed are New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg (number 13 with \$27 billion), casino magnate and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson, and Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. (Mexico’s non-Jewish Carlos Slim topped the list as the world’s richest person for the fourth year in a row). (www.jta.org, 3-4-13)

A Hollywood Record

Daniel Day-Lewis has been nominated five times in the Best Actor category of the Academy Awards. In three of those instances, he took home the Oscar, making him the only male actor in history to earn three Best Actor awards. He won for *My Left Foot* (1989),

There Will Be Blood (2007) and most recently *Lincoln* this year. Why bring this up? Day-Lewis was born in London, the son of Cecil Day-Lewis, the United Kingdom’s Poet Laureate. His mother, Jill Balcon, was Jewish. His maternal grandparents’ families immigrated to Britain from Latvia and Poland. (*The Forward*, 2-25-13)

A New Ruling

According to *halacha* (Jewish law), it is forbidden to suggest any type of activity to someone who might, through doing it, break the law. Therefore, “placing a stumbling block before the blind” (Leviticus 19:14) is the basis of the modern prohibition against inviting a non-religious person for a Shabbat meal, if it is known that they will travel by car. But a new ruling issued by the rabbis from the Orthodox *Beit Hillel* organization in Israel holds that if the invitation is for the purpose of positively impacting the Jewish identity of the non-religious person, then there is room to be more lenient. It seems that many secular Israelis are looking for spiritual experiences in their lives; the idea, then, is that the opportunity to expose someone to a traditional Shabbat atmosphere should be embraced in order to provide this positive experience. “Shabbat is one of the most unifying experiences and it is a real opportunity to create a connection between religious and secular Jews,” Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth, director of *Beit Hillel* said. Neuwirth insisted, however, that inviting a non-religious person for Shabbat for the purpose of business or general socializing would not be permitted according to *Beit Hillel*’s ruling. He also noted that it was preferable to invite someone to either stay for the entire Shabbat or to come before Shabbat begins. The ruling was designed to “help strengthen the bonds of Israeli society.” (*Jerusalem Post*, 2-27-13)

Top Mobile App

Waze, the Israeli navigation app, was named the best mobile app at the “2013 World Mobile Congress” held in Barcelona at the end of February. *Waze* competed against other apps, including *Dropbox*, *Flipboard*, *Sky*

Sports' F1 Companion and Square. According to the five-year-old company, drivers in 110 countries shared 90 million traffic reports using *Waze* during 2012. (www.jta.org, 2-27-13)

That's Gotta Hurt!

Actress and new mom Drew Barrymore is undergoing painful laser surgery to have her six tattoos removed. Barrymore is moving closer to converting to Judaism and is concerned that she won't be able to be buried in a Jewish cemetery if she doesn't remove the tattoos. (A note on tattooing: The prohibition is found in Leviticus 19:28: "You shall not make gashes in your flesh for the dead, or incise any marks on yourselves. I am the Lord." Maimonides sees the origin of this prohibition as an act of idolatry, stating that this was the custom among the pagans. More importantly, he concluded that we were created *b'tzelem elohim*, in the image of G-d. The human body is G-d's creation and it is therefore unbefitting to mutilate G-d's handiwork. Tattoos used by the Nazis and ink for medical purposes are excluded from the prohibition.) (*The Forward*, 2-16-13)

In Memoriam

· Joseph Friedenson, the founder and long-time editor of *Dos Yiddishe Vort*, died at the end of February. He was 90. Friedenson, a survivor of the Holocaust, founded the monthly Yiddish journal while he was in the displaced persons camps in Germany. He edited it continually in New York since 1953. Friedenson was born in Lodz, the son of Eliezer Gershon Friedenson, one of the leaders of the *Beis Yaakov* school movement in Poland. After the outbreak of World War II, the family fled to Warsaw where they were imprisoned in the infamous Ghetto. Joseph Friedenson was described as "an avid newspaperman" who read multiple publications daily in several languages. During its heyday in the 1970s and 80s, *Dos Yiddishe Vort* claimed a readership of up to 8,000 and published many highly regarded Yiddish writers, including Friedenson himself. (*The Forward*, 2-26-13)

Did You Know...

· A few months ago, Academy Award winner Natalie Portman ("Black Swan"), 31, was reportedly in a vegan deli in Los Angeles for lunch. Her son Aleph would not stop crying and after several failed attempts to calm the baby down, Portman did what every thoughtful mother should do – she paid the tab for all the surrounding tables and left the deli. (www.6nobacon.com, 11-6-12)

· The first Hebrew-language version of *Playboy* magazine was launched in Tel Aviv in early March. The magazine features Israeli women and Hebrew articles (the real reason men buy it, of course). The inaugural cover girl is Natali Dadon, a 29-year-old model and alumna of Israel's versions of "America's Next Top Model" and "Survivor." Attorney Daniel Pomerantz, an Israeli immigrant from Chicago, negotiated with Hugh Hefner, the magazine's founder, for the rights to the Israeli version of the men's magazine. (www.jta.org, 3-5-13)

· President Barak Obama received a special award from Israeli President Shimon Peres at a state dinner in Israel in March. Mr. Obama is the first sitting American president to receive Israel's Presidential Medal of Distinction. Previous recipients include former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and conductor Zubin Mehta. (www.nytimes.com, 2-18-13)

· The Israeli ice hockey team took home the winning title in the U-18 World Championship, which was hosted in Turkey in February. (www.hurriyetdailynews.com, 2-11-13)

· Later this year, Apple Computer will open its third research and development center in Israel, this one in Raanana's industrial zone. (www.jta.org, 2-11-13)

· New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera, 43, has been selected Man of the Year by the New York Board of Rabbis. He will also receive a guided tour of Israel. Rivera has been a key member of five World Series championships and is the record-holder for most career saves. He was chosen for the title because of his philanthropic work and extensive relief work he does in Panama through his church. Rivera is a strong supporter of Israel. (*The Forward*, 2-7-13) ◇

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Photo Gallery



On February 22nd, Rabbi Agler officiated at the naming of Liam Sax, son of Stuart and Lauren's son Jeremy and his wife Kristin. The oneg afterwards commemorated both the naming and the 51st Anniversary of Linda and Joel Pollack.

(Naming ceremony photos by Barbara Knowles. Oneg photos by David Gitin.)



(Right) These photos were taken on February 23rd at the Silver Shores home of Rosie Biskar, at a house-gallery show for her work sponsored by Jon Dreaver's Art Box in Key Largo. Silver Shores allowed parking at their clubhouse, and all guests were driven to Rosie's house via golf cart.





(Left) Our youngest and oldest members, Michaela Bitton and Pauline Roller, were among the many offering comfort and respect to the family of Dr. Joe Goldberg, sitting Shivah on February 28th.



(Right) At the March 9th Voices luncheon, Rene Rose was honored with the “Above and Beyond” Award. (It was a rich month for Rene. Please see page 39 to see her awarded

Woman of the Year at the Women’s Seder.) Presenting Rene with the plaque is Kathy Las-

setter, Co-President of Voices. Also attending were Natalie Dorf, Maryon Gould and Mary Lee Singer. And yes, that’s Dave Feder on guitar, who so often donates his time to local charities.



This memorial was photographed at the March 10th celebration of life for Jerry Oshinsky which was held at the home of his friend, Sherry Zwedding.



After a wonderful Shabbat morning service, Bernie interrupts Rabbi Agler's challah slicing to tell a quick story. The beautiful challah board and knife, he says, remind him of the time his father gave his mother a brand new board and knife to use on Shabbat: "Oh no," she cried. "This is too good. Let's save it for Pesach." The laughter was explosive. Photo and caption by Gloria Avner.



Representing the KJCC, JRFCresteds Ollie, Ollie Oxenfree, won his first title on Saturday, March 16th at the Fort Lauderdale (goyische) Dog Show in Davie - AND took first place in his class - Rally Novice. His new title is RN (rally novice). His mom and rally partner, Beth Hayden, hopes that since he is a Jewish Chinese Crested the KJCC will be as proud of him as she is. (You won't be surprised to learn that Beth wrote this caption herself.)



Our own Gloria Avner had her art talents showcased twice in March, first as artist, then as teacher. The photo at left shows Gloria with a watercolor that recently won a juried award. The group photo shows Gloria's batik class at The Art Box in Key Largo. Happy students = successful class. (Photos by David Gitin)



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DEPARTURE.....Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013

CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013

SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013

ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013

SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

NEW VISION AND OLD.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013

MEMORY AND RENEWAL.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Flight

DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013

DEPARTURE.....Arrival in the USA

**Complete tour information is available at arzaworld.com,
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Purim at KJCC 2013

The three who put on KJCC's Purim celebration reflect on what it means to each of them. Plus lots of photos.

MY FEELINGS ABOUT PURIM

by Yardena Kamely

When I was a child growing up in Israel, I loved the celebration of Purim because it meant being able to wear a costume, a beautiful costume. I could be a queen, a princess, a French "Madame Rococo" or an Italian "Cinderella" or an exotic princess from India like the one in the movie "Around the World in 80 Days." Later, as a mother of three very attractive kids (of course), I felt a lot of joy and had fun dressing them in costumes, invented (of course) by their creative Israeli mother, making them look even more attractive (of course). The boys became the most gorgeous little Oriental pashas (both my boys have inherited the Persian look from their grandfather David); my daughter became a beautiful Ashkenazi princess (her Ashkenazi look comes from the other grandfather, Oscar, from Russia).



During that time, besides being the typical Jewish mother, I was also a teacher, teaching at the Hebrew High School in Chile. There I had the opportunity to dress whole classes – students as well as teachers – with very artistic costumes for our Purim Carnival. We had the



help of an Israeli couple, both of them teachers and professional theater actors, he from Hungary and she from Polish parents. For us

teachers the traditional costume was "The Witches" (carrying our huge broom all around school). In the evening we, the adults, would gather at the house of the Israeli teachers and have a Purim party, behaving as silly as the *mitzvah* of Purim tells us to do. That's something teachers cannot do normally. But think about the amazing and hilarious things teachers see and hear on a regular basis. If you didn't know,

teachers can be funny.



artists (of course), and sent them to our school here to be used during the *Megillah* reading. This Purim I enjoyed the participation of the adult KJCC *mishpoche* in the *Megillah* read-



Today, as teacher of our small KJCC Sunday School, I have the same fun organizing Purim with our little students, with costumes, songs and a funny *Purimspiel*. I wish my grandchildren could be celebrating with us. My granddaughter Naomi from Chile made a dozen beautiful masks; she is a very creative young



ing, making
the noise with
the
raashanim

(Graggers), and the delicious *Oznei Hamman* (hamantaschen) the Sisterhood ladies provided, and all the wonderful food they prepared for our “feisty” luncheon (of course). Masks, costumes, playacting, laughter...what an intelligent idea of Jewish tradition, giving me the possibility to be someone else for a couple of days. I just love tradition.

PURIM: THE ULTIMATE IN JEWISH FAMILY FUN

by Joyce Peckman

When my kids were growing up, Purim stood out as a favorite holiday. In our mixed neighborhood, it was sort of the Jewish answer to Halloween – as much fun, with way better vibes. All of us, together, spent family time preparing goodie bags, sometimes even baking *hamentaschen*. We customized the contents for each neighbor family; sometimes it would be fruit, cookies and grapejuice, or perhaps beer, halavah and *hamentaschen*.

That evening all of the kids and most of the adults would dress in costumes. But no ghosts or skeletons. Plenty of Queen Esthers and Mordechais, but also all sorts of animals, soldiers, firemen, cowboys, superheroes and anything else you can imagine. We came to

synagogue with *groggers*, but also gourds, maracas, tambourines and trumpets to drown out Haman's name as the rabbi read the *Megillah*. (Tradition requires that we hear every word of the story – the palace intrigue, Mordechai's compelling story and Esther's overcoming her fear to stand up for our people.) The night always ended with a party.

The next day, instead of going door-to-door begging for candy, we delivered our homemade treats, greeting friends and dropping off our *mishloach manot*. We would come home to find decorated packages of food at our door.

When we moved to Key Largo and joined the KJCC in 2004, Purim was being commemorated by a cute, short children's performance. Period. It felt like a Classics comic book version of a great novel.

The next year, my spouse Leslie downloaded and ran off 25 copies of the *Megillah* in English. We packed goodie bags and put out the word that we would be meeting to read the Purim *Megillah* in its entirety, round-robin style. We were pleased to have about 15 people show up. We read every word (some of our fellow readers hearing it all for the first time), gave out the goody bags and col-





lected donations to give to charity, as the *Megillah* says to do. Everyone left smiling.

That summer Leslie passed away. The next year the KJCC purchased proper Purim books and 25 people came.

Sisterhood organized the festivities and the Sunday School got involved. Each succeeding year gets better, with larger crowds and more enthusiasm.



As I watch each of us, adults and children, taking turns reading a few paragraphs, involved in every detail of that ancient story, I know that we are hearing the same words as did the generations before us and also those who will come after us. My hope is that next year even more of us will get into the Purim spirit and come in costume!

Our great thanks for the Purim photographs to Richard Knowles, David Gitin, Gloria Avner and Jane Friedman.

THE SHPIEL...BOOS AND LAUGHTER...AND THE FOUR MITZVOT

by Gloria Avner

“Citizens of Shushan, Citizens of the World, listen well to our Story!” With these words, the incomparable, self-confident Moira Knowles leads off our mitzvah-fulfilling Purim morning, introducing an original “*purimshpiel*,” a play by Gloria Avner starring a Gorilla with a hearing problem.



Westley Silverman shines as the scary but sensitive Gonzo Gorilla who happily thought we were going to “treat” him. OK, so he got it a little wrong. As Natalie Werthamer (the beautiful Queen Esther) and Mikhaela Bitton (the angry Queen Vashti—before she became ill) point out:

WE’RE READING, NOT TREATING! IT’S GANSSA, NOT GONZO! MEGILLAH, NOT GORILLA! IT’S A



prepares away. But not dis-against are differ-Cole



as the wise counselor Mordechai. And so, Gonzo gets to stay for the *Megillah* reading as we prepare to fulfill the first of this holiday’s four Mitzvahs.

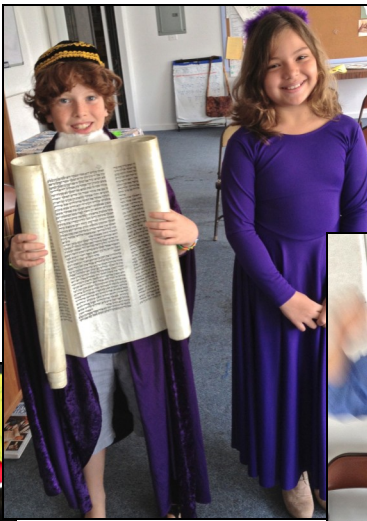
MITZVAH TO READ THE GANSSA MEGILLAH!” “Ooops,” says poor, embarrassed Gonzo as he to slink wait! “We do criminate those who ent,” says Silverman as

The rest of the cast (Harry Friedman as Narrator, Noah Bitton as the regal King Ahashverosh, Susan Gordon as stand-in Queen Vashti, and ferocious, growling, bewigged and be-bearded President Bernie Ginsberg as Haman (cast wildly against type) finish their raucous rendition of the story, with Boos and Stomping Feet drowning out the hated name of our persecutor.

The audience joins in singing the last verse of "Once there was a Wicked, Wicked Man," the actors take their bows, and the audience becomes actor. We make a shift. All become equal participants fulfilling the *mitzvah* of reading and hearing as we take turns paying attention to *Megillat Esther*, *The Scroll of Esther*. We begin our annual round-robin reading. And this year, thanks to a gift from Boca Raton resident (and friend of Rabbi Rich and Mindy Agler) Marc Kravit, we are able to read from an actual sheepskin, a true, hand-calligraphied scroll. Not only does Bernie introduce us to the scroll and its elaborate hand-wrought "crowns" over words like "melech" (king), but we are told that a wooden cylindrical holder is on order from Israel thanks to a generous gift from members Barry and Natalie Dorf, in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah.

Wouldn't Haman (boo, hiss, twirl *grogger*) be furious and disappointed to know that this pesky tribe of Jews continues not just to stay alive, but to thrive, generation after generation?

With the passing of a basket, we dig into



Cole Silverman as Mordechai, left, holds the new KJCC sheepskin Megillah Scroll, alongside Natalie Werthamer as his niece, the beautiful Queen Esther.



Playwright Gloria (a little incognito) flanked by Queen Vas....er, Mikhaela, and Moira.



Haman in full menace mode, above, beheld with awe by his boss, King Ahashverosh.

our pockets and observe the second *mitzvah*, the giving of *Tzedakah*, or charity, to the poor.

Paper bags decorated with hand-drawn symbols of Purim (masks, *groggers*, and *hamantaschen*), filled with treats and sweets by the ever-Sunday-School-supportive Nettie Seder, are passed out to our children and adults as "*Mishloach Manot*," the giving of food as presents to friends and

neighbors. We fulfill the third *mitzvah*.

Last and most appreciated, after a morning of laughter and reading, shouting and singing, we celebrate with gusto the fourth *mitzvah*, the Festive Feast, or *Seudah*. Under Joyce Peckman's leadership, with the help of Erica's strategizing and the wonderful women



Sylvie is surrounded by her children, King Ahashverosh and Queen Vashti, otherwise known as Noah and Mikhaela.

resistance to terrific desserts, I wonder where the schnapps is. Surely some of our members were working hard to fulfill that extra commandment: "Drink until you can't tell the difference between Cursed be Haman and Blessed be Mordechai."

In President Bernie's words, "let there be children's plays and joyous celebrations like this every year." We look forward to more *mitzvah*-making.

(A teacher's note: After writing and producing KJCC Purimshpiels for the last ten years, I've learned this: it takes a village, or at the very least, a warm, committed *chevrah* of devoted volunteers. Fellow teacher Yardena Kamely always knows where scripts from prior years can be found, helps the students learn Hebrew blessings

and songs, and readily volunteers

Part of the appreciative Purimspiel audience of members and guests.

of Sisterhood bringing their classic favorite dishes to the table, we enjoy a wonderful dairy meal that truly is a feast.

Long after the children's play is over, drunk on sugar overload caused by lack of



Richard Knowles in costume beside The Narrator, daughter Moira.



Cole Silverman, at left, and Noah Bitton, right, surround the evil and despicable Haman, happily played against type by our decidedly non-evil and non-despicable president, Bernie Ginsberg.

to do "set décor."

Susan Gordon can be counted on to step in as costumer, comforter, script preparer, stand-in, or performer of whatever role remains unfilled due to last-minute illness or family crises. Parents do all that is asked of them. As for Joyce, bless her and her partner Leslie. They joined us ten years ago and said, "What? You don't read the *Megillah* on Purim?" With a gift of "*Megillat Esther*" booklets, they started us off on conscious Purim *mitzvah*-making. That first year there were six people sitting around the table and reading; the second year, there may have been a dozen. Now we can regularly count on a quadruple *minyan*. Bravo. Is it easy? No. Unless you think taking a drove of kittens for a walk is easy. But if happy memories are made that make our students fond of and familiar with their heritage, fond enough to continue participation as adults who will share the stories and celebrations with future progeny, it is worth the effort.) ◇



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Mazel Tov and Welcome, Jane and Richard, from all of KJCC.

The Conversion of Jane and Richard

by Yarden Kamely

We were all very excited. The formal Conversion ceremonies of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles began on Sunday, March 3 with the *Mikveh* ritual; they will continue with



two Shabbat services – March 15th and March 22nd, both Friday eve-

nings, and their first aliyah at the KJCC, on Saturday morning, March 16th. According to rabbinic law there

are three requirements for *Giyur* (conversion): *milah* (circumcision, for men), *tevilah* (immersion in the *mikveh*, the ritual bath) and *kabbalat ol ha'mitzvot* (accepting the yoke of the commandments).

On Sunday, March 3, on a wonderful but chilly (by Florida Keys standards) afternoon, a little troop of the KJCC made our way to the small beach at the back of the Library in Islamorada. Our current KJCC president, Dr. Bernie Ginsberg, past president Stuart Sax, Rabbi Agler, our Sisterhood president Barbara Knowles, and teacher Yarden Kamely were the witnesses in the *tevilah* ceremony con-

ducted by Rabbi Agler. Everybody was in such a good mood, happy, cheerful and excited. For some of us – other than Jane and Richard – it was the first time we were participating in a *giyur* ceremony. Before Jane and Richard entered into the *mikveh*, in this occasion the open water of the ocean, Rabbi Agler explained the meaning of *tevilah*: by immersing in natural, living water you change your



status, symbolically, spiritually. For the *ger/ giyoret* (converts), it is a spiritual

change; they enter the water as gentiles and after three complete immersions emerge as a Jewish person.

The *tevilah* started with Rabbi



Agler reciting: "*Adonai makor mayim chayim*, God is the fountain of living waters. You are here to immerse yourself in the *mikveh* as a sign that you have immersed yourself in the fate and faith of the People of Israel." Jane

and Richard then proclaimed together: “may this *tevilah* strengthen my commitment to the Jewish people and to the Jewish way of life. Amen.”

The following blessings were recited by Jane and Richard after the immersion: *Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al ha'tevilah*. We praise You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has hallowed us by *mitzvot* and commanded us concerning the immersion of *gerim*.

And we, all witnesses and *ger* (Richard) and *giyoret* (Jane) concluded the beautiful ceremony with a joyous: *Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu, vekiyemanu, vehigianu lazman hazeh*. We praise You Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this joyous time. ◇

Conversion night at Bet Breira

Jane, Richard, Rabbi Aklepi and supporters from KJCC

by Joyce Peckman

On March 15th, thirteen of us showed up for Friday night dinner at Bet Breira in Miami. Rabbi Jaime Aklepi welcomed everyone warmly and brought us to the social hall. We felt like an extended family gathering around the large, circular table: Moira and Harry with their parents, Yardena, me, Susan Ellner, Lee Schur, Jules and Nettie and of course “grandma” Pauline. Our table, the biggest, held a substantial percentage of those in the room. On each table were a pair of candlesticks, bottles of wine and grape juice and a challah. Shabbat began with our own Jane Friedman kindling the Sabbath candles. As she spoke the prayer in her clear, sweet voice, we were all aware of the significance of that act for her. The light of the candles was mirrored by the glow of her face and shining eyes. Then

Richard Knowles poured the wine, joined in singing the Cantor’s magnificent Kiddush and led our motze. The Rabbi and Cantor then asked all children to stand next to their parents, and led as Steve and Jane Friedman, and Richard and Barbara Knowles, joined the other parents in the traditional blessing of their children. We truly felt the spirit of a family Shabbat. We could see Jane’s and Richard’s nervousness melt away as they absorbed our support. It seemed that we could see their confidence grow before our eyes. This was their moment.

We were joined by the Steinbocks and Polacks as we entered the lovely synagogue. There was a full house, because, to our surprise, the third-grade Hebrew class was leading the service. Mid-service, Rabbi Aklepi called Jane and Richard up to the Bimah, introduced them and Yardena to the congregation, welcomed all of us, and explained what was about to occur. She asked Jane and Richard several questions affirming their commitment to Judaism, to which they answered firmly, “Yes.” Together they opened the ark and recited the Shema. Then Rabbi Aklepi



Friday evening, March 15th saw the formal introduction of Richard and Jane – by the rabbi who converted them, Rabbi Jaime Klein Aklepi (seated at left in the photo) – as new and full-fledged members of the Jewish community. As the photo shows, a number of KJCC members made the trip to Beit Breira in Miami to offer their support. Yardena Kamely, seated *kveling* next to Rabbi Aklepi, was teacher and guide for both throughout the long and difficult process.

blessed them. For Richard, that was the most powerful moment. (Barbara, sitting next to me, was beaming.) For Yarden, it was seeing them in front of the open ark, honoring the Torah. As Jane said later, "Now I belong." The feeling that she had experienced after the mikvah was reinforced. "It wasn't cold. It was warm and right. I finally found what I have searched for, for so many years."

The rabbi handed them their certificates and introduced their new Hebrew names. Jane is *Bina* (which means understanding) and Richard is *Avichai Yisrael* (taken from "the Lord is my strength"). Then each gave a statement describing their journey to the Jewish faith. These two reserved, soft-spoken people addressed the large audience clearly and eloquently. (They will have repeated those speeches at the KJCC by the time you read this.)

Rabbi Aklepi then addressed the students and congregation. It is a privilege to welcome these two into our faith, she said. There are now two more who will carry on our heritage, a heritage that too many take for granted, that for these two is a living tradition. The children there to lead the service could now see Judaism in a new light, through the eyes of two adults who *chose* the faith that they were born into.

We were honored to be part of it. ◇



After their conversion ceremony on Friday, March 15th in Miami, Richard & Jane were called to the Torah for an *aliyah* at KJCC for the very first time on Saturday morning, March 16th, by Rabbi Richard Agler, during his Torah Learning Service. For the first time as fully committed Jews, both read directly from the Torah. Their new congregation listened, smiled and then applauded.

The March 3rd mikveh photos and March 16th Shabbat service photos were all shot by Barbara Knowles.

A Resounding Success of a Shabbat Dinner on March 8th.

It had been a year since we'd last invited our advertisers to join us for a sumptuous dinner. We had a rash of new members who hadn't yet gotten the full sense of KJCC, that we're a community as much as we are a synagogue. Bernie had just become president, so it was time to celebrate that plus thank Stuart for two years of hard work. What to do? The solution, as you see, was to have one of our potluck dinners. As it turned out, possibly the largest one we've ever had. Over 100 people sent back a "yes" R.S.V.P. You'll get a sense of the energy in the photos. We even had about 70 stay for services after dinner, a crowd we almost never see here except for High Holy Days. The food was amazing (possibly a record number of members brought dishes) and Bernie wowed the crowd as host and emcee. It was truly a special and nourishing night at KJCC.



It might have been the best-attended Kiddush ever at KJCC. Everyone, members and guests, waited and listened while our matriarch Pauline Roller and Marcie Orenstein lit the candles and said the prayers. It was officially Shabbat. Bernie then warmed up the crowd before dinner.







Our great appreciation to Carol Steinbock, Luzviminda Levine and Gloria Avner for the photos of our March 8th dinner.

Some highlights of our

March 8th Shabbat dinner

Perfectly catching the *zeitgeist*, David & Toby Goldfinger brought a large sheet cake that read: "Mazel Tov, Bernie and Todah raba, Stuart."

A retired couple from New York showed up at 7:45, looking for Friday night services. They walked in to find a huge crowd having dinner. After being warmly welcomed, they were led to the buffet table and urged to fill their plates. They looked at the food, and then the large crowd having a wonderful time, and asked innocently: "are all your Friday nights like this?"

There was so much food that this is the only dinner I can remember where even those at the end of the line could get a full helping of Linda's corn casserole pudding. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, even as people waited on line with their plates. After enjoying that dinner and camaraderie, I felt more confident about leading the service. – *Joyce*

We realized quickly when setting up the room that our typical serving pattern, three tables lengthwise with duplicate dishes on both sides so we could have two self-serve lines, wouldn't suffice. More than 30 people were bringing covered dishes. To use our typical system we'd have had to begin the tables out the social hall door and half-way up the hall. So we devised a system where we'd put dishes on both sides of the table and direct the line to go down one side of the tables – with signs, even – and then weave around the other side and back up. Neat and logical, right? Well, that lasted until Bernie announced that it was time to

eat. People immediately converged on both sides of the table and started filling their plates. Medina and I looked at each other and just shrugged. –*Sam*

I liked the moment when our oldest member and our youngest (age as well as membership longevity) lit the candles together. I liked the emblematic quality of the moment so much that I jumped out of my seat and snapped a photo of it. Past, present, future, and Bernie in the middle. We will go on.

I sat with an advertiser and know she loved it. The best thing? The best part of the evening was the *whole* of it, the abundance of food and participants, everyone relaxed and

smiling, appreciation all around, Bernie being Bernie and being loved for it, over 70 people staying for services. – *Gloria*

As we were setting up the KJCC social hall a few days before our March 8 dinner,

Medina decided that she didn't want to just put out the plastic utensils as we typically do. This dinner was to be special, so she decided that everyone would get utensils wrapped in napkins with a bow, like they'd get at catered affairs. (We were expecting over 100 people.) So she took all the plasticware home. She had guests, Tom and Jaye Shelby, who've been their friends for 40 years, since with two other couples they all shared a communal (one-bathroom) house in college. Carl and Tom and Jaye were forced to sit at Medina's table and wrap 120 sets of plastic forks, spoons and knives into a napkin and then tie each with a bow. The photo gives you a sense of the activity. If it's a little shaky it's because Medina couldn't stop laughing. ◇



The Tenth Annual Women's Seder at KJCC

by Gloria Avner

Our KJCC women and friends love the annual Women's Seder. And we love Rene Rose. So here we are – 56 women, all bringing the best cooking we can create, eager to raise money for a cause, and have a different, relevant Seder experience. The affair was a perfect match of new ritual slants on old ceremonies, created for a modern world in which women share equally in responsibility and honor. It is a creative task, straddling old and new worlds. This year we coupled our unique yet traditional Seder, focusing on the feminine aspect of God, *Shechina* or *Yah*, with an outpouring of affection and respect for a soft-spoken but powerful hero of our own.

Beth presented 2013 Honoree Rene with a handmade pottery cup. Linda Pollack introduced Rene beautifully, and Rene told us

about herself in her usual warm, modest, and gracious way. Her tribute to her husband of 58 years, Skip, was touching. Joyce made a lovely presentation about our other honoree, long-gone but a heroic worker and advocate for the rights and needs of women less fortunate than herself, Rebecca Gratz. (Known for her intellect and beauty and tireless work on behalf of Jewish indigents, Rebecca Gratz was descended from one of the Grandee families, the first 24 accidentally deposited on New Amsterdam in 1624. She founded the very first Jewish day school, in Philadelphia. She so captivated Sir Walter Scott that he modeled

Rebecca, the "jewess" in *Ivanhoe*, after her.)

Kudos to Beth Kaminstein for hosting us once again at her pottery studio, making mugs relating to our mothers.

For co-ordination of all things to do with food, many thanks to Erica Lieberman-Garrett; the rooms were gorgeous, food presentation effective, and the seating arrange-





the receiver of services. After "grace" and the fourth cup of wine, the only child present, Rachel Levine, found the *afikomen*.

The Seder

was complete and Erica allowed the eager hordes to partake of a vast array of desserts (the perennial favorite: Suzi Feder's dark chocolate Matzoh bark



ments perfect. Marcia Kreitman did an excellent job continuing the name-project tablecloth, and Joyce and I led a meaningful Seder, enjoyed by old hands and newcomers alike. As a leader, one of my favorite parts happens when we read a beautiful passage or poem together and the voices blend perfectly, as if one person were speaking, an independent organism. We are one and many at the same time.

Our *Tikkun Olam* project this year, money raised for "world repair," will be divided among KJCC's Sara Cohen Tzedakah Fund, the Keys Cancer Foundation, and Take Stock in Children. Each of the organizations operates locally and donates every penny contributed to



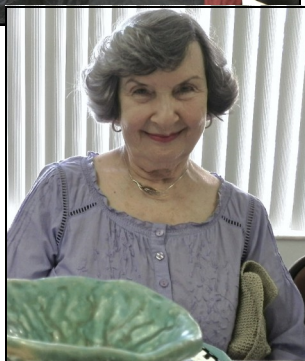
- and its new peppermint-candy-flavored cousin). We left full



and happy. Many thanks to the timely arrival of Rabbi Ed's visiting Hillel Scuba group, who used their youthful spring break energy to help us put back the tables and chairs. They even vacuumed the floors, cheerfully. *Dayenu!* ♦



Our great appreciation to Holly Padgett, Luzviminda Levine and Mary Lee Singer for the fabulous Women's Sender photography.







Woman Of The Year, the Wonderful Rene Rose

*The Text of Linda Pollack's Introduction
to the Women's Seder Honoree for 2013.*

Our own Rene Rose. Our very own Sunshine Lady. Tonight we are honoring Rene by naming her Woman of the Year for the 2013 Women's Seder. Just last week, Voices for Florida Children awarded Rene

their Above and Beyond Award. And three years ago, at the KJCC's 30th Anniversary Gala Event, we awarded Rene the Joel S. Cohen Award, which is a tremendous honor given to those who have dedicated themselves to the wellbeing of the KJCC. It was presented to her in recognition of the tireless, often undisclosed and unheralded work

that she does for the KJCC. Those who have received Rene's flowers, cards, baskets and goodies know that

the Sunshine Committee has that name for a very good reason.

Rene does more than make wonderful baskets. She and Skip personally deliver whatever they can to anyone within as much as a 75-mile radius of the Florida Keys. They have been known to appear in hospitals up and down the southeastern coast of Florida, bringing bright gifts and bright eyes every

where they visit.

Rene would be described as a quiet person, but I will tell you personally that if you need something done, she will be there in a flash to help. And so she has worked tirelessly as Financial Secretary on the KJCC Board for several years, stepping in wherever and whenever needed. She has worked tire-

lessly on the Board of the Voices for Florida Keys Children organization for many years, and she has worked side-by-side with Skip at Rotary Club functions, helping to raise moneys for the many scholarships which Rotary provides to our children.

And shall I add that she is an Ace Mah Jongg Player!

Rene was born in Bradley, Illinois, a very small



town south of Chicago. She had two brothers and two sisters, and was the baby of the family. After

finishing school, Rene and a friend went to the Big Apple, New York, and enrolled in flight attendant school. During that time, Rene supported herself by working at FAO Schwartz and Schraft's. Upon graduation she was promised a job with Eastern Airlines when she turned 21. Being only 19, she returned to Illinois and took up once again with Skip, who she had dated before moving away.





Rene and husband Skip at the KJCC Family Seder in April of 2010.



At age 19, Rene eloped with Skip to Buffalo, where they lived for seven years. She will tell you that the most important person in her life is her husband, Skip, who has been there for her always. They will be

married 58 years come June. They have three children: Della, who is the best daughter ever, boys Steve and Jonathan, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

They then moved to Oak Forest, a Chicago suburb, to raise their children. When they were grown, the boys were in the Keys; Skip and Rene came to visit, loved it



Rene receives the 2010 Joel S. Cohen Award at the KJCC 30th Gala from then-President Alan Beth and Joel Cohen Award Chairman Bea Graham.

Beth Kaminstein honors Rene as Woman Of The Year with a piece of Beth's prized pottery. A more conventional form of congrats takes place at right.



here, and this was their next move.

Rene tells the story of coming here alone, seeing a house she liked, and calling Skip to say she wanted to buy it and move here. Skip okayed it and a new phase in their life opened up. They settled in and Rene went to work at Ocean Reef, Skip at Holiday Inn. Upon retirement, Rene joined the KJCC mah jongg group and KJCC Board, and Voices, and became a volunteer in every aspect of the word.

Everyone who has been fortunate enough to cross paths, or shall I say join paths, with

Rene, knows her as the bright and dedicated, trustworthy, kind and caring friend, wife, mother and great-grand-mother to her family. And to all of us. ◇

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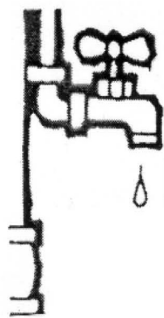
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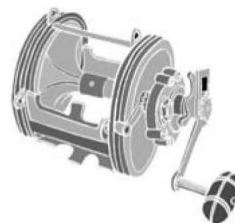
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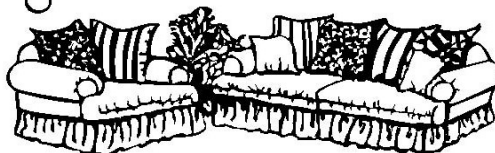


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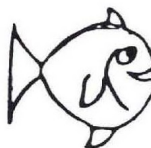
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