

# Chai~Lights



**May 2016**

**23 Nisan - 23 Iyar 5776**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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# May 2016

## 23 Nisan - 23 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Sisterhood</b> <b>9 a.m.</b> <b>KJCC Board</b> <b>Mtg.</b> <b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Yom</b> <b>HaShoah</b> <b>Film</b> <b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>6</b> Yardena Kamely Medina Roy Muriel Swartz <i>Roy Pollack</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Rebecca</b> <b>Boehling</b> <b>Lecture</b> <b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Yom</b> <b>Hazikaron</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Yom</b> <b>HaAtzma'ut</b>	<b>13</b> Hebrew class students <i>Medina Roy &amp; Bernie Ginsberg</i>	<b>14</b> Harry's Eagle Scout Court of Honor
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Healthy Dinner</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Joyce Peckman Susan Gordon Arthur Itkin <i>Medina Roy</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Lag</b> <b>B'Omer</b>	<b>27</b> Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner <i>Jim Williams</i>	<b>28</b> <b>Rabbi</b> <b>Agler</b> <b>Torah</b> <b>Learnng</b> <b>10 a.m.</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial</b> <b>Day</b>	<b>31</b>				

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P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida  
33070@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Sam Vinicur



A few weeks ago, a long-time member called. At the end of the conversation, she said, "I want to tell you something. I have connections to other shuls, and I've been a KJCC member for a long time; I have never seen or felt a lovelier sense of community than exists at KJCC now."

I thanked her, of course, and after hanging up allowed myself a (brief) moment of satisfaction. Sentiments such as those are exactly what we all work so hard to cultivate here. Community. It's such a nice word, redolent with subtle flavorings of warmth, and courtesy, and shared purpose. Though it's part of our name, it isn't a word often associated with a synagogue. (Like many of you, I suspect, the very first time I saw KJCC's sign I thought, "hey, a place with a pool and gym and cultural events.")

As I sat, thinking, the word became ever larger, and I began to wonder about its history in Jewish thought. It seems clear that the word "community," at least in the Jewish mind, has origins in the rabbinic concept of "congregation." (This was a concept first written about in the *Mishnah* and later expanded in the Babylonian *Talmud*. Perhaps no one thought to worry about a congregation when they actually had a country.)

There's discussion and debate about it in the *Talmud* (naturally), but they eventually settled on the number ten (yes, a *minyan*) as the smallest possible congregation for Jewish worship. Reading the list of prayers and religious/social duties requiring a *minyan* (a congregation, a community) – not only Kaddish, but also the call to prayer (the *Barchu*), the *Amidah* (the central prayer of any service), and Torah readings (receiving the gift of God's teachings out loud) – I am once again awed by the practical brilliance of the early rabbis. They had been exiled twice and their society obliterated. How to assure their faith's survival? The first step was to mandate that Jewish prayer, the only avenue to God without the Temple, be a gathering.

There's a purpose to the work we do here to build and sustain our little Jewish outpost. There's a reason for the regular dinners (with credit to Bernie), and movie nights, and lectures, and classes, and Megillah readings, and Purim and Chanukah celebrations, and seders, and much more. There was an even deeper reason for all we did to make our recent Torah Project such a full and rich experience for so many.

It's that together, as a community, we nurture and sustain...us. ♦

# Nosh

## Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzma'ut!

On the day after our Shabbat Yom Ha-Atzma'ut ceremony, led on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. by Yardena Kamely and her Ulpan Hebrew class, KJCC will celebrate Israel's Independence Day on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. (Exactly 68 years since the actual day in 1948.) There will be Israeli food favorites, a screening of the movie "Above and Beyond," Israeli music, and more. The celebration begins at 7:00 p.m.

## A Healthy New Cookbook for KJCC

KJCC's library has one more cookbook in its extensive collection. Linda Kaplan has purchased and donated "The Jewish Food Hero Cookbook: 50 Simple Plant-Based Recipes for Your Holiday Meals," by Kenden Alfond. It will be used as a major resource for the May 20<sup>th</sup> Sisterhood potluck dinner at KJCC. Many of us will be leafing through its pages looking for healthy inspiration as each of our Jewish holidays cycles 'round. What a boon to our vegetarian friends as well as those of us who, inspired by Jane's contributions to our *onegs* from Harry's "Eagle Scout Project Garden" at KJCC, would like to become a little less meat-dependent but need some guidance.

## A Beautiful Video of KJCC's Torah Day

Now that she's retired from her psychology practice in Miami, Dr. Jan Hartz is able to put time into her other talents. We knew she was a talented photographer. What we didn't know, was that she also has latent film-making talent.

At the end of that (very) long day, Jan approached Gloria and me with an idea. She'd taken a few videos. Eve and Joyce had spent the day taking photos. Why not put together a video of those elements as another remembrance of the day? We eagerly agreed. After lots of post-production work, the video is now finished. We'll be uploading it (or a link) to KJCC's web site shortly. Look for the details in an upcoming e-mail. You're going to love this.

— Sam

## Harry Promoted to Eagle Scout

I am pleased to announce Harry's promotion to the rank of Eagle Scout. He has been a Scout for over ten years, beginning when he was just 5 years old; he has grown and developed impressively. We want to cordially invite our entire KJCC *mish-pocha* to his Court of Honor ceremony, when he will be officially presented with this great honor. It will be held at the First Baptist Church of Key Largo, 9900 I Overseas Highway, Mile Marker



99 oceanside, on Saturday, 14 May 2016, beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception. Please RSVP to me by either call or text to 305-720-6575, by 11 May.

We look forward to seeing everyone.  
Shalom.

— Jane Friedman

## Oneg Sponsors for May 2016

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Roy Pollack to celebrate Maddy's birthday.

May 13<sup>th</sup> - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg to celebrate their shared birthday.

May 20<sup>th</sup> - Medina Roy to honor mom  
Bianka's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

May 27<sup>th</sup> - Jim Williams in honor of the KJCC.



## Holocaust Scholar to speak at KJCC

Save the date: Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. We will be privileged to hear first-hand the tales of Rebecca Boehling, gifted historian, University of Maryland professor, writer, storyteller (and KJCC member) on her three years heading the International Holocaust Archives in Bad Ems, Germany. (The Archives is run by a consortium of countries, including Israel, the United States and Germany. Scholars come from all over the world to do research there.) Some of us are lucky enough to have heard Rebecca speak at KJCC eight years ago when she was writing a book based on a treasure trove of newly discovered letters of a Jewish family thrust into their own diaspora, fleeing Germany for the United States, South America, Israel, and even Australia as the Holocaust approached, leaving the parents trapped and doomed to death in Europe. Rebecca wove those letters into historical context with compassion and humanity. Her book made the period and the family come vividly back to life.

Now, out of personal experience, she is writing again. At least one book, and perhaps two, will come out of this intense three-year period managing an international staff of hundreds, cataloging and preserving (one of her decisions was to digitize the entire archive) a mammoth collection of documents that is still being added to. And we at KJCC will be the first to hear her tell of it. Be there. We will learn what is actually going on in the process of collecting and preserving this important archival material. The timing is perfect. (Two days earlier, on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, a remembrance ceremony will be held at a Shabbat service led by our own Holocaust Committee). The Q and A should be fascinating, and afterwards, of course, refreshments will be served. There is no charge, and guests are welcomed.

## Don't Forget the KJCC Garden

Have you visited the KJCC Meditation Garden lately? Before it gets too hot, take some time to meander around the brick walks and just be immersed in its beauty. It's the perfect place for some quiet, contemplative time.

## A Gift To TAGS from "Daktari" Bernie

While searching Rabbi Agler's website for the latest news about the Talia Agler Girls Shelter (TAGS) in Nairobi, Kenya, I came upon all kinds of fine reports and photos pointing to the shelter's expansion and the fact that it and the girls are doing amazingly well. The number of girls being rescued, cared for, educated, and given training that will lead to self-sufficiency is increasing geometrically. It was inspiring to read, and then I came upon a sweet surprise, written by Rich: "Our friend Dr. Bernard Ginsberg, who traveled to Nairobi with us in November, recently donated a microscope and telescope for the use of the girls at the shelter. *Daktari* Ginsberg was moved by the dedication of the teachers and students at the TAGS and wanted to help enrich their science education. The gift is en route and will assuredly be put to good use when it arrives."



**Bernie with the telescope and microscope he's donating to the Talia Agler Girls School in Nairobi, Kenya.**

Bravo Bernie, giving rescued young women, now experiencing huge positive changes in their lives, a chance to look up to the stars and into the tiniest cells of living organisms. Perhaps this will lead to the first group of female scientists in Kenya. Who knows?

— Gloria

## About Our Library...

Due to your generosity, the KJCC library is now overflowing with wonderful books and videos, in almost every category of Jewish life and thought. (History, fiction, philosophy, mysticism and more.) Unfortunately, it truly is overflowing. Until we're able to expand the space, please check with KJCC Librarian Medina Roy (hiitsmedee@gmail.com, or 305-852-3872) before you drop off any more books. Todah.

## May Birthdays

2nd.....	Barney Coltman
2nd.....	Sherry Zwerdling
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
4th.....	Ryan Curtis
5th.....	Richard Palacino
7th.....	Scott M. Pearl
7th.....	Murray Rapport
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
9th.....	Reid Schur
11th.....	Richard Agler
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Medina Roy
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
18th.....	Jaime Brennan
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
19th.....	Sylvie Coeurjoly
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
21st.....	Jerry Herson
22nd.....	Christian Strasser
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Rita Williams
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
29th.....	Robin Forman
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Liati Mayk
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Wes Conklin

## The Children of Chabannes

On Yom Ha'shoah, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., KJCC will screen the film "The Children of Chabannes." In the words of the filmmakers: "A tale of courage, resilience and love set during WWII, *The Children of Chabannes* tells the story of how the people of Chabannes, a tiny village in unoccupied France, chose action over indifference and saved the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. Through accounts by the extraordinary teachers who taught and loved these children, this lyrical and moving film shows the remarkable efforts made by the citizens of Chabannes, who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect these children, simply because they felt it was the right thing to do."

"A moving record of the unassuming, uncompromising heroism of ordinary people." – A. O. Scott, *The New York Times*

## Last Rabbi Agler Service of the Season

If you have loved coming to the monthly Shabbat morning services led by Rabbi Agler during the winter "season," know that this one, on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, will be the last until our snowbirds return in the fall. Come and be inspired. The service, as always, will be informal, interactive, warm and educational. The discussion will be animated and engaging. Last, but not least, we will get to hear chanting from our newly restored Holocaust Torah. We look forward to watching Rabbi Agler do the *Hagbah* ritual, lifting the Torah high in front of the ark, when we can all see with new eyes the physical beauty of the repaired words. As usual, the service will begin promptly at 10 a.m. There will be a light kiddush afterwards. All guests are welcome. These services are treasures we are happy to share with all the community.

## May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....	26
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	25
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	44
24th	Alfred & Sue Ann Wehl.....	57

## **We're re-decorating the Social Hall**

After the sanctuary, the Ruth Richardson Social Hall is where we all spend most of our time at KJCC. (A case could be made that we spend even more time there than in the sanctuary.) It has been a long time since the room got a facelift. A little over a year ago we bought new and high-quality banquet chairs to replace the old folding chairs. Everyone loves them.

Now we're going further. The Board has approved money for new carpeting and a fresh coat of paint for the walls. The project won't be finished overnight, but it is underway. With the help of member and interior designer Natalie Dorf, the room is being beautified and updated.

## **Summer Mailing Addresses for Chai-Lights**

Some of you are very good about making sure we know when you've left for the summer and we'll need to send your copy of Chai-Lights to your out-of-Keys address. Some of you aren't so good. Please make sure we know your schedule so you don't miss any issues. Thanks.

## **The New 2016 KJCC Directory**

Speaking of addresses, the new 2016 KJCC Membership Directory is in production. If your addresses or e-mails or phone numbers have changed since last year, please make sure we have the new ones so that our database is perfect and the new Directory will be accurate.

## **Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC**

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

**CEMETERY INFORMATION:** If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Linda Pollack 305-852-8575.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





*In Memoriam May 2016*

In Memory Of

## Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

[illegible]

In Memory Of

## Sam Wainer

By Richard &amp; Sheila Steinberg

[illegible]

In Memory Of

## Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

[illegible]

In Memory Of

## Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

**Susan Cimkowski**

By Stephen Steinbock

In Memory Of

## Benjamin Weber

By Judith Weber

[illegible]

In Memory Of

**Rose Wainer**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

[illegible]

In Memory Of

**Ida S. Reider**

By George & Muriel Swartz

[illegible]

In Memory Of

## Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

<><><><><><><><><><><>

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

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

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

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

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



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Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks and baked goods.

Contact: Joyce Peckman  
(732) 447-5225

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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



**A**pril was an exciting month. We began our Passover season with our 13th annual Women's Seder, one of my favorite events of the year. Eight years ago I attended my first Women's Seder as a guest of Gloria, and I have never looked back. It inspired and encouraged me to become more involved in the KJCC and has led me to my current role as Sisterhood president.

It is always enjoyable to have women who do not regularly participate in events, and women from outside the shul, join us for this special night. This year we had 42 women, including two young girls, join us as we sang, ate, and read from the inspiring and poetic women's Haggadahs. We signed and decorated squares of cloth, creating new memories to add to our Seder quilt/tablecloth that Marcia Kreitman began for us years ago. Gloria Avner, Beth Hayden and Beth Kaminstein led a meaningful service, and our matzah- plate pottery pieces added this year's creative touch to our already beautiful table settings. I love how the table looks at Passover, but our unique pieces from years past always make it even more special.

We honored Jane Friedman, our special woman of the year. Jane works tirelessly, shops and schlepps weekly. In addition she cooks and brings delicious, healthy food for our onegs, meetings and dinners. She is a vital asset to Sisterhood and makes my life so much easier. Her amazing garden skills provided the beautiful greens on our Seder plates, as well as the delicious fresh dill that I used in the matzah ball soup. Jane is committed to her Judaism as well as to the KJCC. It was a pleasure to honor her and let her know how much we appreciate her. She was glowing with joy.

The purpose of the Women's Seder is also *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. All of the

money raised is divided up to charities that have special meaning to us. This year, Joan Stark presented our donations to the KJCC scholarship fund, the VNA Hospice of the Florida Keys, and the Talia Agler Foundation. It gives us great pleasure to help what Mindy's daughter Talia began, now in her memory.

We continued Passover season with our Family Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Once again Chef Joseph prepared a delicious authentic Passover dinner, (with a little bit of input from me), and over 70 people gathered for a wonderful evening. This year was extra special with the addition of Susan Gordon's brother, Cantor Barry Skolnick. His beautiful voice and leadership was so nice, and gave us the chance to learn new ways of honoring Pesach. We also got to celebrate Susan's special birthday!! What a great night under the sailfish, at sunset by the bay. Special thanks to everyone who made our Seder season such a success. It is always a lot of work, but comes with great rewards, memories, and blessings. It reminds us of who we are as Jews, as a family, related by blood or not. I hope that your Passover season brought you renewal and blessings. It did for me.

So we look forward into May. Phew! We will meet for our Sisterhood meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday May 1st, and will be discussing our May Shabbat Fresh Start Dinner to be held on May 20th, at 6 pm. We are going to have healthy Shabbat dinner recipes, using minimal dairy, sugar or flour. Look in the KJCC library for ideas for vegetarian dishes. Please RSVP to me if you plan on attending. We are going to do something fun in June to wrap up the year before summer. We will talk about it at the meeting, so please join 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.

## General Fund

Itkin, Arthur

Pollack, Linda

Roy, Medina wishing you much happiness in your move

Pollack, Linda

Pollack, Linda

## In Honor of

Barry Dorf's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday

John and Arlene Line –

Mort Silverman

## In Memory of

Sandy Lundy,

Elaine Schulberg's sister

## Meditation Garden

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

## In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of

Sara Rose Friedman

## In Memory of

Sax, Stuart & Lauren

Sam Sax

## Sisterhood Onegs

Agler, Mindy and Richard

Friedman, Jane

Pollack, Roy

Roy, Medina

Silverman, Gene

Steinbock, Steve

Williams, Jim

## Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan

Harvey, Mitchel

Tallent, Lillian

## In Honor of

Birth of Jonah Arlo

Agler

Angelina & Harry's Birthdays

Madelyn and Will - Birthdays

Carl's Birthday

Their Anniversary and Gene's

birthday

His birthday

Honor of KJCC

Baruch Epstein

David Harvey

Ida Tallent

## How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

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

**Tree of Life Leaves:** We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the 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; an outdoor plaque is included in the price.



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## YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



# Yom Ha'Shoah — Bystanders and Rescuers

*The world is too dangerous to live in – not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen.*

- Albert Einstein

**Y**om Ha'shoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day – will be commemorated this year on May 5<sup>th</sup>. In Israel, at noon, we'll hear the sirens and the whole country will stop. Every person, a whole nation, will stand still for moments of silence. Wherever we are, whether at work or at home, in cafes or restaurants, in the street, in traffic, stepping out of buses and cars, we stand in silence remembering the Shoah.

At the KJCC, every Yom Ha'shoah we focus on the victims of the Holocaust and the perpetrators. This year we are going to talk about the other people in WW II and the choices open to everyone else once the Holocaust began. Who were the bystanders and who the rescuers? Thousands of courageous non-Jews risked death or imprisonment in camps to save their Jewish neighbors, and others—Jews and non-Jews—joined in the underground war against the Nazis. Others joined the killers, becoming perpetrators or enablers of genocide. But the vast majority of Europeans were bystanders who did little to deter the Nazis or to help Jews or other victims of Nazi persecution.

Raul Hilberg, historian and scholar of the Holocaust, says that most of those people, neighbors, were neither perpetrators nor victims. But many of them saw or heard something of what was going on. They were bystanders, not 'involved', not wanting to hurt the victims and not wishing to be hurt by the

perpetrators. All of these people thought of themselves as victims, be it of war, or oppression, or 'fate'. Were they "victims of fate"? Or did they still have choices? Albert Camus, a French writer who joined the resistance, believed that individuals can always make a difference. He wrote that yes, the horrors of the war could paralyze people and they would not think of anything to do but wait. Still he believed that although there is an illusion of impotence, strength of heart, intelligence and courage are enough to stop fate and sometimes reverse it.

Holocaust survivor Primo Levi, renowned Italian Jewish chemist and writer, was often asked, "Did the Germans know what was happening?" He replied with a question of his own: "How is it possible that the extermination of millions of human beings could have been carried out in the heart of Europe without anyone's knowledge?" He concluded that "..... most Germans didn't know because they didn't want to know. ....In Hitler's Germany a particular code was widespread: those who knew did not talk; those who did not know did not ask questions; those who did ask questions received no answers. In this way the typical German citizen won and defended his ignorance..... Shutting his mouth, his eyes and his ears, he built for himself the illusion of not knowing, hence not being an accomplice to the things taking place in front of his very door." (Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved*).

Some bystanders chose to act and become resisters. Hans Scholl and his sister Sophie were among the few Germans who did act on what they knew. In the spring of 1942, they

and a friend, Christoph Probst, formed a small group known as The White Rose. In July, the group published a leaflet that stated: "We want to inform you of the fact that since the conquest of Poland, 300,000 Jews in that country have been murdered in the most bestial manner....." The following February, the Nazis arrested the Scholls and Probst and brought them to trial. The three admitted that they were responsible for the leaflets. Sophie Scholl told the judges, "Somebody, after all, had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don't dare to express themselves as we did." Sophie, Hans, and Probst were found guilty and beheaded later that same day. Although the Nazis were able to destroy The White Rose, they could not stop their message from being heard. Helmuth von Moltke, a German aristocrat, smuggled copies to friends in neutral countries. They, in turn, sent them to the Allies who reproduced each leaflet and then dropped thousands of copies over German cities.

Some bystanders chose to rescue. In Germany, the government imprisoned anyone caught sheltering a Jew. In Poland, the penalty was death. Yet, about 2% of the Polish Christian population chose to hide Jews. They did so in a nation with a long history of Anti-Semitism. In his study of rescuers, Ervin Staub, professor of psychology known for his works on helping behavior and on the psychology of mass violence and genocide, states, "Goodness, like evil, often begins in small steps. Heroes evolve; they aren't born. Very often the rescuers make only a small commitment at the start - to hide someone for a day or two. But once they had taken that

step, they began to see themselves differently, as someone who helps. What starts as mere willingness becomes intense involvement." Other psychologists and sociologists agree with Ervin Staub that the decision to rescue Jews had little to do with the rescuer's religion, nationality, schooling, class, or ethnic heritage. Most rescuers were independent individuals who refused to follow the crowd. They also had a history of performing good deeds and did not perceive rescue work as anything out of the ordinary.

On Yom Ha'shoah, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the KJCC, we are going to show the film 'The Children of Chabannes'. In the words of the filmmakers:

"A tale of courage, resilience and love set during WWII, *The Children of Chabannes* tells the story of how the people of Chabannes, a tiny village in unoccupied France, chose action over indifference and saved the lives of 400 Jewish refugee children. . . Through



**Photo from DVD "The Children of Chabannes"**

accounts by the extraordinary teachers who taught and loved these children, this lyrical and moving film shows the remarkable efforts made by the citizens of Chabannes, who risked their lives and livelihoods to protect these children, simply because they felt it was the right thing to do."

Kevin Thomas of the Los Angeles Times called it "One of the most heartening Holocaust films ever made." Stanley Kauffmann of The New Republic wrote: "It's not about the mystery of evil; it's about an equally awesome subject, the mystery of good."

Join us on at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 5th, Yom Ha'shoah to see this film and commemorate the righteous people in the Holocaust. ♦

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### An Historic Mission Ends

At the end of March, in a secret operation by the *Jewish Agency for Israel*, nineteen of the last remaining Jews from Yemen arrived in Israel. The group was made up of fourteen from the city of Raydah, including the community's rabbi and a family of five from Sana'a, Yemen's capital. The rabbi brought with him a 500-600 year-old Torah scroll. Some 200 Jews have been secretly brought to Israel from Yemen by the *Jewish Agency* in recent years. Attacks against the Jewish community there have increased and the country is now involved in a bitter civil war. Some 51,000 Yemenite Jews have immigrated to Israel since the birth of the country in 1948. The majority were brought through *Operation Magic Carpet* in 1949 and 1950. The U.S. State Department assisted with the project's organization. "From *Operation Magic Carpet*...until the present day, the *Jewish Agency* has helped bring Yemenite Jewry home to Israel. Today we bring that historic mission to a close," said Natan Sharansky, chairman of the organization. Fifty Jews remain in Yemen by choice, declining the offer to come to Israel. They all live in a closed compound adjacent to the U.S. Embassy and are protected by Yemeni authorities.

([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 3-21-16)

### Did Roman Soldiers Have Pockets?

An extremely rare gold coin bearing the image of the Emperor Augustus, Caesar's heir and founder of the Roman Empire, was found recently by a hiker at an archaeological site in the Upper Galilee area. The hiker reluctantly turned it over to the *Israel Antiquities Authority* (IAA). The 2,000-year-old coin was issued by the Emperor Trajan – who succeeded Augustus and ruled Rome from 98 C.E. to 117 C.E. – as part of a series to honor previous Roman Emperors. The coin is only the second

of its type known to exist; the other is in the *British Museum*. It was created as a tribute to the reign of Augustus, who ruled from 27 B.C.E. to 14 C.E. It refers to him as "*Divus Augustus*," Augustus the Divine. (Augustus was considered a deity after his death.) How did the coin end up in the Galilee? Donald T. Ariel, head curator of the coin department at the IAA, believes that it may have been part of a payment to a Roman soldier stationed in the area to suppress the *Bar Kochva* revolt (the third and final Jewish rebellion) against the Romans. The revolt had sympathizers near Galilee. The soldiers may have been there to maintain order.  
([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), 3-15-16)

### Israelis May Love to Complain But...

...according to a report conducted by researchers from the *University of British Columbia*, they are some of the happiest people in the world. The report – prepared by the *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* and the *Earth Institute at Columbia University* – ranked Israel 11<sup>th</sup> out of 157 nations, placing them "happier" than the United States. The top ten were Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada and the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. The survey studied 3,000 respondents in each of the 157 countries. Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, the report ranks the countries' happiness levels using factors such as gross domestic product, social support and healthy life expectancy. In this latest survey, the United States came in at #13. Syria, Afghanistan and eight sub-Saharan countries came in as the ten least happy places to live. This *2016 World Happiness Report* was released just before *World Happiness Day*.  
([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 3-17-16)

## The “Kosher” Tartan

Scottish Jews never had a tartan, the plaid fabric patterns that have been used to distinguish between the various clans in Scotland for more than 200 years. But in 2008, an officially sanctioned tartan was registered and became available for Scotland’s 6,400 Jews. The design for a Jewish tartan was initiated by Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, the only Scottish-born rabbi living in that country. Jacobs and other rabbis worked together to design a tartan that would reflect both Jewish values and Scottish history. They came up with a design that features blue and white as the main colors, because they appear on both the Israeli and Scottish flags. There’s also a gold line running down the center, representing the gold from the Ark in the Tabernacle; a silver line representing the silver that adorns the Torah; and red for the traditional red *Kiddush* wine. Rabbi Jacobs sells other items featuring the tartan, including a mouse pad, a necktie, a kilt and a mug. The fabric items are made of 100 percent Scottish wool. According to Jacobs, Jews have been an integral part of Scottish culture for more than 300 years, with the first Jew having been recorded in Edinburgh in 1691. Jews were never persecuted in Scotland. In fact, when England exiled its Jews in the Middle Ages, Scotland provided a safe haven for them. ([www.thejewniverse.com](http://www.thejewniverse.com), 3-21-16 and [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-29-16)

## “If You Build it, They Will Come...”

An extensive website launched at the end of March covers the dozens of Jews who played in baseball’s major leagues or made contributions to the game. The website, “The Jewish Baseball Museum,” is filled with biographies and interviews as well as a timeline of Jewish baseball stories that dates back to the 1860s. The online museum’s creator, Jeff Aeder, says he has amassed one of the largest collections of Jewish baseball memorabilia in the country. His collection is showcased on the site and contains some 2,000 objects plus approximately 2,500 pre-1990 baseball cards of Jewish players. Aeder, 54, is a Chicago-based real estate investor and avid Cubs

fan. He says the website provides “an opportunity to introduce the stories of older Jewish ball players to younger generations.” Aeder is hoping the website will pave the way for an actual Jewish baseball museum to be built in his Lakeview neighborhood, on Chicago’s North Side (hence his Cubs affiliation) as early as 2017. Aeder and his wife Jennifer Levine were named “Chicagoans of the Year” in 2013 for opening the *Wolcott School*, a high school for students with learning disabilities. Aeder is also the founding owner of *Milt’s Barbecue for the Perplexed*, a popular kosher restaurant near Wrigley Field, donating its profits to worthy causes. To check out Aeder’s collection, go to [jewishbaseballmuseum.com/online-museum/collection/](http://jewishbaseballmuseum.com/online-museum/collection/) ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-27-16)

## Update

In the March 2016 issue of *Chai-Lights*, we reported on the *Knesset*’s historic, groundbreaking agreement approving the creation of an egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall (*Kotel*) for non-Orthodox Jews. The agreement culminated two-and-a-half years of negotiations. At the time of this writing, the deal seems to be on the verge of collapse. Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, the rabbinical administrator of the *Kotel* and a key player in negotiating the deal, has suddenly renounced it. Why? Apparently he and the leaders of the *hareidi* (ultra-Orthodox) community underestimated the anger sparked by the deal. Rabinowitz, in a highly publicized letter to leaders of the *hareidi* parties, asked them to “save the Jewish people from the deal,” meaning that the agreement would officially legitimize and allow for public funding of the Reform and Conservative movements. Most of the ultra-Orthodox find it unacceptable to recognize the non-Orthodox movements, and now the *hareidi* political parties are insisting on rewriting the agreement. The non-Orthodox groups say they will not renegotiate the deal and will take the case to Israel’s Supreme Court if necessary to enforce the establishment of the mixed-gender prayer site. Oy. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 4-5-16)



## A “Phenomenon in Israeli Medicine”

According to a recent study published in the *European Heart Journal*, the Israeli death rate from heart disease has plummeted by an impressive 50 percent since 1998. The report was written by Professor Emeritus Mervyn Gotsman, who headed *Hadassah University Medical Center's* cardiology department for many years and was the personal physician of Prime Minister Menachem Begin. It was co-written by Gotsman's son, who currently works in the same department. Among the reasons given in the report were the decline in smoking plus rigorous prevention of atherosclerosis, obesity, diabetes and hypertension. Other strategies include the liberal use of statins to lower bad cholesterol levels, very early management of acute myocardial infarction and modification of lifestyles. The report gave credit to the *Israel Heart Society* and the *Health Ministry* for nationwide educational programs. The study also concluded that this excellent outcome may also be a result of the availability of affordable health care for the entire population, regardless of race, color or religious belief. The report adds that there is still much to be done to lower the death rate even more. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 3-8-16)

## In Memoriam

- Meir Dagan, former general in the Israeli army who headed Israel's *Mossad* for an unprecedented eight-year term, died in mid-March. He was 71. Dagan was thought of as an unlikely combination of a warrior and an intellectual. He was born Meir Huberman in the Ukraine to parents who were Holocaust survivors. The family immigrated to Israel when he was five. He joined the IDF in 1963 and served for more than 30 years, reaching the rank of major general. Dagan had a long and close relationship with former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who appointed him head of the *Mossad* in 2002. In the early 1970s, when Sharon saw an escalation of terrorism in Gaza, he appointed Dagan to lead a special anti-terrorist unit in the Gaza Strip called *Rimon*. Members of this unit dressed up as Palestinians and infiltrated the local communities in

order to identify and eliminate terrorists before they had an opportunity to strike.

A series of aggressive covert actions are attributed to Dagan's tenure as *Mossad* chief, among them the assassination of Imad Mughniyah, *Hezbollah's* number two man; cyber-sabotage targeting Tehran's nuclear scientists and technologies; the 2007 airstrike that destroyed a suspected Syrian atomic reactor and the 2010 assassination of Masoud Alimohammadi, an Iranian nuclear physicist. Dagan was nicknamed “Superman” by his Arab opponents. After retiring, he became a fierce critic of and waged a public battle with current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, strongly opposing Netanyahu's strategy on Iran. Throughout his career, Dagan kept a single photograph hanging on the wall of his office. It was a photo of Baer Ehrlich, Dagan's grandfather, kneeling on the ground surrounded by uniformed Nazis looking indifferently at the camera. Moments later, the Nazis murdered Ehrlich. The photograph kept Dagan focused on two things: his personal struggle against the enemies of the Jews the rest of his life and the slogan, “Never

Again.” ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 3-17-16)

- Imre Kertesz, Hungarian novelist, Auschwitz survivor and winner of the 2002 *Nobel Literature Prize*, died at the end of March. He was 86. Born in Budapest, Kertesz was deported to Auschwitz when he was fourteen and was transferred the next year to Buchenwald. U.S. forces liberated Buchenwald in 1945. He returned to Hungary and worked for a while as a journalist, living under repressive Hungarian Communist rule. He later moved to Berlin. According to the *Swedish Nobel Academy*, Kertesz was awarded the \$1 million, highest honor for literature for “writing that upholds the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric and arbitrariness of history.” His work repeatedly goes back to his experiences in Auschwitz. His defining first novel, “Fateless,” is a first-person account of a boy's survival which was incorporated into Hungary's high school curriculum. Kertesz was the first Hungarian to win the *Nobel Prize* for literature. ([www.forward.com](http://www.forward.com), 3-31-16) ♦



Keys Jewish Community Center

Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner

Friday, May 20, 2016, 6:00 pm

## Fresh Start Challenge

Covered Dish Dinner

**Use:** *Vegetables, brown rice, quinoa, fruit, salads, seeds, nuts, beans, legumes. Wine is fine.*

**Be aware:** *No meat, little or no dairy, little or no sugar (a bit of honey is ok), little or no flour.*

**Refer to The Jewish Food Hero Cookbook at the Center for assistance and ideas.**

**The Cookbook can be downloaded at [www.jewishfoodhero.com](http://www.jewishfoodhero.com).**

Not Sure What to Bring???

Contact Linda Kaplan @ (305) 396-7000

[lk@lindakaplan.com](mailto:lk@lindakaplan.com)

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett

to reserve your spot

@ 305-393-1162

[hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com)

**Sponsored Dinner - No Charge**

# Photo Gallery



A pre-Purim Torah learning service was led by KJCC Resident Scholar Rabbi Richard Agler on March 19th. We completed the third and last (and most violent) part of the Megillah, as we dealt with historic, adult themes.



The newly restored Torah was held high for all to see, then read at prayer service for the first time since its rededication. The dark, contrasting clarity and beauty of its script was striking.

At left, Rabbi Agler's Shabbat services often begin with a few moments of silent reflection.





In the two photos below, the March 26th Oneg was sponsored by Lee Schur and Jane Friedman in honor of their birthdays.



Above and left, Bernie Ginsberg presented a fascinating lecture and film describing the ancient and disappearing Jewish communities of Azerbaijan.



Above, the beginning /intermediate Hebrew Class, led by Yardena, as they learn to read and understand the Hebrew Siddur. Ivy Blumenfeld is the only student missing from the photo.



## Shabbat Services



At left, the April 8th service was led by the now semi-professional team of Joyce Peckman, who led the prayers, and Arthur Itkin, who delivered an interesting and inspiring d'var Torah speech.



We had lots to celebrate at the April 8th Oneg. At right, Mindy and Richard Agler celebrate the birth of their first grandchild. Gene Silverman is joined at far right by husband Mort and daughter Robin Denker for birthday wishes and cake.



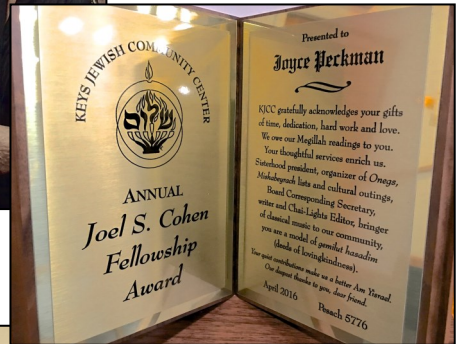
At Rabbi Agler's Torah service on April 16th, Steve Hartz chanted from the Torah. Joyce read the blessings. Guests Steve Gibbs and Rev. Pam Feeser observed; Bernie and Zoe assisted.



## Joyce Peckman Receives Joel S. Cohen Award

Visibly moved and very happy, Joyce accepted KJCC's highest honor, the Joel S. Cohen Fellowship Award, in a surprise ceremony during Shabbat services April 15th. All present agreed the award is well-deserved. For years, Joyce has made significant contributions to our shul and to the community. The plaque reads, "Sisterhood President, organizer of Onegs, lists for *Misheberach* prayers and cultural outings, Board Corresponding Secretary, writer and Chai-Lights editor, bringer of classical music to our community, you are a model of *gemilut hasidim* (deeds of lovingkindness)."

The decision, always made by previous winners in secret ballot, was unanimous. At left are some past years' recipients. A special trip was made (after the fact) to confirm Pauline's vote.







**Sara Rose Friedman, the great-granddaughter of founding members Joel and Sara Cohen, was called to the Torah at Temple Beth Am in Jupiter. She will graduate from the Arthur J. Meyer Jewish Academy. In center, she is joined by proud grandparents Sheila and Richard Steinberg. (We were glad to see them at the**

**Torah dedication.)**



**Harry Friedman's Eagle Scout Project provides lovely fresh greens for a local food bank, with some left over for KJCC onegs. His Court of Honor ceremony will be on May 14th. Contact Jane for info and RSVP.**



# KJCC Gift Shop



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



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

# RABBI HERSCHEL SCHACTER

## *MEMORIES OF A MODERN GIANT*

by Arthur Itkin

*In honor and memory of both Rabbi Herschel Schacter and Yom HaShoah, the stunning attempt to eradicate Judaism from our planet that did succeed in murdering fully one-third of all the world's Jews, Chai-Lights presents this personal connection to Rabbi Schacter by KJCC's Recording Secretary and one of the many stories that reveal the humanity and stature of this great teacher. Those who survived did not include the Czechoslovakian village of Susice. But their precious Torah, now fully restored and beautified and forever occupying the highest place of honor in the Ark at KJCC, defiantly spreads its message of a possible human march toward...full humanity. As it lives, the people of Susice and the Jewish ideal live.*

Rabbi Herschel Schacter performed the ceremony at my first marriage in 1954 (which ended in divorce in 1987 before I even discovered the Keys). I had not had any contact with the Rabbi since that time. I guess you can refer to him as a friend from a different era in my life. Rabbi Schacter was a very close friend of my in-laws at that time and he always jokingly referred to me as the "family son-in-law."

The story below is taken from his 2013 obituary, written by Margalit Fox in the New York Times, to whom we offer our thanks and appreciation.

The smoke was still rising as Rabbi Herschel Schacter rode through the gates of Buchenwald. It was April 11, 1945, and Gen.

**Rabbi Schacter giving his famous service at Buchenwald in April of 1945, when the rabbi was 27 years old.**





George S. Patton's Third Army had liberated the concentration camp scarcely an hour before. Rabbi Schachter, who was attached to the Third Army's VIII Corps, was the first Jewish chaplain to enter in its wake. That morning, after learning that Patton's forward tanks had arrived at the camp, he had commandeered a jeep and driver and sped toward Buchenwald. By late afternoon, when the rabbi drove through the gates, Allied tanks had breached the camp. He remembered, he later said, the sting of smoke in his eyes, the smell

of burning flesh and the hundreds of bodies strewn everywhere.

In Buchenwald that April day, Rabbi Schachter said afterward, it seemed as though there was

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**"Shalom Aleichem,  
Yidden,"  
Rabbi Schachter  
cried in Yiddish,  
"ihr zint frei!" —  
"Peace be upon you,  
Jews, you are free!"**

---

no one left alive. In the camp, he encountered a young American lieutenant who knew his way around. "Are there any Jews alive here?" the rabbi asked. He was led to the *Kleine Lager*, a smaller camp within the larger one. There, in filthy barracks, men lay on raw wooden planks stacked from floor to ceiling. They stared down at the rabbi, in his unfamiliar military uniform, with unmistakable fright.

"*Shalom Aleichem, Yidden*," Rabbi Schachter cried in Yiddish, "*ihr zint frei!*" — "Peace be upon you, Jews, you are free!" He ran from barracks to barracks, repeating those words. He was joined by those Jews who could walk, until a stream of people swelled behind him. As he passed a mound of corpses, Rabbi Schachter spied a flicker of movement. Drawing closer, he saw a small boy, Prisoner 17030, hiding in terror behind the mound. "I was afraid of him," the child would recall long afterward in an interview with The New York

Times. "I knew all the uniforms of SS and Gestapo and Wehrmacht, and all of a sudden, a new kind of uniform. I thought, 'A new kind of enemy.'" With tears streaming down his face, Rabbi Schachter picked the boy up.

"What's your name, my child?" he asked in Yiddish.

"Lulek," the child replied.

"How old are you?" the rabbi asked.

"What difference does it make?" the seven-year-old said. "I'm older than you, anyway."

"Why do you think you're older?" Rabbi Schachter asked, smiling.

"Because you cry and laugh like a child," Lulek replied. "I haven't laughed in a long time, and I don't even cry anymore. So which one of us is older?"

Lulek, who eventually settled in Palestine, grew up to be Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel.

Rabbi Schachter remained at Buchenwald for months, tending to survivors, leading religious services in a former Nazi recreation hall and eventually helping to resettle thousands of Jews.

He discovered nearly a thousand orphaned children in Buchenwald. He and a colleague, Rabbi Robert Marcus, helped arrange for their transport to France — a convoy that included Lulek and the teenage Elie Wiesel — as well as to Switzerland, and to Palestine.

Rabbi Schachter died in the Riverdale section of the Bronx on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at age 95 after a career as one of the most prominent Modern Orthodox rabbis in the United States. For his work, Rabbi Schachter was singled out by name that Friday by Yisrael Meir Lau, in a meeting with President Obama at *Yad Vashem*. He thanked the American people for delivering Buchenwald survivors "not from slavery to freedom, but from death to life." He had not yet learned of Rabbi Schachter's death the day before. ♦



**Rabbi Schachter**



# The History of Hatikva

by Yardena Kamely

Israel has many stories to tell, about immigration (Aliyah), the first pioneers, their hard work becoming farmers, about building settlements like the Moshavah (farming community), the Kibbutz, the Moshav, and how the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael) became the independent State of Israel. In celebration of Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, here is a background story about *Hatikvah*, explaining how *Hatikvah* became Israel's national anthem.

An ad in the paper "Ha'tzvi" (published in Jerusalem) told its readers in 1886 about a booklet of songs in Hebrew written by Naftali Hertz Imber. Among those songs was his song *Tikvateinu* (our hope). The news about Hebrew songs published in Israel touched the soul of the Jewish people in the Diaspora and brought joy to the society of "Hovevei Zion" (Lovers of Zion). The song *Tikvateinu* resonated in the hearts of Jews in Israel and the Diaspora and became very popular. Soon it was adopted as a national anthem.

Apparently, the first version of the song *Tikvateinu*, later renamed *Hatikva* (The Hope), was written by Imber in Jassy (Yash), a town in Romania, in 1877. When Imber made Aliyah (immigration) to Israel (1882), he wandered from Moshavah (Jewish settlement) to Moshavah reading his poem *Tikvateinu*, and other songs he wrote, to the public. Imber was described by one contemporary as "a vagabond, a drunkard and a Hebrew poet." When in

spired, after a drink or two, he added more stanzas to the song *Tikvateinu*, ultimately creating a total of nine. Today, we sing only the first two stanzas. During the period of the First Aliyah, one and another Moshavah would claim: "Imber wrote *Hatikva* here." The last version of the song was probably written in Jerusalem. People who knew Imber at that time remembered that each time he was thinking of nice, rhyming words for his song, he would rush and write them on the wall of his room, in order not to forget them.

Who composed the melody to Imber's song? We don't know. People started to sing *Hatikva* with the melody we sing today around 1887. Some say that the melody is from the symphonic poem "Moldava" (Czechoslovakia/Moldavia), composed by Smetana. When the British Mandate government briefly banned the performance of *Hatikva* in 1919 due to Arab anti-Zionist political activity, you could frequently hear Smetana's "Moldava" playing on the radio "Kol Yerushalayim," The Voice of Jerusalem (radio with transmissions in Hebrew, Arabic and

English). The British became aware of its connection to *Hatikva* and prohibited the playing of "Moldava," too.

Apparently, the melody of the Romanian song "Oys - Tzi" (the wagon and the ox) is the origin for the melody of *Hatikva*. When the *Moshavah Rechovot* was founded (1890),

## The modern lyrics of Hatikva

As long as deep in the heart,  
The soul of a Jew yearns,  
And forward to the East  
To Zion, an eye looks  
Our hope will not be lost,  
The hope of two thousand years,  
To be a free nation in our land,  
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Kol od balevav p'nimah	כל עוד בלבב פנימה
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah	נפש יהודי הומיה
Ulfa'atey mizrach kadimah	ולפאתי מזרח קדימה
Ayin l'tzion tzofiyah	עין לציון צופיה
Od lo avdah tikvatenu	עוד לא אבדה תקותנו
Hatikvah bat shnot alpayim	התקוה בת שנות אלפים
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu	להיות עם חופשי בארצנו
Eretz Tzion v'Yerushalayim	ארץ ציון וירושלים

the construction workers who walked every day from *Rishon L'tzion* to *Rehovot* were singing *Hatikva* on their way and thus it became a very popular song. In 1898 Herzl visited *Rehovot* and a little girl, dressed in blue and white, presented him flowers and a song, ... *Hatikva*. All the people around joined in her song. *Hatikva* started to spread in Eretz Yisrael; farmers in the fields, workers, mothers to their children, guards on horseback, everybody was singing the popular Hebrew song. *Hatikva* became a national song.

*Hatikva* came to be known to the Jewish Communities in Europe, when settlers from Israel visited them (1894), asking for help for their *Moshavah*. The Zionist settlers presented them a booklet with popular Hebrew songs; in it, the name of Imber's song "Tikvateinu" was changed to "Hatikva", and some words were changed by the editors. This booklet, "Shirei Am Zion" (Songs of the People of Zion) became popular very soon, after being sold at the International Fair in Berlin (1896) together with wine and almonds from the *Moshavot*.

This was all before the First Zionist Congress organized by Herzl (Basel, 1897) and the Zionist Movement was looking for an anthem. A competition for composing a "Jewish National Song" was announced; the jurors would be Herzl and Nordau. Most of the songs received were written in German, some in English, French and Italian; only one was written in Hebrew. Herzl and Nordau didn't like any of the songs, so no Jewish anthem emerged at the first Congress. At the end of a Zionist Assembly in London (1900), some of

the participants started to sing *Hatikva* with English translation. The people remained standing in silence like they did before for the English anthem. The same happened in an assembly in Germany, singing *Hatikva* with German translation, and in Vilna (Soviet Lithuania). After Imber heard of this popularity of his song, he wrote a letter to Herzl asking him to choose it as the Jewish National Anthem. Herzl didn't answer him.

At the end of the heated discussions at

the Zionist "Uganda Congress" (1903), the participants chanted *Hatikva* spontaneously and with enthusiasm. The line, "As long as forward to the East – To Zion, looks the eye – ...", became significant, since at the Congress the decision was made not to choose Uganda but only Zion for the Jewish State. After this Congress, all other Congresses ended with the singing of *Hatikva*. So in essence the People chose it as the Jewish anthem, not some official committee of the Zionist organization.

When the *Olim* (immigrants) of the

Second Aliya came to Israel, their popular song was "The Blessing of the Jewish People" by the renowned poet Chaim Nachman Bialik. The poet refused the proposal to make his song the National Anthem, and finally *Hatikva* was accepted as the traditional Jewish national anthem. Still, even when the State of Israel was established in 1948, the law did not establish *Hatikva* as the Israeli State anthem. It was still a "tradition." It wasn't until November of 2004 that *Hatikva* was officially accepted as the National Anthem of Israel by the Knesset. ◇



**Poster celebrating 100 years of Naftali Imbar's publication of "Hatikva"**

# *In Vienna: Looking Beyond the “Woman in Gold”*

by Nancy Kluger

Recently, I spent a long weekend in Vienna, Austria. I traveled with Wolf Raymer, who speaks German, and was supportive and eager to travel to Vienna with me. There were many reasons I needed to go there and have felt persistently pulled in that direction.

It started with the film “Woman in Gold.” The character, Maria Altman, played by Helen Mirren, fascinated me, as did her need to recover the famed painting that Gustav Klimt had painted of her aunt and that hung in their house while she was growing up in Austria. When the Nazis marched into Vienna, they stole many possessions of its Jewish residents, including the golden Klimt portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer. After the war, the Austrian government had seized the painting, claiming it to be a national treasure and not the property of the Bloch-Bauer family.

Kurt, my late husband, and his family had lived in Vienna, before fleeing to Amsterdam during the Holocaust. They were well-to-do, had their own business and a beautiful home. So I hoped there must be some trace of what had been a beautiful life before leaving it all behind. Like the protagonist in “Woman in Gold,” I was seeking to establish a connection to their life in Vienna.

While in Toronto, several weeks ago, Wolf and I had brunch with distant cousins of Kurt’s, David and Edna Magder. Edna lost her mother at Maly Trostinets (a Nazi concentration camp just east of Minsk in Belorussia) and is extremely active in supporting organi-



**At the Hochstrahl Fountain (Hochstrahlbrunnen), dedicated by Emperor Franz Joseph in 1873 to inaugurate the first spring water main (from the Alps) into the city of Vienna.**

zations that bring Jewish history and causes to light, including The Association for the Stones of Remembrance. Her well-informed contacts are located in Vienna and she provided us with names and resources with which to begin our journey.

Our hotel in Vienna was lovely, old-world, on a narrow, quiet street. Lunch, of course, was Wiener Schnitzel. In the evening, we went to the opera, followed by a late dinner at the Sacher Hotel, where we were offered the famous sacher torte.

Our second day was with Walter Juraschek, a highly recommended tour guide. Vienna is not a large city and is very manageable, but Walter kept us going for six hours. I believe we walked in circles most of the time. His knowledge of history was mind-boggling and I quickly lost track of the number of wives,

brothers and mistresses of the Austrian kings and well-known celebrities like Mahler, Strauss, and Klimt. Walter's knowledge was matched by Wolf's love of history – two of the best tour guides you could ask for.

We walked parts of the Ringstrasse, the street built to replace the city walls from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and learned the history of the Opera House. We saw many former Jewish homes that are now hotels or, sadly, commercial establishments. McDonalds, the one with the golden arches, is in the former home of the Wertheim family. Wertheim had invented the fireproof safe.

We visited the synagogue in the Jewish district, closed because it was Friday, and had lunch at the Jewish Museum, where we bought the book "Good Living Street," about the fortunes of a Viennese family called Gallia. Prior to the Holocaust, there were 200,000 Jewish people living in Vienna; today there are 7,900.

We went to the Palace and saw the monuments to Prince Eugene and also the Hapsburg family chapel, where marriages were often performed without a groom. Attendance by proxy was acceptable.

Our third day was spent at the ChristKindlmarkt in front of City Hall. This Yearly event is much like a flea market in the



**The Stadtempel, the main synagogue of Vienna. Only Catholic churches were allowed to be stand-alone buildings, so the synagogue was built into a city street. This is what allowed the synagogue to survive Kristallnacht in 1938 and to be the only synagogue (out of 93) in Vienna to survive World War II.**



**Located in Judenplatz, this is the Vienna Holocaust Memorial, dedicated to all Austrian Jews killed in the Holocaust. It is also known as the Nameless Library.**

United States, but I believe one level better. We bought beautiful and fun trinkets for our grandchildren and enjoyed the spirit of Vienna during this time of year. Our last stop was the Belvedere Museum where we finally brought our trip to a close. We saw Klimt's "Woman in Gold," the painting sought by Maria Altman, and what we thought was even more beautiful, Klimt's "The Kiss."

Unfortunately, we didn't recover any additional information about previous residents the Kluger family. Like the history of many families, this one may be absent in what has been written, but will live forever in our thoughts and our respect for this era of history. ♦

# — This Month in Jewish History —

## May

1096 – On his way to join the Crusade led by Peter the Hermit, Emico, the Count of Leiningen, attacks the synagogue at Speyer, on the Rhine in southwestern Germany near Worms. The Jews defend themselves but are systematically slain. This begins a period of more frequent and organized attacks on Jews in Europe.

1103 – The anniversary of the death of Isaac Alfasi (Fez, born 1013) also known as the "RIF," who compiled the first codification of Jewish law, called *Sefer Halachot*, which still appears today in every volume of the Talmud. Joseph Caro later used *Sefer Halachot* as a basis for his work.

1160 – Bishop William of Bezier, France, is appalled by the custom of beating Jews during Palm Sunday, and issues an order excommunicating priests who do so.

1171 – The first ritual murder accusation in Europe occurs in Blois, France. Fifty-one Jews are burned, seventeen of them women. While burning to death, they chant the hymn *Alenu*, which had been composed in Talmudic times.

1267 – The city council of Vienna decides to force all Jews to wear a cone-shaped head-dress in addition to the badge. Called the *Pileum cornutum*, it is prevalent in many medieval woodcuts illustrating Jews.

1291 – After a two-month siege, the Christian fortress at Acre (just north of modern Haifa) falls to the Fatimid Egyptians, bringing a final end to the Crusades. (Six of them over a period of almost two hundred years.)

1415 – Enraged by the lack of voluntary conversions after the Christian "victory" at the

Tortosa disputation in Aragon, Spain—one of the most famous Christian/Jewish debates—Pope Benedict XIII bans Talmudic study in any form, institutes forced Christian sermons, and tries to restrict Jewish life completely. 1420 – Albert V of Austria accuses a rich Jew, Israel of Enns, of purchasing a wafer in order to desecrate it. All the Jews in the territory are jailed.

1554 – After an appeal by Jews in Catholic countries, Pope Julius III agrees to allow the burning of the Talmud but spares "harmless rabbinical writings."

1947 – The *Irgun Zeva'i Le'ummi*, the underground organization fighting for an independent Jewish state (better known as the *Etzel*), breaks into the British prison fortress at Acre and frees 41 *Etzel* and *Lehi* prisoners. This daring action is later immortalized in the novel "Exodus" and subsequent film, after the agnostic pioneer Barak Ben Canaan looks heavenward and prays "God, please don't let my brother die at the end of a British rope." He is overheard by his son, Ari.

1934 – The district of Birobidzhan, in the far southeast of the Soviet Union on the northern border of Manchuria, is established as a Jewish Autonomous Region. It is to cover an area of 36,000 square kilometers, with Yiddish as its official language. Within two years the Stalin government has a change of heart, as its infamous 1936 purges begin, and many Jewish socialist leaders are liquidated. After World War II, attempts are made to revive Birobidzhan, with Yiddish culture but without Judaism, as the Soviets do not allow religion. All attempts fail miserably, and soon a real Jewish country miraculously appears. ♦





# KJCC Meditation Garden

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

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

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





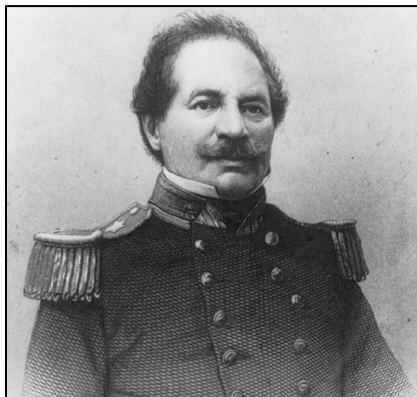
# In the Month of May

## *Our American Jewish Heritage*

by Gloria Avner

**"N**othing significantly Jewish is happening in the month of May this year," I thought to myself, a touch kvetchily. Some research later my thinking morphed to: well, there is this lightweight holiday related to Passover, called *Pesach Sheni* (Second Passover), meant to give another chance to people who missed the *mitzvah* of sitting around a dining room table, saying blessings over ritual foods, and answering the "Four Questions" in a way that tell us once again, and yet stays forever new, our story – how we became the people that we are. I like the idea of "second chances," a fresh start. Yes, that would be a good thing to celebrate. But more research brings a new, fully focused answer to my search for significant Jewish happenings this month. Suddenly and surprisingly, thanks to none other than George W. Bush, "nothing" becomes "everything." In 2006, President Bush declared the month of May to be forever known as "Jewish American Heritage Month."

How do we celebrate such a month? I remember one year KJCC went on an outing to a Marlins game where during the seventh inning stretch there was a tribute to



**Uriah Phillips Levy**

Jewish Heritage. (The game was against the New York Mets, and we just happened to also see Mets fan Rabbi Richard Agler there, in his Mets hat written in Hebrew.) We may even have had specially priced seats and Kosher hot-dogs to go with (if there is such a thing) kosher beer.



**Haym Salomon**

This special month, by Congressional resolution and presidential proclamation, is now officially the time set aside to acknowledge the more-than-350-year history of Jewish Americans who wove, and are weaving, their contributions "into the fabric of American history, culture and society."

Go to the website: [jewishamericanheritagemonth.us](http://jewishamericanheritagemonth.us). It features a wonderful rotating compendium of Jewish contributors and their achievements entitled "Tell Me a Story." The profiles range from the well-known and iconic, those whose names are household words – Golda Meir, Louis Brandeis, Bernard Baruch, Barbara Streisand, Joan Rivers, Sophie Tucker, George Gershwin, Edna Ferber, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Levi Strauss – to the lesser known and perhaps even more important. Read about Uriah Levy, the first Jewish officer of the United States Navy, who ended the practice of flogging as discipline or punishment. (He also bought and restored Monticel-



**Garrett Reisman**

lo, Thomas Jefferson's home, which had fallen into ruin due to the penury and indifference of Jefferson's heirs, then gave it to the American people.) Meet the man who may be more deserving than

George Washington of the title *Father of Our Country*: Haym Salomon was responsible for raising much of the money needed to finance the American Revolution, and later saved the new nation from collapse. Historians say that without him, there would be no America. Am I the only one who had never heard of Gertrude Elion, who revolutionized drug development, including creation of the immunosuppressant that made organ transplant possible; who developed treatments for childhood leukemia, hepatitis, lupus, and more, becoming the fifth woman ever to receive the Nobel Prize in Medicine?

As I read through the list and absorb each person's remarkable life story, I am struck by how many rose above desire for personal aggrandizement. They did what they did out of passion, love for their work and the world's people. Whether they were entertainers like Molly Picon and Barbara Streisand, scientists like Jonas Salk, writers like Emma Lazarus, or Ida Cohen Rosenthal, the co-founder of Maidenform bras, this vibrant cadre of Jewish people seemed to operate almost wholly from compassion for people who suffered, whether from disease or mistreatment at the hands of what we now call "the one percent." Go to the website. It is worth meeting these *lantsmen* of ours – and worth being inspired by them.

Imagine you are the one listed as Garrett Reisman, a nice Jewish boy born in New Jersey in 1968. You earn your Ph.D at Caltech in 1997, where, among your many achieve-

ments, you design the thruster-based attitude control system for the NASA Aqua Spacecraft. You serve as flight engineer aboard both the Expedition-16 *and* -17 crews on the International Space Station. In your most recent mission, on May 14, 2010, you get to operate the Space Station robotic arm, install and attach the Russian-built Mini Research Module to the Space Station. You also carry with you, in space, well out of the orbit of anti-Semitism, the 2006 presidential proclamation declaring May to be Jewish American Heritage Month. When you get back to earth, you will make sure the document finds a home at the National Museum of Jewish American History, in Philadelphia.

Do I need to say it out loud? Is it an accident that May was chosen as the month in which to honor the Jewish Americans who make life better for all Americans (and I believe not just for Americans, but all people)? Think about what else happens in May. Yes, this is the month in which we commemorate the Holocaust. On *Yom HaShoah*, May 5<sup>th</sup>, we will sit in our synagogue sanctuary and pay tribute both to the memory of the murdered and to the righteous few who attempted to save the lives of Jews in their midst.

We can't help wondering how many of the 6,000,000 might have added miraculous and subtle accomplishments for the benefit of their country or the world. Who knows in what directions they would have taken us in the realms of justice, science, athletics and the arts? It is both good, and ironic, that the presidential proclamation honoring Jewish Americans, better late than never, resides in the City of Brotherly Love. ♦



**Gertrude Elion**

# KJCC Women's Seder Reaches *Bat Mitzvah* Age

by Gloria Avner

It seems that every year we say, "This was the best one ever!" We always mean it. But this 13<sup>th</sup> variation on a theme – relevant Pass-over celebration by women working to repair the world, fighting for the lives and freedom of those less fortunate than ourselves, for the rights to health and full self-development for women, children, and families everywhere – it did seem special, less formal, more family-like, with wonderful participation and lots of creative buzz.

For one thing, our handsome Judy-Chicago

-inspired tablecloth brimming with the decorated names of past participants (yes, there was cause for tears and sadness when we saw the names of those no longer with us), turned into a gorgeous *seder* quilt when spread over our three large display panels. Women slightly new to our Women's Seder community, here to "break matzoh" with us for the first time, had a meaningful chance to add their names in vibrant color to the mix of us. We got to know each other as we sat around a card table overflowing with magic markers, thankful for Marcia Kreitman's fabric and her years' worth of gentle leadership on this and our on-going honoree banner project. This year's group of creative clay matzoh holders, made under the gener-

ous tutelage of Beth Kaminstein, added even more to the multi-dimensional bonding of Women's Seder experience.



ous tutelage of Beth Kaminstein, added even more to the multi-dimensional bonding of Women's Seder experience.

More new people helped set up this year too, so we had great introductions and even more of a chance to get to know each other (in addition to the usual time eating, drinking, reading and music making.) We

were a houseful of Aunties, in our own home, setting tables, washing dishes, laying out *Haggadahs*, preparing for eagerly awaited company. We could hardly wait to per-

form the *mitzvah* of telling our story.

Beth Kaminstein gave a moving introduction, put-







ting our years and intent in graceful, grateful perspective. Muriel Swartz reminded us of how the “*seder*-tablecloth-turned-quilt” came to be, and then we began the seder. Leadership duties were shared by Susan Gordon, Beth Hayden, and me, with lots of stories, poetry, shared readings, musical instruments, and “joyful noise.” A mix of Jew and non-Jew, members, non-members, friends, families, children and adults, we were a jubilant crowd.

Erica Lieberman-Garrett coordinated – dare I say it – the most delicious, well-laid-out group of dishes ever, from multiple varieties of brisket and chicken, kugels, roasted vegetables, and “bark,” both vegan and straight (where would we be without Suzi Feder’s “shmeat matzoh” and dark chocolate bark, Beth Kaminstein’s tropical gefilte fish, Susan Gordon’s apricot chicken, Marcia Kreitman’s Moroccan Chicken, the three brisket sisters’ variations on a gravied theme, Linda Perloff’s chopped liver and matzoh stuffing, Jane Friedman’s and Terry’s Tai-now’s great veggies, Linda Kaplan’s fruit salad, Barbara Knowles’ macaroons and jellies and oh please forgive me if I left out names of our other great cooks and their

dishes.) Erica’s Matzoh Ball Soup was delicious as ever; and so was Linda Pollack’s corn pudding. But new, different, and great favorites this year were Donna Bolton’s spectacular organic beet horseradish and Beth Hayden’s classical extra-wine-laden *charoset*. But some might say the best part was yet to be.

We come together for a serious purpose as well as a chance to give our story a more

contemporary slant than at most of our community seders. In the words of our Women’s Seder *Haggadah*, “WE WANT TO *DO* SOMETHING.” We fundraise for projects we believe in. We are serious about repairing the world (*tikkun olam*).

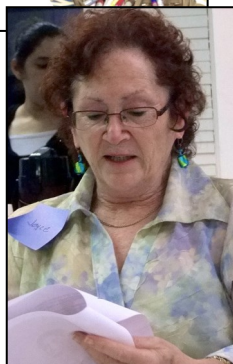
This year’s recipients extend from



across the great water to Africa and all the way back to our own tiny islands. We thank Joan Stark for her thoughtful coordination of the choosing and her presentation at the *seder*.

Once again we chose to honor the work being done by TAGS, The Talia Agler Girls Shelter, the extraordinary organization in Nairobi, Kenya, established in the name of Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler’s daughter of blessed memory, Tali, for the rescue, reintegration, and education of girls who have been traumatized by kidnapping, rape and torture. (For more infor-





mation, go to [www.rabbiagler.com](http://www.rabbiagler.com)).

Our second recipient, closer to home (in all senses of the word) is the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys. With their gifted cadre of social workers, medical personnel and hardworking volunteers, they do come into our homes; many of our members have benefited physically and emotionally from their ministrations in these last few years. As it says in our Shabbat morning prayer-book, the kind acts they perform are those "whose worth cannot be measured."

The final KJCC grantee comes as close to home as you can get: the KJCC Scholarship Fund. We are proud to announce that this year's scholarship recipient will be Joshua Bernstein, son of Dr. Paul and Barbara Bernstein. He is such an integral part of this *shul* that our memories go back to his *bris* and baby naming. Watch for next month's feature on Joshua, his achievements and his goals.

Each year we honor two women — one from our community, and one from Jewish history. It is especially fitting that this year's choice for honoree from the past was Lillian Wald, founder of the Henry Street Settlement House and the NY Visiting Nurse Service. Joyce made the presentation.

A most significant part of our seder is honoring our "Woman of the Year." This year we honored Jane Friedman. A full article about Jane follows.

The final presentation was to Beth Kaminstein, our pottery mentor. Medina Roy created a unique ceramic holder for a beautiful orchid. It will hang in the KJCC orchid pergo-

la.

We have history here, 13 years of it, and we are still creating, moving with conscious awareness forward to the present and through to the future. Like 13-year-old *B'nei Mitzvah*, our Women's Seders are coming into maturity. We know what we are doing and are committed to doing it better and better. I heard that the amount we raised for "*tikkun olam*" this year also outperformed our previous years. May our children be of the "wise" variety. Let

them listen well, stay fully awake (long enough to understand the story), imagine themselves inside it, enjoy the food, sing out the four questions, find the *afikomen*, get the reward and store up memories they will feel compelled to pass on to their own children. If they only tell the story, "*Dayenu*." It would be enough. If we say next year, "this is the best Women's Seder ever," *Dayenu v'dayenu*. ◇





# The Seder Moves On...

We light candles, sing, read from our special Women's Haggadah, we bless our ritual foods and enjoy each other's company as Joyce moves tirelessly around the room snapping photos.



## And on...

Our seder tablecloth-turned-tapestry expands with the addition of new names. Welcome, new member Mary Anne Pearl and Trish Rogers, guest returnee and office manager for Dr. Paul Bernstein. The creativity continues...



*(Our thanks to Marcia Kreitman for the fabric and Elaine Schulberg for the colorful markers.)*



After all the presentations (and dessert), the seder ends with a raffle drawing. Thank you, Oceana Gross (above at right, with Susan Gordon), for selecting the three winning tickets.



*Our thanks to all those who contributed photographs of the Women's Seder: Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner and Erica Lieberman-Garrett.*

We love dipping our pinkies in wine, making the plague story in the Haggadah a true sensory experience. Sylvie Coeurjoly (above, left), Medina Roy and Linda Pollack (in photo at right) are totally focused.





# Meet Jane Friedman:

## KJCC Woman of the Year

by Gloria Avner

One of the best things about introducing the Women's Seder Honoree is the chance to get to know her better by asking questions. The questions were standard. Her answers were not. The 3-D portrait that emerged as we talked made me prouder than ever about our unanimous choice; this strong, self-sufficient but modest role model is a unique human being, great friend, and strong supporter of KJCC.

At our "seder" I asked the attendees: "how many of you think Jane grew up in a city." No hands. "Small town?" Many hands. "Outskirts of a village?" All hands on deck. Jane is an island girl, born and bred on the Philippine Island of Panay. The nearest town was Bugasong, and Jinalinan (these names are positively musical) was the village. The outskirts are called Bayyu. The mail was delivered by motorcycle. Since there were no street names or house numbers, if the mailman did not know where someone lived, he'd have to ask and be given directions; of course everyone who lived there knew where everyone else lived.

So what was it about this village and island that shaped our Jane? Not surprisingly, her family lived on a farm. They grew all their own food. At the back of her house was the ocean. In front were the rice fields. To the side were the vegetable gardens, and all around were mountains. If you wanted to eat, you planted, tended and harvested. If you wanted protein, you fished. You also had to do housework and take care of siblings. Ready? Jane is number nine of fourteen children. She had five sisters and eight brothers and was responsible for all those younger

than she.

Getting educated was not easy, but Jane hungered for it. There was no such thing as public school in the Philippines, and never the possibility of going beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each child and child's family had to pay for and provide *everything* from books to supplies to – believe it or not – a chair to sit on. Fast forward. Here comes our first glimpse of how Jane developed her philosophy of life (which she continues to pass on to Harry, her only child). "Don't ever say 'I can't,' " she tells him. Jane believes in trying and not giving up. I can still see the proud sparkles in her eyes as she describes the chair she designed and constructed, all by herself, out of bamboo, to carry to school.



Jane

Jane did not dislike farming, or childcare, or fishing. We can see how good she is at all of it; it is part of her, this innate ability to make plants and humans thrive, her respect for all growing things. Jane had bigger dreams, though. She wanted adventure, travel and the opportunity to learn things she couldn't even articulate. Even when she left for America, at 18 years old, her curious, slightly dissatisfied self, was looking for answers and a faith that could speak to her.

Two of Jane's sisters had entered the military, married American military men, and moved to the United States in the 80s. They in turn brought Jane's parents over. When Jane joined them, she found work as a military family's nanny (lucky family!). They all lived around Washington, D.C. She met her



**Jane brought her friends Linda Hartsing and artistic daughter Jessica to the Seder to share in the celebration.**

future husband, Air Force Intelligence Specialist Steve Friedman, at the Pentagon. A few years later they were married. After a few more years, Harry came along, and in 2006, when Steve's parents grew frail, Jane, Steve, and little Harry relocated to Florida to assist the elderly in-laws. Jane brought her mother, the regal Angelina, with them. To Jane, "family values" was not a phrase but the way you lived your life.

Steve was Jewish. They lived on the mainland. Jane and Steve wanted to give their son a Jewish education and Steve looked at places in and around Miami. Somehow he found Key Largo School and Keys Jewish Community Center and decided this would be a good place to grow his son's education (never mind all the driving that Jane would have to do to get her child to and from his classes every day). We are so glad they made this decision.

Now Jane started bringing shy little Harry to Sunday School and began not just to give us her time and energy, but to become a quiet and necessary part of us. Jane was the parent who would always bring and prepare food for the children's break times. We could count on her. She started to want to learn along with Harry and the children. She regularly came to services and brought Harry with her. Harry grew taller and smarter and more

responsible, helping Jane regularly to feed the homeless, gather food for food banks, participate in myriad scouting events, go to demonstrations to support Israel, and by the time Harry became Bar Mitzvah, Jane could not only read Hebrew but knew the Friday night service by heart.

She could have stopped coming to Sunday School classes when Harry graduated and became Bar Mitzvah, but she didn't. She had learned enough to become a tutor. She became ever more active in Sisterhood, eventually becoming its Vice President. She still does most of the shopping for Sisterhood and has made her signature contribution to KJCC members health, bringing a variety of salads, fruits and vegetable dishes for those who do not want to ingest sugar. Now that Harry's Eagle Scout Garden Project is abundantly successful, we have become even more grateful, a fringe beneficiary along with the local food banks.

Could we be more grateful? No. But in the quiet depths of Jane's inner life, that hunger for a meaningful faith had grown. She liked what she had become a part of. She wanted to know more, and with Yarden's help and encouragement, she studied for a year (along with a Miami rabbi), did all that was asked of her and immersed in a ritual bath (*mikvah*) in the Florida Bay to complete her conversion.

Over the years we have watched Jane grow in confidence and knowledge. She is in the roster of Friday night service leaders, often with Medina, occasionally with Harry. We are her *mishpocha*, and she is ours.

Jane is so quiet, so humble, so giving in hundreds of behind-the-scene ways, we can never thank her enough. We certainly have never had a *Tu B'Shvat seder*/celebration in which she has not been a key player, especially in tree planting and introduction of exotic and even medicinal fruits to our KJCC orchard.

We salute you, Jane, the eager learner, ever helpful, generous, and principled Jew. I just wish we had a photo of that bamboo chair you made, testimony to your right and ability to do good in the world and achieve any goal important to you. ♦



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## 2. Palace Training & Education Center

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## 3. Local Ownership –

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services bearing The Palace name: only the best.

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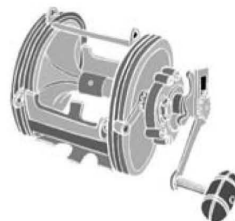
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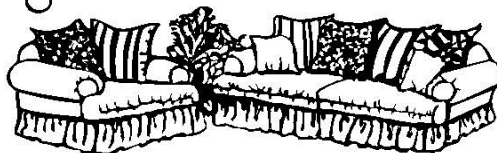


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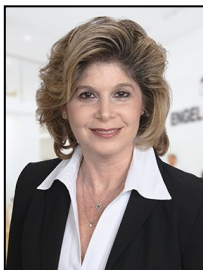
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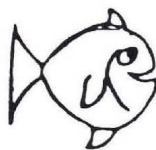
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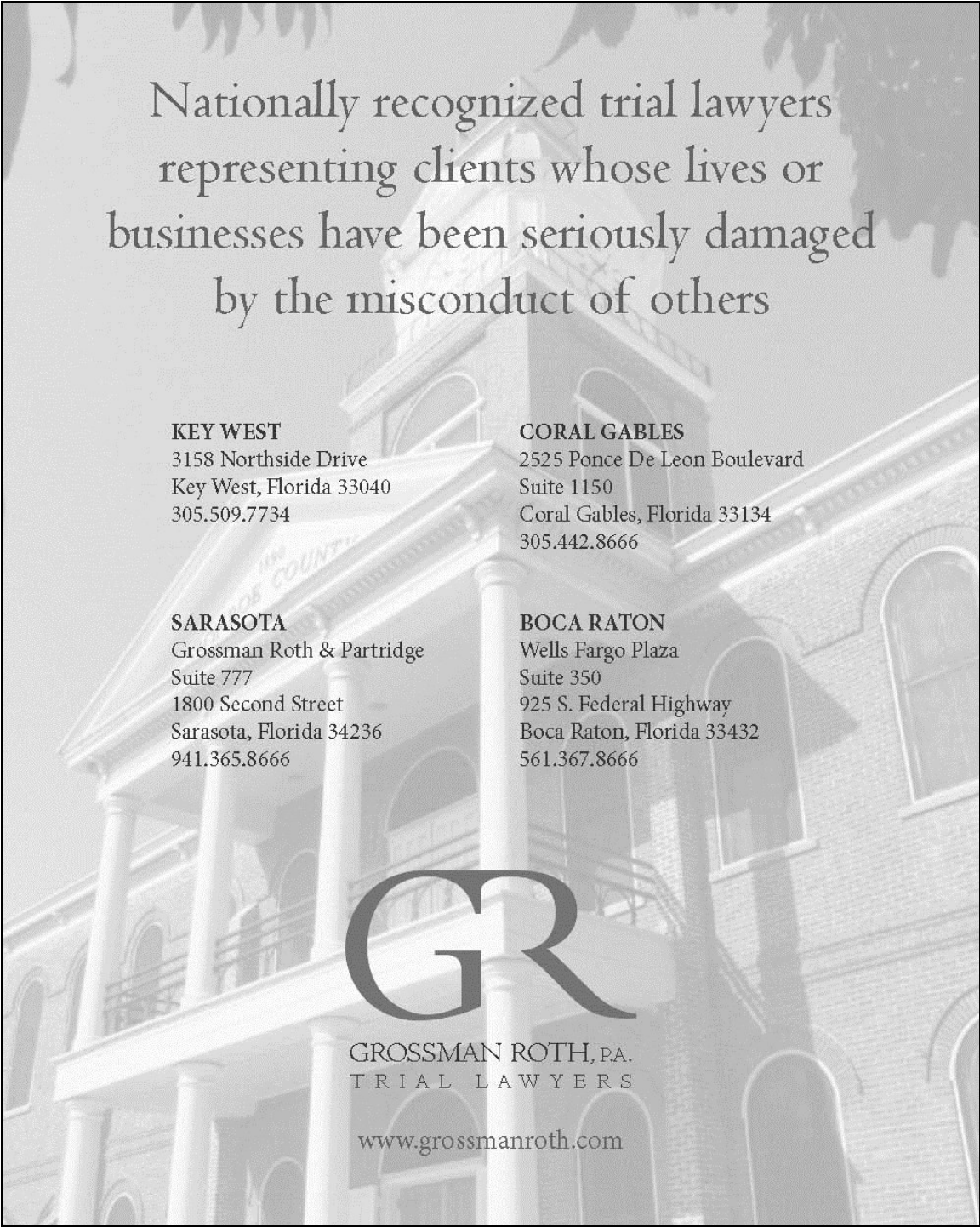
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