

# Chai~Lights



November 1 - December 31, 2023

17 Cheshvan. - 19 Tevet 5784

**We Remember Tomar Gross – Page 17**  
**Rabbi Agler on Crisis in Israel – Pages 19-20**  
**A Kenya Experience, Part 2 – Pages 23-26**  
**Eye on The Arts – Pages 32**



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></p>			1 NOV	2	3 Erica Lieberman Garrett & Andrea Grace <i>Kathy &amp; Joe Shabathai</i>	4
5 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC & Zoom 10 a.m. Sunday Funday Game Day 2 p.m.	6 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	7 Rosh Chodesh Kislev	8 Challah Bake 5:30 p.m.	9	10 Shabbat Dairy Dinner 6 p.m. Cantor Jodi Rozental & Ken Atlas, d'var by Art Itkin. <i>Michael &amp; Lorena Kaufman</i>	11 Veteran's day
12 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	13 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Rivka Rizzo <i>Gloria Avner</i>	18
19	20 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 Erica Lieberman Garret & Medina Roy <i>Roy &amp; Elizabeth Pollack</i>	25
26	27 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	28	29	30 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	1 DEC Rivka Rizzo <i>Steve &amp; Jan Hartz</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC & Zoom 10 a.m. Sunday Funday Game Day 2 p.m.	4 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	5	6	7 First Night of Hanukkah	8 Hanukkah Dinner Dairy Pot Luck 6 p.m. Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Susan Gordon</i>	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	11 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	12	13 Rosh Chodesh Tevet	14	15 Randy Klein Gross <i>Sisterhood</i>	16
17	18 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22 Joyce Peckman <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	23
24	25 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	26	27	28	29 Gloria Avner <i>Nadine Thompson</i>	30
31 New Year's Eve	<p><b><i>Watch Presidents Message for Additional Activities in December!</i></b></p>					

## 2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the  
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**Keys Jewish Community Center**  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



Now that the high holidays are over, life is slowly returning to normal. I have a knack for understatement. And of course I'm using it here.

Things have actually continued to stay hectic. But I'll get to that later. First, I'd like to address the past.

I'm sure everyone heard I got Covid just in time for our main event. It was really hard to be away for both Rosh Hashanah and our dinner. But thanks to the efforts of many, all of the elements of the dinner were brought to my apartment north of Homestead, and left outside my door. I might have been Covid positive, but it didn't affect my sense of smell, taste, or appetite. So thank you Sisterhood. Perhaps the matzah ball soup healed me quicker.

My absence, though annoying to myself, was a testament to the leadership we have at KJCC. Michael Kaufman stepped up, and made sure the ship was steered. VPs, Ritual co-chairs and Sisterhood helped in many ways. Thanks to zoom, I was still able to be

a part of Rosh Hashanah.

Thankfully I was well enough to return for Yom Kippur. And I truly feel our high holidays services and experience are getting better every year. It was great to hear the cantor chant, and of course, this years fast talk was epic. It also didn't hurt that we got to incorporate Jimmy Buffet into our study.

Now of course my attention is very much on the events of Israel and the conflict in Gaza etc. I firmly support Israel doing whatever it needs to do to survive. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

On October 13th, I led a special service in support of Israel. I felt it important to show our support and to reaffirm that us at KJCC and Jewish people around the globe, remain strong.

I also want to reiterate the need for us all, even in the keys, to remain vigilant. Key Largo is generally safe, but a threat could come from anywhere, especially with Hamas calling for violence everywhere. Stay Safe. ◇

# WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER, 2023

Every Monday	2 p.m. – Drop-in Zoom Chat Contact Steve Hartz to be added to mailing list.
Friday, Nov. 3	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garrett & Andrea Grace
Sunday, Nov. 5	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC and on Zoom 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day with Cheryl & Jeff Margulies
Weds., Nov. 8	5:30 p.m. Challah Bake at KJCC – RSVP Joycepeckman@gmail.com
Friday, Nov. 10	6 p.m. Shabbat Dairy Dinner – Shabbos Project! Contact Erica hippiejap@hotmail.com to RSVP and coordinate your dish. 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Musical Service led by Cantor Jodi Rozental & Ken Atlas D'var by Art Itkin.
Sunday, Nov. 12	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Nov. 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo
Friday, Nov. 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Erica Lieberman Garret & Medina Roy
Thursday, Nov. 30	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club
Friday, Dec. 1	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo
Sunday, Dec. 3	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC and on Zoom 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day with Cheryl & Jeff Margulies
Friday, Dec. 8	6 p.m. Hanukkah Dinner – Dairy Pot Luck 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Dec. 10	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Dec. 15	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein Gross
Friday, Dec. 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman
Friday, Dec. 29	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Gloria Avner

## ONEG SPONSORS

Nov. 03	Kathy & Joe Shabathai Celebrating Kathy's Birthday	Dec. 01	Steve & Jan Hartz
Nov. 10	Michael & Lorena Kaufman	Dec. 08	Susan Gordon Celebrating Rhett's Birthday
Nov. 17	Gloria Avner Celebrating Her Birthday	Dec. 15	Sisterhood
Nov. 24	Roy & Elizabeth Pollack Celebrating Will's Birthday	Dec. 22	Steve Steinbock
		Dec. 29	Nadine Thompson



# NOSH

## Sisterhood Book Club

Looking for readers and listeners: Sisterhood book club is an informal group that meets for light lunch in members' homes, with a few people zooming in from around the country. Sometimes the books are Jewishly historical, often just a book that somebody liked and recommended. Sometimes they give us food for deep thought, sometimes just food for smiles. Sometimes the books are springboards for personal memories. We welcome anyone, even if they are not KJCC members; even if they haven't finished the book. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 30th at 12:30 in the home of Elaine Schulberg. We will discuss *The Plot*, a *New York Times* best-selling thriller by Jean Hanff Kurelitz. We will take a break for December, meeting again the final Thursday in January to discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr.

## The Shabbos Project Dinner

The Shabbos Project is an international grassroots movement, begun in South Africa, that brings together Jews of all types from over 100 countries to celebrate Shabbat in a spirit of global unity. In this most difficult time for the Jewish world, it is a chance to renew Jewish family and community life. The goal is to, on this Shabbat, wear our precious heritage as a badge of honor. On this Shabbat, we try to lay down the demands of everyday life and rediscover the gift of Shabbat. At KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam we will celebrate with a Friday night pot luck dairy/ fish dinner on November 10th, followed by a musical shabbat service led by Cantor Jodi Rozental and Ken Atlas. To RSVP and coordinate your dish, contact Erica Lieberman Garrett by November 5th at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com). There will be no charge for this potluck meal, thanks to our sponsors, the Kaufman family. See flyer on page 18.

## Challah Bake

As part of the Shabbos Project, Jane Friedman will again lead us in baking our personal challahs. We will meet at KJCC on Wednesday, November 8th at 5:30 p.m. Sisterhood will provide the ingredients; you bring one or two cookie sheets, a large bowl, measuring spoons and cups. We will also provide wine, cheese and fruit for the bakers. You bake the challah at home, and hopefully most of us will bring a finished product to share at the Friday night dinner. See the flyer on page 16.

## Hanukkah Party

The first light of Hanukkah will be lit at sunset on Thursday, December 7th. Join us on Friday at Congregation Ohr HaYam to light the second light at our pot-luck dairy dinner on December 8th. There will be lots of latkes! And singing, and much more. Come to the Sisterhood meetings to help plan. Erica is coordinating. See the flyer on page 14.

## Artist Alert: News from the Gift Shop

Susan Gordon is working with our KJCC artists to give the shop a new look and purpose. Now you can purchase mezuzahs made with lion fish spines by Randy Klein-Gross, colorful earrings by Jeff Margulies, and recycled water bottles from Rabbi Ed's Tik-kun HaYam. Soon there will also be greeting cards by Gloria Avner. The Synagogue will get half the proceeds. Share your ideas, and buy from the shop.

## Homeless Memorial On Winter Solstice

The Memorial Service to remember our neighbors who died while homeless this year will take place on December 21st at noon at Settler's Park in Tavernier. We will proceed as is tradition for us. Invited by Reverend Pam Feeser, Ohr HaYam congregants will recite the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead, and the beautiful poem "We remember them."

## Keep On Learning: Get Scholarships

Note from Scholarship Committee: if you or your child has gone through our Sunday School System and been Bar or Bat Mitzvahed with us, we encourage you to take advantage of further education opportunities. It might be a summer internship, a course of specialized training in your field, a work/study program in a foreign country, or something we haven't thought about yet. Write to Gloria Avner with your questions or ideas. [Geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:Geetavner@gmail.com)

## Hebrew Learning Opportunity with Ira Lack

We believe in supporting our advertisers. Ira Lack has a lot of clients for his monthly long distance cleanup and maintenance service of PC computers. He also teaches beginning conversational Hebrew, in groups or in private sessions. You can call Gloria, or call Ira directly at 305-896-0833.

## More Art from the Hood

Go visit another advertiser, Our Place in Paradise (MM 88.7) to see Paintings(Gloria) Photography (Jan Hartz) and pottery (Barbara Bernstein and Medina Roy). We are a truly creative community (and it's a gorgeous, nonprofit, helping oriented gallery. ◇

## ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

**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 Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

**CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429 or email [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com), for rates.

**GIFT SHOP:** We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305-393-1351, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

**ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR:** : To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Loni Padden 305-772-2584 or email at [dr.padden@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.padden@yahoo.com).

**CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations, condolence card, or phone call from the KJCC, call Lonie Padden, 305-772-2584, or email [dr.padden@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.padden@yahoo.com).

**TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 305-587-7429 or [lindap4000@ymail.com](mailto:lindap4000@ymail.com). Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com). 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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

### HOW CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CAN INSTANTLY BECOME PERMANENT, LIVING MEMORIALS

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

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

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

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

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## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023

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### Yahrzeit

Jamie & Laura Goodman.....H. Melvin Berkon  
Marshall & Myra Kaplan..... Leonard Roberts  
Larry & Dorothy Wolfe .....Phillip Fine

### Unrestricted

Stephen Steinbock ..... In Memory of Beth Hayden  
Samuel Knowles..... In Memory of Beth Hayden  
Rich & Mindy Agler .. In Honor of Barney Coltman's  
Hospitality & Generosity  
Ken Atlas ..... In Memory of Beth Hayden  
Melissa Katz-Fusco  
Roz.....In Memory of Tomar Gross  
Linda Pollack.....In Memory of Tomar Gross

### — D&D DONATIONS —

### Yahrzeit Plaque

Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

### Rabbi & Cantor

Wes & Rita Conklin  
Paul & Barbara Bernstein  
Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver  
Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

### Security

Paul & Barbara Bernstein

### Yizkor

Mary Lee Singer  
Marshall & Myra Kaplan  
Judith Weber  
Beth Kaminstein  
Wes & Rita Conklin  
Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

Robert & Adriana Sherman  
Paul & Barbara Bernstein  
Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver  
Frank Rose  
Gerri & Frank Emkey  
Richard & Sheila Steinberg  
Melissa Katz-Fusco  
Yardena Kamely

### Tzeddakah

Paul & Barbara Bernstein  
Richard & Sheila Steinberg

### Scholarship

Beth Kaminstein  
Paul & Barbara Bernstein

### Tikkun Olam

Paul & Barbara Bernstein

### Other

Orlando Quesada ..... Sisterhood  
Mary Lee Singer ..... In Memory of  
Robert W & Jon R Singer  
Wes & Rita Conklin..... Sisterhood  
Susan & Paul Roberts ..... Sisterhood

### Unrestricted

Joe & Linda Levi  
Wes & Rita Conklin  
Michael Klimpl  
Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver  
Susan White  
Melissa Katz-Fusco

*Continued...*



# Birthdays

## November

2nd..... Brian Boruszak  
2nd..... Jeremy M. Schur  
2nd..... Matt Temkin  
3rd ..... Katherine Shabathai  
4th ..... Zoey Barrett  
7th ..... Joel Stein  
7th ..... Michele Lindenbaum  
8th ..... Melissa Katz-Fusco  
8th ..... Nico Wilbur  
11th ..... Cathy Dutton  
13th ..... Kevin Cheatham  
13th ..... Linda Kaplan  
13th ..... Marilyn Greenbaum  
13th ..... Tami Antelman  
14th ..... Larry Wolfe  
14th ..... Rae Wruble  
15th ..... Nora Brennan  
16th ..... Lorelei Alexander  
18th ..... Diana Loi-Kamely  
18th ..... Ross Alexander  
19th ..... Michael E. Schur  
20th ..... Betty Small  
22nd..... Gloria Avner  
22nd..... John Luis Greenbaum  
24th ..... Will Travis Pollack  
26th ..... John Douglas Greenbaum  
28th ..... Nicole Hudson  
29th ..... Benjamin Rakov

## December

1st..... Rachel Levine  
3rd ..... Ashley Berk  
3rd ..... Cammie Berk  
4th ..... Jan Hartz  
4th ..... Judith Klein

5th ..... Geri Smith  
5th ..... Joseph 1 Beth  
5th ..... Stuart Sax  
6th ..... Haley Borisoff  
6th ..... Leslie Boruszak  
7th ..... Franklin Rose  
7th ..... Gary Grossinger  
7th ..... Rhett William Casey  
7th ..... Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum  
9th ..... Jacob Grossinger  
10th ..... Susan Greenbaum  
11th ..... Oran Hesterman  
11th ..... Sara Rose Friedman  
13th ..... Robin Margulies Juenger  
13th ..... Sarah Boruszak  
16th ..... Diana Lal  
16th ..... Samuel Klimpl  
17th ..... Bruce Forman  
17th ..... Lilian Forbes  
18th ..... Emelyn Anne Juenger  
18th ..... Jerry Small  
19th ..... Jonah Gross  
19th ..... Lorena Kaufman  
19th ..... Terry Willner-Tainow  
22nd..... Laura Molly Friedman  
22nd..... Lisa Miller  
22nd..... Stuart Smith  
26th ..... Steven Smith  
27th ..... Claire Tallent  
27th ..... Steve Kasinof  
28th ..... Elaine Schulberg  
28th ..... Emily Sherman  
28th ..... Len Levi  
28th ..... Michael Klimpl  
29th ..... Joan Stark

*In Memoriam – November 2023*

**Eugene Agler**

By Richard & Mindy Agler

**Jacqueline Berger**

By Lynn Dils

**David Kamely**

By Yarden Kamely

**Fanny Kluger**

By Nancy Kluger

**Benjamin Margulies**

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

**Murray Pincus**

By Linda Pincus

**Hilda Dacosta**

By Rivka Rizzo-Trent  
& Max Gordon Trent

**Elaine Ruda**

By Sylvia Berman

**Lillian Skolnick**

By Susan Gordon

**Esther M. Klein**

By Harvey & Judith Klein

**Ethel Hankin**

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

**Adele Kaufman**

By Jeff & Lisa Miller

**Tillie Pollack**

By Linda Pollack

**Shirley Schulberg**

By Elaine Schulberg

**Harold Goldstein**

By Joan Boruszak

**Helene Tulsky**

By Patricia Isenberg

**Jacob S. Raub**

By Harvey & Judith Klein

**Ilse Doellefeld**

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

**Mitch Harvey**

By Linda Perloff

**Raymond K. Hess**

By Jan Price

**Albert Kaminsky**

By Elaine Schulberg

**Shirley Singer**

By Lee Schur

**Marianne Cimkowski**

By Stephen Steinbock  
& Rosemary Barefoot

**Harold Tainow**

By Jon S. Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

**Diana Wolfe**

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

**Florence Cohen**

By Jules & Nettie Seder

**Bertha Swartz**

By Muriel Swartz

**Samuel Tallent**

By Lillian Tallent

**Rose T. Steinberg**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

**Bernard Swartz**

By Muriel Swartz


**Kenny Temkin**

By Robert Temkin



In memory of  
Pearl and Stanley Goodman  
*From Jamie and Laura Goodman*





*In Memoriam – December 2023*

**Alex Avner**

By Gloria & Mark Avner

**Mildred Hesterman**

By Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz By Jon S.Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

**Frances Willner**

**Laurie Beth**

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

**Martin Segal**

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

**Janet Kaplan**

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

**Daniel Birnbaum**

By Norbert Birnbaum

**J.D. Stanlake**

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

**Kurt Kluger**

By Nancy Kluger

**David Pearlman**

By William & Donna Bolton

**Betty Abramson**

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

**Daniel Harvey**

By Linda Perloff

**Robert Scott Coltman**

By Barnet O. Coltman

**Julius Kohlenbrener**

By Joan Boruszak

**Ruth Greenwald**

By Paul & Susan Roberts

**Harry Friedman**

By Jane Friedman

**Morris Hitzig**

By Wes & Rita Conklin

**Sylvia L. Singer**

By Mary Lee Singer

**Leonard Hesterman**

By Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

**Alvin S. Gross**

By David & Patti Gross

**Peter F. Steinberg**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

**Ellen Prager**

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

**Jerry Levy**

By Yardena Kamely

**Evelyn Stockser**

By Sandy Kaplan

**Rose Beth**

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

**Dinah Levy**

By Yardena Kamely

**Gary Kreitman**

By Marcia Kreitman & John David Hawver

**Ivy W. Blumenfeld**

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

**Anita F. Katz**

By Melissa Katz-Fusco

**Claire Lempel**

By Linda Pincus

**Burton V. Boruszak**

By Joan Boruszak

**Deborah Krissel Cannon**

By Michael Krissel

**Raymond Martell**

By Frank Rose

**Eva Levine**

By Barnet O. Coltman

**M. Arlene Hess**

By Jan Price

**Steven Garfinkel**

By Betty Small

**Harry Wolfe**

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

**Rhonie Lee Klipper**

By Mary Lee Singer

**Steve Cimkowski**

By Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

**Murray Blinder**

By Steven & Barbara Smith



# Sunday Fun Day Game Day

Join your friends for an afternoon of game playing and camaraderie. We will meet at the KJCC on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Sunday November 5, 2023

Sunday December 3, 2023

Sunday January 7, 2024

Sunday February 4, 2024

Time: 2-4 p.m.



Games will be provided beginning with Mexican Train, 5 Crowns, Phase 10 and Wahoo. If you would like bring a different game, by all means do so.

Thank you to Jeff and Cheryl Margulies for facilitating this enjoyable activity. If you have questions or input, they can be reached at ~  
Cheryl 201-681-8182 [cherylmargulies@aol.com](mailto:cherylmargulies@aol.com)  
Jeff: 201-923-5013 [jazzy316jeff@aol.com](mailto:jazzy316jeff@aol.com)

Please RSVP to Susan Gordon so we can prepare for the day.  
[susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com)  
305-766-3585



## WORLD JEWISH REPORT

### Medina Roy



#### An Amazing Discovery

Archaeologists in Israel have discovered four Roman-era swords in an Israeli cave near the Dead Sea. They were discovered in early September, are estimated to be 1,900 years old and, according to the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), are surprisingly very well preserved. The swords – and the head of a javelin which was found alongside them – have not yet been carbon-dated, but the researchers think the artifacts came from a Jewish uprising against the Romans in the second century C.E. (Their findings have been published in a new book, *New Studies in the Archaeology of the Judean Desert: Collected Papers*.) “This is a dramatic and exciting discovery, touching on a specific moment in time,” says Eli Escusido, director of the IAA. “... the dry climatic conditions ... in the Judean Desert enable the preservation of artifacts that do not survive in other parts of the country.” An archaeologist at Tel Aviv University specializing in Roman military history, Guy Stiebel, has suggested that the items probably were not made locally. Instead, he believes they were likely forged in a faraway European province, traveling very long distances alongside their owners. “Each one of them can tell you an entire story,” Stiebel said. “They also reflect a much grander narrative of the entire Roman Empire. The fact that a small cave in a very remote place on the edge of the empire can shed light on that narrative is the greatest joy that the scientist can have,” he added.

Researchers believe that Jewish rebels seized the swords from the Roman army and hid them in the cave during the Bar Kokhba revolt, a Jewish rebellion against the Roman Empire that took place between 132 and 135 C.E. (And the last of the three Jewish uprisings against Roman rule; the first one led to the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. and basically ended with the Roman conquest of Masada.) In the end, despite some early military victories, the Bar Kokhba rebellion was doomed, despite its sanction by the sage Rabbi Akiva, who went so far

as to declare Bar Kokhba the messiah. Jews suffered heavy losses, the Romans having brought in legion after legion of reinforcements after the early Jewish successes, and in the revolt’s aftermath they were subjected to severe persecution and dispersion. (As a final humiliation, the Romans re-named Judea, henceforth calling it Palestine, a term derived from the ancient area of Philistia on the Mediterranean coast. Is it coincidence, or the re-cycling of history, that today Philistia is known as Gaza?) “Obviously, the rebels did not want to be caught by the Roman authorities carrying these weapons,” Eitan Klein, one of the directors of the Judean Desert Survey Project, said. “We are just beginning the research on the cave and the weapon cache discovered in it, aiming to try to find out who owned the swords, and where, when and by whom they were manufactured.”

The researchers came upon the swords purely by accident. They came to the cave to photograph a stalactite with an ink inscription in ancient Hebrew found 50 years ago. When they unearthed the swords, they were stunned by their discovery. “Finding a single sword is rare—so four?” said the researchers. “It’s a dream! We rubbed our eyes to believe it.” ([www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com), 9-8-23)

#### E. Coli to the Rescue?

Researchers in Israel recently announced a breakthrough in detecting land mines safely. How? By using bacteria. And not just any bacteria. The scientists have developed tiny pellet-sized biosensors based on *E. coli* – that’s right, the bacteria causing so many terrible intestinal infections. The biosensors are spread over the target area, where they “sniff” out the chemical signature of buried explosives and become luminescent. A drone then flies over, photographs them, and reveals the location of any land mine. “This project marks a breakthrough in the field of land mine detection,” said Gideon Lapidoth, CEO of Enzymit, a startup based in Ness

Ziona, a city in central Israel. (Enzymit's main focus is developing a cell-free production platform for cultivated meat and breast milk.) "This new biosensor is a game changer. It can be cheaply deployed anywhere in the world to safely detect a variety of hidden explosives and do so more accurately than current alternatives," Lapidoth said, adding that the "genetically engineered properties of E. coli cause the bacterium to die out shortly after deployment, ensuring it does not pose any human or environmental risk."

Our planet is currently littered with an estimated 110 million land mines, many of them left over from wars that ended decades ago. Land mines regularly kill or maim 5,000 people a year. Detecting and removing them remains a dangerous business. Enter Israeli science, practical and innovative as always. Their new biosensors can detect trace amounts of an organic compound that is produced by TNT explosives and leaks out into the surrounding earth. The E. coli-based biosensors can accurately locate unexploded ordnance from a distance, providing a safer and more efficient alternative.

Land mines and ERWs [explosive remnants of war] continue to present a clear and present danger to human life, with around 42 percent of those killed or wounded each year being children. The biosensors will first be deployed "in a limited operational capacity (not civilian) within the next year," the company announced. The research team is now working on adapting the biosensor to detect other forms of explosives, environmental toxins and hazardous chemicals. ([www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org), 9-20-23)

### **RBG Forever**

The United States Postal Service has released a new series of Forever stamps honoring Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the late Jewish Supreme Court justice who died in 2020. The stamp shows Justice Ginsburg wearing her black judge's robe and signature white collar. On its website, the USPS states, "She began her career as an activist lawyer fighting gender discrimination. She went on to become a judge who was unafraid to disagree with her colleagues. Ginsburg gained a reputation as a respected voice for equal justice." The stamp was celebrated at an official unveiling at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The RBG stamp costs \$.66 but will hold its value over time as part of the Forever series. The portrait was drawn by Michael Deas, who has painted dozens of stamps, under the direction of the USPS'

Jewish art director, Ethel Kessler. (Who knew there was such a position?) USPS's special edition stamps commemorating notable Americans have included many Jews, including the physicist Richard Feynman in 2005, cartoonist and inventor Rube Goldberg in 1995 and, in 1991, comedian Fanny Brice, the inspiration for the musical "Funny Girl." The series in which Brice appeared was drawn by the Jewish illustrator Al Hirschfeld. (Perhaps most famous for his pen-and-ink drawing of the legendary Algonquin Group.) Last year, the service released a special-edition stamp featuring the Jewish poet and iconic children's book author Shel Silverstein. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10-2-23)

### **Evidence Leaves Little Room for Doubt**

A recently discovered letter indicates the strongest evidence yet that Pope Pius XII knew about the Nazi extermination of the Jews as it was happening. The letter was sent in 1942 by Rev. Lothar Koenig, a German Jesuit priest, which informed the Pope of the mass murder of thousands of Poles and Jews at Belzec, a Nazi death camp in Poland. The letter was discovered by Giovanni Coco, Vatican archivist. Koenig's letter leaves little room for doubt about whether Pius knew of the slaughter of the Jews.

Pius' actions during the Holocaust have been the subject of debate for decades. While serving as a senior Vatican official before becoming pope, Pius signed a treaty with Nazi Germany. Later, as pope, he maintained a public silence as Italy's Jews were rounded up and deported to death camps. For years, many prominent Vatican historians have asserted that the pope was merely indifferent to the fate of Europe's Jews. But other scholars have argued that the pope was unaware of the full extent of Nazi war crimes and that he used secret back channels to get as many Jews as possible to safety.

Examination of Pius's actions intensified in 2019 when Pope Francis unsealed the Vatican's archives on Pope Pius, with Francis explaining that "the church is not afraid of history."

David Kertzer, Jewish Pulitzer-prize-winning historian of the Vatican during World War II said, "It was already well established that Pius XII had early reports of the Nazis' systematic efforts to exterminate the Jews of Europe." But he said the recently discovered letter is important because it adds detail to the historical record regarding what the pope knew. Kertzer added that the fact that the letter was made public indicates that it "is a sign that there are those in the Vatican eager to see the Vatican face

this history frankly.” ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 9–16–23)

### **A New Arrival in Israel**

In a previous issue of Chai-Lights, we reported on the Codex Sassoon Hebrew Bible, bought at auction in New York for \$38 million in May and donated to the ANU Museum (formerly known as The Museum of the Jewish People) in Tel Aviv. That sale makes the Bible the most expensive Jewish manuscript in history. The book was written by a single Jewish scribe on 400 pages of parchment about 1,100 years ago. (Every Bible is still, to this day, hand-written by a single Jewish scribe.)

There are now three books in the world that are recognized as complete Masoretic texts: the Aleppo Codex on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Leningrad Codex on display at a museum in St. Petersburg, and now the Codex Sassoon. According to the museum, the Codex was created in the region around where Israel and Syria lie today. “The 24 books of Tanakh (the Torah, Nevi’im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Sacred Writings)) embody the cultural and religious heritage of the Jewish people,” according to the museum’s website. “These make up the story of creation, the birth story of the people of Israel, the story of the covenant between Israel and God, the laws that God commanded of them, the moral teachings of the prophets, and the wisdom literature.” the ancient manuscript arrived in Israel from New York on a historic El Al flight, where the carefully packed book was placed in the cockpit for travel, considered the safest place on the plane. It was made available for viewing by the public on October 11th. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 10–6–23)

### **At 95, He Joins the Fight**

A 95-year-old has become the oldest Israeli reservist to put his paramilitary uniform back on and help the country fight Hamas terrorists. Ezra Yachin served as a combat soldier with Lehi, one of the underground paramilitary groups active during British rule who fought against the British and the Arabs to re-establish the Jewish homeland. He’s been called back up to motivate the IDF troops by telling them about his childhood in the years before Israel gained independence. Yachin told how Arabs killed Jewish citizens in the streets and were aided by British forces. He told of how the British prevented Jews from immigrating in many ways and that they did not prevent the Arabs who lived there from murdering the Jews. “The Jews in the Land of Israel understood that they had to defend themselves,” Yachin said in a 2021 interview with the IDF. “And

so they set up the underground organizations, one of them being the Lehi organization.”

Yachin joined Lehi and provided the group with vital information while also spreading the word about its cause. “It was essential to fight the British so that we would have a country with an effective way to defend ourselves against anyone who tried to harm us,” he explained. Yachin says he now dedicates his life to “pass on to future generations to come — to tell them about the price we had to pay for this land.” Yachin’s message to soldiers today is, “Don’t give up, not even now.” ([www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com), 10–10–23)

### **In Memoriam**

The 1,400 Israelis killed (as of 10/18/23) who were savagely and brutally murdered in Israel on Simchat Torah, Oct. 7th, 2023, by Hamas terrorists.

We offer our prayers for the safe return of the 200+ hostages being held at this time by Hamas.

### **Did You Know...**

- According to a recent report by the FBI, American Jews again faced far more hate crimes than any other religious group in 2022. There were 1,305 offenses committed against Jews. (Last year’s report showed 817 anti-Jewish criminal offenses.) The second-largest category was anti-Muslim crimes which totaled 205. Broken down into categories, there were 775 cases of anti-Jewish destruction, damage or vandalism of property; 358 cases of intimidation; 103 cases of simple assault; 38 cases of aggravated assault; and eight cases of larceny or theft. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 10–17–23)
- To mark the recent festival of Rosh HaShanah, Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) announced that there are currently 9,795,000 people living in Israel, a rise of close to 200,000 in the past year. Of those, 73 percent of the population is Jewish. Over 44 percent of those 20 years old and older consider themselves secular. The ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) comprise 10.8 percent. Twenty-one percent are Arab and six percent belong to other minority communities. Some 172,000 babies were born and 66,000 new immigrants arrived. About 48,000 people died.
- The population is expected to reach 10 million by the end of 2024 and then 15 million by the end of 2048 – 100 years after the founding of the State of Israel – and 20 million by the end of 2065. The data also indicated that there were 147 people killed in violent incidents in 2022. ([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 9–13–23) ◇





# KJCC Chanukah 5784

**Sisterhood**

**Chanukah Shabbat Dinner**

**Friday**

**December 8, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Dairy Dinner - Latkes!**

**Services at 7:30 pm**

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett by December 3rd.

[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com) 305-393-1162

to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish.

**Bring Your Own Chanukiah to Light!**

Dinner sponsored by  
Linda Pollack



No charge ~  
Donations Always  
Welcome



## SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman



**W**e can't say enough about how wonderfully the ladies of Sisterhood added to the joy of the High Holy Days. Erica is a masterful coordinator of menus and RSVPs. Susan, Donna, Loni and Jane set up the room beautifully, with cloth linens and napkins, silverware and fresh floral centerpieces. It was obvious that every dish was prepared with care and love. Each delicious offering was labelled on the buffet, and the overflowing table matched the good feelings that brought in the New Year. From the Erev Rosh Hashana dinner, to lunches after services, to the break-fast after Yom Kippur, we created a place where body and soul could be nourished. Thank you to all who contributed. A special thanks to young Lily Padden, who figured out how to get the chocolate fountain working for our Simchat Torah celebration.

Annual oneg requests were sent out in September. Our hope is that every member will sponsor at least one Oneg Shabbat, at the extremely low price of \$60. Thank you to those who responded, honoring multiple birthdays and other occasions. We still have many Fridays that are waiting for someone to take on the mitzvah of providing wine, challah and sweets. Contact Loni Padden at [dr.padden@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.padden@yahoo.com).

Our next events will be in honor of the International Shabbos Project, November 10th. As part of the Shabbos project, we will hold a challah bake at KJCC on Wednesday, November 8th at 5:30 p.m. Under the expert guidance of Jane Friedman, we will each create two challahs to bake at home. Sisterhood will provide the ingredients; each participant brings cookie sheets, a large mixing bowl, a kitchen towel to cover the bowl, measuring cups and spoons. RSVP to Joyce at [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com), so we bring enough flour. Then on Friday, November 10th we will hold a pot-luck Shabbat dinner featuring

fish and dairy (no meat). Thanks to Michael and Lorena Kaufman, who are sponsoring the dinner, there will be no charge. Erica Lieberman Garrett ([hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)) is the contact person, to coordinate your dish and take your RSVP.

Hannukah comes early this year. Save the date: Friday December 8th we will light two candles, and eat latkes for dinner at Congregation Ohr HaYam. Erica will coordinate that as well.

The Sisterhood book club continues to meet on Zoom, at 12:30 the last Thursday of each month; but now that many of us are returning to the Keys, we try to meet in homes as well. October was at the home of Linda Pollack, where we discussed "The Art of Hearing Heartbeats." The November book will be "The Plot" by Jean Hanff Korelitz. We will not meet during December. .

When you enter Congregation Ohr HaYam, the first thing you see is the small but lovely gift shop. We would like to take it in a new direction. Along with standard items, we would like to feature items made by our members. We have a lovely display of silver and Murano glass earrings made by Jeff Margulies, beautiful beadwork necklaces & earrings handmade by Tina Klein, and Star of David pendants and artistic mezzuzot created using lionfish spines by Randy Klein Gross. Gloria is bringing several of her creations to us upon her return to the Keys! Please take a look at the mezzuzot & yads made from recycled water bottles using 3D printing. They are designed by our friend and member, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, as part of his Tikkun HaYam efforts. If you have crafts you would like to donate or show on consignment, contact Susan at [susangordon424@yahoo.com](mailto:susangordon424@yahoo.com).

Wishing you a joyous Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah! ◇



KEYS JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
*Congregation Ohr HaYam*  
Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

## Challah Bake

Wednesday November 8, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to our very special challah bake, led by Jane Friedman.

Have your supplies at hand: Cookie sheet, large bowl, measuring spoons and cups. We will provide everything else.

RSVP to [Joyce Peckman@gmail.com](mailto:Joyce.Peckman@gmail.com) by November 3rd so we can purchase sufficient supplies.



# We Remember Tomar Gross

**T**omar Gross's influence on family, friends and the world was easy to see in the KJCC Sanctuary on the day we celebrated his life. Gone too soon, with two energetic and highly accomplished children in college, Tomar's passing drew a huge loving crowd of friends, family and community members from all over the country and the world, all sharing his love of diving, the ocean, and food. A nearly standing-room-only crowd spoke one after the other about his gifts, his generosity, his brilliance as an engineer/inventor of rebreathers, and of course, about his passion for sharing his cooking. When you combine the number of people participating in the sanctuary (nearly 80) with the number on zoom (over 70), we had a crowd for Tomar Gross greater than any for the High Holidays. That says it all.

Many people spoke but the evening started with a telling of Tomar's life story by Miami Hillel Director Josh Keller. Here is a small excerpt: (If you'd like to read more, contact [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com) and Gloria will happily send you the whole file).

Tomar became a SCUBA Instructor at PADI Headquarters 30 years ago. He was very proud that his instructor number only had 5 numbers, Randy's has 6, and Jonah's is 450,000 numbers later. Tomar's teen years included sailing, cycling long distances, cliff diving around San Diego, painting, doing ceramics, being an overall

daredevil, fixing up cars and much more. Tomar enlisted in the Navy at 17. He was a fireman on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, saving the entire ship from going down when a valve burst and he had to dive underwater in a sealed, flooding room with his team, seal the leak and save everyone. Tomar's entire team had passed out but because he was such a good free diver he was able to complete the mission. He was proud of his service and enjoyed the fact that he earned more medals than his father in three and a half years versus his father's lifetime service.



After the Navy, his aunt wanted him to go to Cordon Bleu in Paris so he could make her more amazing meals but he didn't want to be in the kitchen, he wanted to be underwater. He applied to PADI to become an instructor and went on to live and teach in Key Largo, Columbus Isle and Turks and Caicos and eventually become united with his fellow teacher and soulmate, Randy Klein, woman of many gifts and strengths, Vice-President of Congregation Ohr HaYam, with whom he created this loving family of Oceana, Jonah and Panda. Our hearts go out to them and their extended family. May Tomar's memory (and his menus) be a blessing (we can send you his recipes too). ◇



Please join us and be a  
part of the worldwide  
celebration of Shabbat ~  
**THE SHABBOS PROJECT**  
**Dairy/Fish Dinner!**

***SHABBAT SERVICE WITH CANTOR JODIE AND KEN ATLAS  
WILL FOLLOW DINNER AT 7:30 P.M.***

***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023  
6:00 P.M.***

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to reserve your spot and coordinate your dish.

Please reserve by November 5th.

hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162

Sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman

No Charge



# Thoughts on the Recent events in Israel

by Rabbi Richard Agler

**W**ar. Again. Heaven, and the IDF, help us. Perhaps not in that order. This war, yet-to-be-named, is something of a throw-back in the Middle East. It is transparently, morally, clear. A barbaric enemy attacked, tortured, raped, kidnapped, and murdered defenseless civilians. These are acts of pure evil. The rest is commentary.

Given the state of the world today, this will, sadly, need to be re-emphasized continually. But let there be no moral ambiguity. Behavior such as this is against the law of every civilized people, nation, and religion. If the world is going to allow this kind of conduct to go unpunished, it is going to be a world that none of us are going to want to live in.

Put another way, the world is filled with overflowing with problems, difficulties, and conflicts. Barbarism is the answer to none of them.

Hamas must have succeeded beyond their wildest expectations. Catching Isra-



el's vaunted security and intelligence services unawares, they had a field day slaughtering the innocents, often to the cry of "Allahu Akbar—God is Great!" A perversion if ever there was one, as countless other Muslims can attest. This was, by my reckoning, the third catastrophic intelligence failure in Israel's seventy five year history.

The first was the 1973 Yom Kippur War. The second was the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Now, "Black Saturday" in 2023.

Each of the three is united by a common, tragic thread. In the face of evidence that was as clear as day in retrospect, and should have been just as clear a priori, the security forces on duty concluded that "this was not the time" for an attack. In each case, the consequences of the error, and perhaps hubris, were monumental. How has this lesson not been learned? A reckoning will follow in due course.

Once again, this war is a throwback—certainly in moral terms. It makes crystal clear what has been a constant in the

Middle East since the late nineteenth century, namely, that too many Arabs reject the right of Jews to settle in their historic homeland—under any circumstances.

Note that these latest attacks were perpetrated entirely within the borders of pre-1967 Israel—some seventeen years after Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza. This was not about borders. This was not about a one-state solution vs. a two-state solution. This was murder with a message. And the message is: you live here only because we are not yet strong enough to kill all of you. Nice neighbors.

At the same time, to be honest with ourselves, we must acknowledge that Israel is neither without fault nor without sin. The conflict has been going on for more than a century and no one can be at war for that long without paying a moral price, making moral mistakes, or committing moral misjudgments. There is long-standing debate on these points both within Israel and around the world. Those debates will continue. But they are not the issue today.

We, who within our families’ living memories, have seen anti-semitism run rampant, endured pogroms, bombings, attacks, and Holocaust, know barbarism when we see it.

We remember, too, five Arab nations invading Israel on the heels of the United Nations partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab, in 1947. We remember the years of terrorism that followed, leading up to the 1967 attempt

by Egypt, Syria, and Jordan to “drive the Jews into the sea.” We remember, too, the Yom Kippur War, a similar attempt six years later, one that came all too close to succeeding.

There has been some progress in the years since. Peace treaties have been signed with Egypt and Jordan. Trade and diplomatic understandings have been reached with other countries in the region.

But unfortunately, the goal of a Judenrein Land of Israel remains alive. Iran, and its clients Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, along with Syria, remain bent on Israel’s destruction. We’ve now had a small taste of what that would look like.

Once again, the moral lines could not be more clear. Israel is fighting for the safety of her people. Israel is fighting against the forces of barbarism. Let us keep that uppermost in mind during what will certainly be difficult days to come.

It is impossible to predict how this will all unfold. It is safe to say, however, that it will get worse—and soon. Wars were once fought out of public view. Atrocities, and even just wars are filled with them, could once be covered up. No more. Hamas is holding some very high cards, the hostages and the fact that there is no easy way to militarily pacify Gaza among them.

As all of it unfolds, it is vital for all of us to keep in mind the moral equation that started it. And the moral equation that needs to prevail at the end of it.

I wish us all strength, courage, and clarity in the interim. Shalom. Salaam. Peace. ◇





# The Silver Platter

by Natan Alterman

*"The state will not be given to the Jewish people on a silver platter,"  
ran the saying popularized by Chaim Weizmann and attributed to him by Ha'aretz  
newspaper on December 15, 1947, soon after the UN decision to partition Palestine.*

*As war between the Arabs and the Jews approached in Palestine in 1948, the Poet  
Nathan Alterman put into words the tragic understanding of the sacrifices that everyone  
understood would have to be made for independence. These sacrifices were made by  
relatively few – mostly the young people who would defend Israel. The poem,  
the Silver Platter, appeared in Natan Alterman's column, "The seventh column"  
in Davar newspaper of December 19, 1947.*

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And the land grows still, the red eye of the sky slowly dimming over smoking frontiers  
As the nation arises, Torn at heart but breathing, To receive its miracle, the only miracle  
As the ceremony draws near, it will rise, standing erect in the moonlight in terror and joy  
When across from it will step out a youth and a lass and slowly march toward the nation  
Dressed in battle gear, dirty, Shoes heavy with grime, they ascend the path quietly  
To change garb, to wipe their brow  
They have not yet found time. Still bone weary from days and from nights in the field  
Full of endless fatigue and unrested,  
Yet the dew of their youth. Is still seen on their head  
Thus they stand at attention, giving no sign of life or death  
Then a nation in tears and amazement  
will ask: "Who are you?"  
And they will answer quietly, "We Are the silver platter on which the Jewish state was given."  
Thus they will say and fall back in shadows  
And the rest will be told In the chronicles of Israel



# Sisterhood Book Club

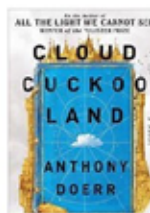


**Thursday, November 30, 2023** ~ *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz  
at Elaine's house

**Thursday, January 25, 2024** ~ *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr



*A thriller about a writer who steals a novel from his former student, who is wealthy, famous and praised. The Plot is a New York Times bestseller and a New York Times Notable Book*



*The novel centers around an Ancient Greek codex that links characters from fifteenth-century Constantinople, present-day Idaho, and a twenty-second-century starship.*

**We will always Zoom and sometimes meet in person as well. An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.**

**All sessions are at 12:30 p.m.**

**Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book.**

# A KENYA EXPERIENCE

## - PART 2 -

by Joyce Peckman

**W**e left Nairobi for the Great Rift Valley in a caravan of three modified Toyota Land Cruisers. The Great Rift is a deep cleft in the earth's surface about 4300 miles long running from Lebanon to Mozambique, that exists where the African tectonic Plate is very slowly splitting into two. The entire area is a mountainous plateau, so even the valley is about a mile high. For most of the way, the drive along the ridge above the valley was a two lane highway, clogged with trucks and motorcycles, and we witnessed some very scary passing. We stopped along the way at a lookout point, filled with tourists and aggressive shopkeepers. As we wound our way down the ridge, our guide explained that the valley is the breadbasket of Kenya. We saw the usual tiny shops, but also fields of corn and sisal (used for making rope) and carnations. On the wide grassy areas next to the highway, we often saw people with herds of sheep, cows and goats. We saw very few cars outside of cities; most people walk or use motorcycles.

Our first stop was at the farm home of Hannah and Dr. David Silverstein. He is an eminent cardiologist who came to visit Kenya 40 years ago and remained. He became the President's personal physician, as well as the head of cardiology in Nairobi. He is also past president of the Nairobi Synagogue. His fascinating life story will soon come out in a memoir. Although he lives



**Herds are a common sight along the road.**

in Nairobi, they have an organic farm at his estate, a lush, landscaped oasis in a dry reserve in the Rift Valley.

His wife, a retired trauma nurse, manages the farm. They sell the eggs to a grocer and either use or give away the vegetables. They keep kosher, and fresh vegetables comprise most of their diet. They welcomed us graciously and walked us through their lovely art-filled home to the expansive gardens, where they joined us for a truly delicious lunch, provided by an Israeli caterer.

A long drive took us to Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort. The lodge has about 70 rooms stretched out in a row of little fourplex cottages along a path. After dark, you must be accompanied by a security worker with a flashlight and stick, to reroute you in case of hippos, which are known to viciously attack and kill people. I saw no hippos, but zebras and waterbuck wandered the lawns. The group took a morning



**With Dr. David Silverstein and his wife Channah, (to the right of Rabbi Agler) at their home.**



**Rich & Mindy Agler at the equator.**



**Average roadside shopping area with “hotels.”**

boat ride on the hauntingly quiet lake.

We traveled north past the city of Nakuru to the equator. On maps we see a line, but I never imagined the equator to be an actual physical line. Yet there was a sign at an actual place marking an invisible scientific magnetic line! Using a pitcher, a bowl with a hole in it and a stick, a woman demonstrated how water swirls clockwise when she stood north of the equator and counterclockwise when she moved south of the equator. Then she performed the same experiment on the equator line, and the stick didn't swirl at all! She told us that climbing vines twist in different directions north versus south of the equator, as do hurricane winds.

After extricating ourselves from the persistent peddlers, got back on the vehicles and backtracked to Lake Nakuru National Park, where on a long looping drive, we saw masses of flamingos, giraffes, lone hyenas, and groups of water buffalo. We paused to watch a group of zebras, gazelles and



**Zebras share the hotel grounds at Lake Naivasha.**

baboons grazing and playing together, until a bunch of baby baboons decided to use our Toyota as a jungle gym. We spent the

night at Sarova Lion Hill Lodge.

On our way to Masai Mara National Reserve we traveled past expansive fields, more herders on the roads, and many small “towns.” I asked about the ubiquitous “hotels” that were the size of storage sheds. Our guide explained that “restaurant” didn't translate well outside of large cities. Any place that serves coffee or food is a “hotel.”

Masai Mara in Kenya and Serengeti in Tanzania are adjacent national reserves. Animals travel freely across the border; people must pay a fee to enter and visit that park only. Local citizens pay far less than tourists. Once in the reserve, it was evident why we needed those strong, modified Toyota Land Cruisers with seatbelts. The “main roads” were of heavily rutted dirt, and leaving the roads onto trails, we some-



**Baboons playing on the vehicle.**

times had to cross dry or wet stream beds or onto the rocky, rough shoulder to avoid an oncoming vehicle. We witnessed a few standard four-wheel-drive vans that got stuck. The park is huge, with hundreds of narrow dirt paths going off in all directions. The guides know the park intimately and have CB radios to let others know what they have found. It is cool hearing them talk in Kiswahili over the radio, or pull up and roll down a window to exchange information.

Our hotel was in a central part of the huge reserve, which allowed us to go in a different direction each day. This is the part of the story where my words are insufficient. In three days of sometimes bone-jarring travel, we saw just about every animal on the check-list, some in the distance, some too close for comfort. I had been wrong...National Geo-



graphic on a big screen TV is not the same. As soon as we left the lodge for our first "safari", we saw a parade of mongoose, running and playing. Over the next three days, we saw amorous lions, cheetahs, cape buffalo, elephant families, a variety of antelope, giraffes nibbling at treetops, and lone ostriches. We saw a hyena feasting on a wildebeest carcass with buzzards and storks gathering, waiting for him to finish his meal. We saw dozens of hippos in a river, and learned they sometimes impose themselves between zebras and crocodiles. We watched a rhino taking a morning stroll.. until he turned to charge us. We learned that wildebeest and zebra travel together because the zebra are more intelligent with excellent hearing and vision to spot predators, so the wildebeest know when to run. But they are slower than the zebras, so they often become dinner while the zebra escape. Zebra babies are hard to spot because they are generally right next to their mothers, so all you see is an extra set of legs. No TV show can capture the experience of being surrounded with hundreds of thousands of zebra and wildebeest, meandering and grazing as far as the eye can see.

Some of us took a side trip to a Masai village, where the tribe lives much as they have for hundreds of years, except they no longer hunt lions. The money they make from welcoming tourists goes to pay for their children's secondary education. Some



**The Masai men enjoyed explaining their culture.**

go to college, many work in the tourist industry. Yet they all return home for holidays where they live in the traditional manner. Since it was vacation time, the young men were home, and enjoyed showing off their dance skills.

After three very full days, we returned to our hotel in Nairobi. Dinner was at the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation. There has been a small Jewish presence in Kenya since 1903, when a few Jews came from England and India to open shops near the new railway line.

There was a blacksmith and a baker. A few traded in ivory. A few started farms. In 1904 the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation was formed. (At about that time the sixth Zionist congress sent a small commission to investigate the possibility of setting up a temporary Jewish state in the Nakuru-Naivasha area of Kenya. Fortunately, they were scared away by stories of Maasai warriors and ferocious lions, and the 7th Zionist congress would not compromise on having a homeland in the area of Palestine.)

Soon the small community was joined by refugees from Russia who had settled in South Africa or America. In 1908 the small group, aided by donations from overseas, bought a large plot of land on what was then the western edge of the little dirt road town of Nairobi. The foundation stone was laid in 1912 by governor in a ceremony attended by all thirty of Kenya's Jews. It was the first synagogue in East Africa.

In 1938 the Kenya Jewish Relief Committee as-



**Lions at Lake Nakuru.**



**The Center - CDTD**

sisted German Jews in leaving to come and work on Kenyan farms. Some became successful farmers, coffee farmers or merchants; others joined the Kenyan army. After the war, most left but some stayed and thrived. They supported the Nairobi orchestra and the Royal Theatre. In 1955 a new larger synagogue was constructed to replace the old decaying



**The top of the Cruiser lifts up to allow for great viewing.**

one. Services were led by a combination of lay leaders (Dr. Silverstein is one of them) and visiting rabbis. But times have changed. What was once the edge of town is part of the gleaming business district.

The new young rabbi and his wife welcomed us and showed us around the walled compound. They live there, the only residents in the entire business district! They told us of their problems and successes. Some may sound familiar: active members becoming older and a largely transient, often secular Jewish population. The charter of the synagogue states that the services must be orthodox (in order to serve Jews from around the world) but many of the members are not.

The synagogue is beautiful, and the energetic orthodox rabbi is becoming known across the continent. I wish them success in uniting and reinvigorating the Kenyan Jewish community.

Our last stop in Nairobi was the vocational training center operated by the Center for Domestic Training and Development – the parent organization of the Talia Agler Girls Shelter. It has come a very long way from its beginnings, in the home of founder Edith Morugo. There is

now a large two story school that runs programs resulting in certification as nursing assistant, electrical technician, sewing and culinary arts in addition to homecare management. The classrooms have a variety of equipment, to enable graduates to work in different situations.

Edith's daughter, who is one of the administrators, showed us around and spoke candidly of their successes and challenges. Along with some TAGS graduates, the school accepts local adults, who pay half the tuition when they enroll and the rest over their first year of employment. They work with certified placement agents in Kenya but also Saudi Arabia, which pays significantly more, but the girls sometimes are not treated well.



**Edith's daughter, on right, showed us the classrooms.**



**Rhino.**

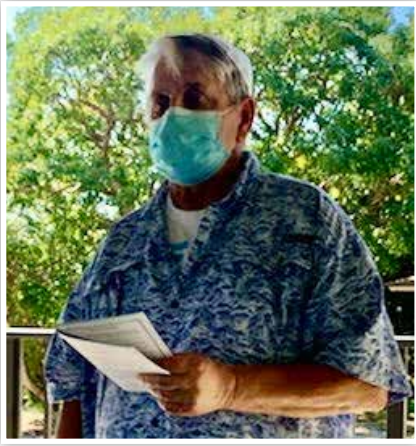
A highlight of the visit was meeting with a group of TAGS graduates who were either at this program, in college, or in the general community. They consider TAGS to be their family, and support each other. They spoke about their lives and aspirations. They are confident and grateful but there are still difficulties, such as a lack of personal computers for those in college.

I am proud that KJCC continues to support these girls.

I was just told that the TAGS center now has new mattresses, a gift from those of us who visited them in August. ◇



# PHOTO GALLERY



Steve Steinbock reads the poem “We Remember Them” from our Yizkor Book at last year’s Memorial to those who died homeless in the Florida Keys. Be among the KJCC participants this year and say Kaddish at Settlers Park, Tavernier, on December 21st, the shortest, darkest day of the year.



High Holiday Kiddush with Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin.

Joe Shabbathai leads a lovely Kiddush after a wonderful service.



Maria and son Binyamin did such good work helping decorate the Sukkah

Gloria Avner will be putting a collection is small glass handpainted ornaments and cards in our gift shop.



Joyce’s 18 year old grandson Yosef, at a yeshiva in Jerusalem, donating blood.



**Richard Knowles and Jane Friedman leading Kiddush after a lovely service**



**Great job, sukkah decorators! We appreciate you all: Jane, Joyce, Susan, Sean, Lily, Donna, Lorena, Maria, and picture taker Loni Padden, making a third mother/child decorator combo.**



**Sean and Lorena Kaufman love the Sukkah decorating process. How lucky we are to have multiple mothers and sons participating!**



**Thank you Rabbi Zucker for once again providing us with a beautiful lulav and Etrog.**

**Stuart Sax talks Veterans Day**





A great attendance at Rosh HaShanah dinner foreshadowed excellent attendance and participation throughout the Yamim nora'im ( the full ten "Days of Awe.")



Hearty welcome to new members Ken and Tonya Salomon and Daughter Lily.



So good to see mother daughter team Nadine Thompson, our Corresponding Secretary, and her mom Miriam Frankel, our oldest member, enjoying the holidays.



When the Padden family smiles, the room lights up. A special thank you to David for a good job with gabbai duties, assisting Cantor Dzubin during Torah chanting. Thank you also to Joe Shabathai for sharing those duties. Love the hair, Lili.



Sean Kaufman took this photo of Jonah Gross. Nice action shot, Sean.



Susan Gordon Cantor Dzubin and Joyce Peckman celebrate a well deserved, relaxed L'Chaim. Job well done. Big thanks to all who helped make High Holidays such a wonderful experience this year.



Thank you Linda Perloff for coming to celebrate with us and for bringing Sam and your world class ruggeleh.

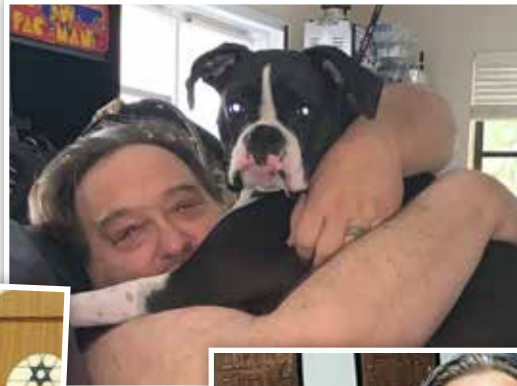


**Coach and player — Team Kaufman**

**Erica Lieberman Garrett outdid herself coordinating opening dinner and closing “Break the Fast.”**



**Mindy is so enjoying high Holidays with mishpocha, I think we all want what she is having.**



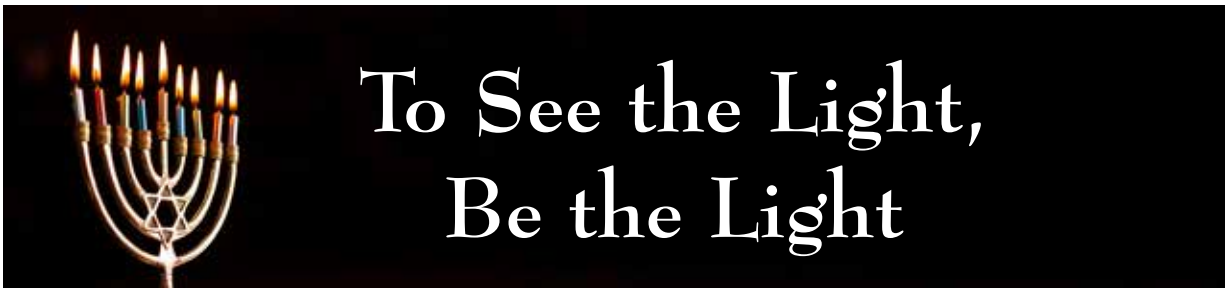
**We miss you dearly, Tomar.**



**Bless Randy Klein-Gross and her son Jonah, our expert Shofar blowers, for always being ready for a Tekiah Gidolah**



**Randy and Tomar Klein Gross**



# To See the Light, Be the Light

by Gloria Avner

**H**ave you noticed? Sunset is coming earlier every night. We retire to our caves. In a few weeks we'll reach a pivot point, the Winter Solstice, a day held sacred and mysterious by tribal peoples for thousands of years, longest darkness, shortest light. And then everything will change. The sun will begin its journey back to equilibrium of light and dark. For the next half year the light in our lives will increase, and at the Summer Solstice, we'll turn, turn and turn again. We've talked about life cycles and Ecclesiastes before. This year, one verse, "a time to be born, and a time to die" looms especially large for us.

We've lost many good friends this year – wives, husbands, fathers, moms, some in sudden, unexpected, startling ways, others after lingering illness. This year we grieve especially for all we lost on October 7th, in that display of darkness unmatched in modern history since the Shoah. The 1400 innocents we lost in Israel on October 7 and the thought of those who will perish in the coming weeks have left darkness and anguish in all our hearts and lives.

My father passed on New Year's Eve 15 years ago, a year in which Chanukah came late. He went out with the last candle. When December 31st comes this year, I will do as Jews have done for at least the last hundred years and light a *yahrzeit* candle in remembrance of the light he shined on me, my world, and his community. I will make a donation to KJCC, giving *tzedakah* in his honor. Our rituals and tradition help us find light in loss that could



**Chanukah Forever  
USA Stamp. May our  
light continue to shine.**

otherwise send us into darkness of despair (There are many reasons why the syndrome for seasonal affective disorder is called SAD, describing people's reaction to lack of light).

In Judaism, we talk about our people as shining lights. We celebrate the "ner tamid," the everlasting light, weaving stories about miracles into time-appropriate Chanukah ritual, beating back the dark. Just as they rededicated the ancient Temple, we rededicate ourselves when we put special menorahs, Chanukias, in our windows to remind ourselves and others that light signifies survival when we fight for the right to pray in our tradition and practice our heritage.

Every artist knows what makes a good, true, and lively painting—light against dark, dark against light. We see and appreciate all things by recognition through contrast. Light illuminates and dispels what is hidden in shadow. Light equals holiness, creation, life itself. How do we deal Jewishly with darkness, life and death? We console the bereaved, visit the sick, sit shiva, perform acts of kindness and *tzedakah* as memorials to our departed. We plant trees in a meditation garden, create places of comfort and beauty.

We notice and are grateful for signs of light and life. Come on December 8th to our Chanukah dinner. Eat latkes, sing songs, play dreidel. Bring your chanukiah. Let's dedicate ourselves to the proposition that the light of Jewish life and our work to repair the world (*Tikkun Olam*) will continue into the future. ◇



**A Chanukah papercut by  
Jewish artist Jeanette  
Kuvin Oren.**



# EYE ON THE ARTS

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## BETH KAMINSTEIN AWARDED! SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

October 14, 2023 – January 21, 2024  
The Art and Culture Center/Hollywood

The South Florida Cultural Consortium, an alliance of the arts councils of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties, recognizes ten individuals from Miami-Dade County, four from Broward County, two from Palm Beach County, and two from Monroe County. The awards are conferred at either the \$15,000 or \$7,500 level. These grants are among the largest such honors accorded by local arts agencies to visual and media artists in the United States.

Celebrating 35 years in 2023 (established in 1988), the SFCC has awarded over \$4 million in grants to more than 300 artists. In addition to receiving the grant, the artists take part in an exhibition hosted and organized by a visual arts institution in one of the five counties. The exhibition featuring the work of the 2023 recipients will take place at **The Art and Culture Center/Hollywood** at 1650 Harrison Street, Hollywood, FL 33020, October 14, 2023 – January 24, 2024.

The Art and Culture Center/Hollywood holds a long-standing history with the contemporary visual arts in



River, 2023



South Florida. Since 1975, the Center has featured exhibitions of South Florida artists, often showing their work for the first time. The 2023–24 Consortium exhibition features 18 artists who received grants to support their work. With a wide range of media including photography, film, sound, sculpture, mixed media, and painting, the exhibition will celebrate the thriving artistic community of South Florida. The exhibition is organized by Meaghan Kent, Curator of Exhibitions.

The recipients were selected through a two-tier panel process which included the participation of regional and national arts experts. ◇



Beth in her element.

Loose Wave, 2022



## The 2023 SFCC Awarded Recipients

### BROWARD

Lou Anne Colodny, Richard Garett, Vincent Miranda, Jacob Reyes

### MIAMI-DADE

Hermes Berrío, Liene Bosquê, Regina Jestrow, Kim Llerena,  
William Osorio, Anastasia Samoylova, Tom Scicluna, Monica Sorelle,  
Misael Soto, Ricardo E. Zulueta

### MONROE

Tyler Buckheim, [Beth Kaminstein](#)

### PALM BEACH

Molly Aubry, Nicole Doran

# JOHN DAVID HAWVER ART EXHIBITION

November 30, 2023 – January 6, 2024

Hale Gallery, Islamorada

Opening Reception: November 30 • 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

If you've been to the KJCC, then you've seen some of member, John David Hawvers paintings and collages of Keys vistas, gracing the walls of the Lobby and community room. Now you will have the exciting opportunity to see an entire exhibition of his newest work, at the Hale gallery in Islamorada. Opening Nov.30th, 2023, thru Jan 6th 2024, a Show and exhibition of paintings and collages.

John David Hawver's work usually involves sea, sky and land, and where they intersect (usually in the Keys and South Florida). Living in the Keys has pretty much dictated what he paints...his interests. He says, "It boils down to color. The colors here are like hardly anywhere else."

When asked to describe what he does and how he does it, he says, "The best way to portray it is, "I paint Light and Air with a landscape behind it". He refers to his canvases as "a dance of daubs, dots, dashes squiggles, scratches and patches of color that work together to magically create the illusions of form, depth, space and time." He continues: "For me it's the act of painting, putting paint on canvas, and the resulting surface, that becomes the most interesting element of my work. But it's also important to me to create the personal experience of a particular place and time. The image is the platform to spring from, and I see it as a stage set on which the actors (marks of paint) perform. You see a landscape from across the room, see the place, and maybe feel the air and time of day. But walk up to it, and look closer . . . . It explodes into a maze of abstract marks and color. I'm fascinated by this magic world of space and color between illusion and reality.

Maybe that's why, with John's paintings, you are not on the outside observing a scene, but you're taken in, experiencing it, feeling the air,.. the breeze. It's like being there.

He says, "While painting can be very rewarding, it requires a great deal of focus and energy". "The "collages" are another matter. They are pure fun for me... moving pieces around,



Photo of John with one of the paintings in the exhibit—sneak peek! Lucky us.



working some kind of imaginary puzzle,...in Kaleidoscopic imagery.

John has taken successful forays into a number of other/ different subjects and approaches, several of which highlight his delightful, quirky sense of humor. (it's still, unclear whether these will be included in this show). But, it seems, he always returns to his kind of spiritual place. He says the more he thinks about what he should paint, he really has no choice. "What comes out, comes out"

John moved to South Florida from New York state as a child, graduated from University of Florida, and University of Miami, worked as a commercial artist for years, and moved, with Marcia Kreitman, to the Keys in early 1992. And he had a gallery at the Rain Barrel until 2010.

This will be the first time since then that an extensive exhibition of his work will be shown to the public at his own place, the Florida Keys. John has taken successful forays into a number of other/ different subjects and approaches, several of which highlight his delightful, quirky sense of humor. (it's still, unclear whether these will be included in this show). But, it seems, he always returns to his kind of spiritual place. He says, the more he thinks about what he should paint, he sees he really has no choice. "What comes out, comes out"

Of important note, Taylor Hale, owner of the wonderful Hale Gallery, and an accomplished artist in his own right, was an intern of John's at the Rain Barrel, when he attended Coral Shores High School. It seems to have come full circle.

John's large landscape paintings have been shown extensively in museums and galleries throughout the South, including the Ft. Lauderdale, Boca, and Lowe Art Museums, Key West Art and History Museum, Miami Dade College, and The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood.

He is included in private, corporate and public collections throughout the world. In the Keys. "Mangrove Canopy," his 10' x 8' commission is at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center. Other work is in the Tassell building of Mariner's Hospital and the Sheriff Roth building and the Monroe County Courthouse in Islamorada. Some other collections include, the Ryder Trauma Center in Miami Dade, and Cleveland Clinic in Weston.

In addition to lending and installing his work to enhance the KJCC over the years, John is an active participant in the art and cultural activities and the Center. He's enthusiastically inviting the KJCC community to the Hale Gallery, to see and share what he's been up to recently.

John David Hawver and Marcia Kreitman are members of the KJCC. They met in the mid 1980s when John had a solo exhibit at the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Florida, and Marcia was in charge of educational programming. They have been a collaborative team in art and life since then. ◇



**How rare to get a glimpse inside an artist's working studio. Let's all say thank you by visiting his show. KJCC ART DATE anyone?**

*John David Hawver • [Johndavidhawver.com](http://Johndavidhawver.com) • 305 299-3126  
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# *We welcome the new moon*

by Lucinda Kurtz

Cheshvan,  
month to turn inward.  
Inward, to review and reflect  
a time to dive deep  
to touch the inner core  
a place of quiet stillness.

But the New Year festivities  
Music and rejoicing  
were interrupted.  
Marred by violence.  
Murder of innocents  
in their beds, homes, fields.

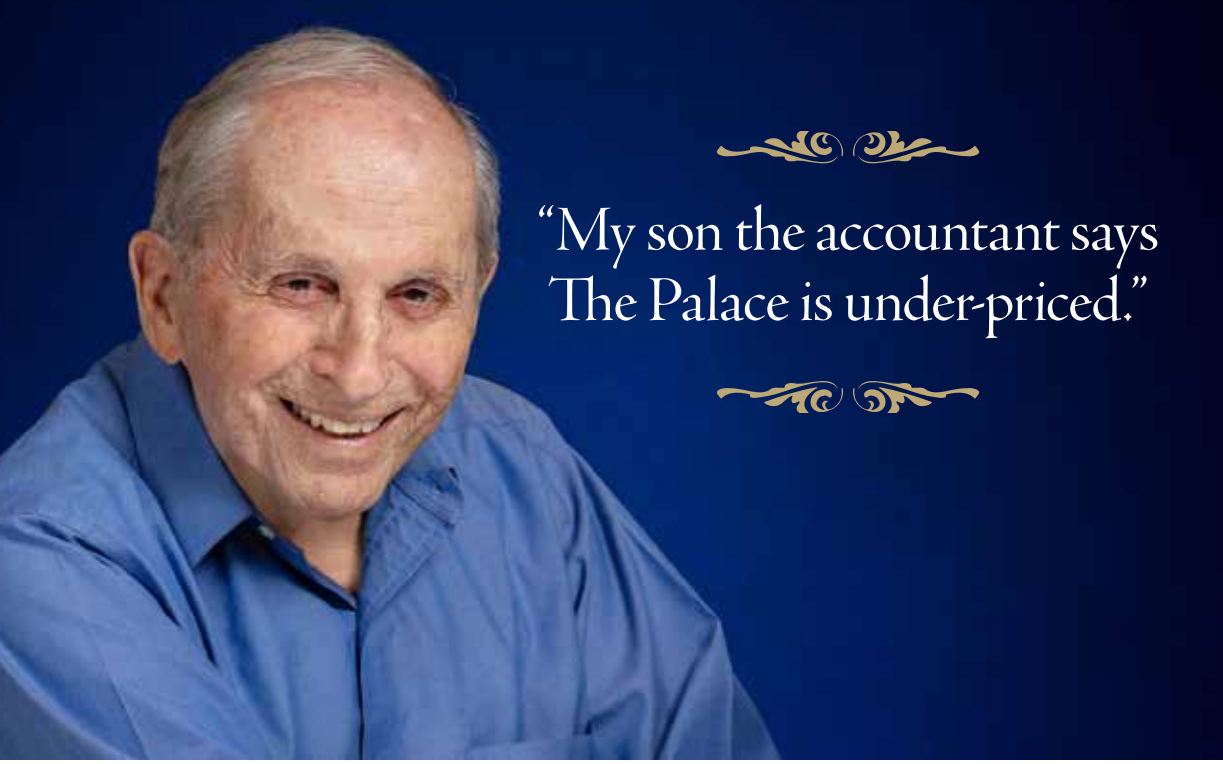
How can we witness such brutality  
while our aching hearts  
yearn for peace?  
We cry out for an end to  
Smoldering hatred  
Continual violence  
Danger for our children.

Do we not learn anything  
traveling this human path

In these mortal bodies?  
Must history repeat itself?  
We cycle in circles  
with cries of revenge  
leading us to despair.

Oh, Shechinah, Holy One of Blessing,  
Teach us to deepen in awareness  
Lift ourselves from  
desperate repetition.  
Brother killing brother.  
Release us from this bondage.  
Help us find a place of balance  
where darkness transmutes to light.

Let us return to the natural rhythms  
of body and earth  
Resonate with water and wind  
Touch our inner well of wisdom  
Come home to our unity  
with all sentient beings  
And find comfort in heart openings  
connecting us to each other and the One.



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“It is difficult in times like these; ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality. It’s a wonder I haven’t abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything that people are truly good at heart.”

– Anne Frank



# Happy Hanukkah

MAY LOVE AND LIGHT  
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**AND HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**