

# Chai~Lights



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June/July/August 2012

11 Sivan - 13 Elul 5772

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**Carol Steinbock on KJCC's Meditation Garden - page 25**

**Bernd Wollschlaeger's Journey to Judaism - page 33**

**Steve Smith on KJCC's Holocaust Torah - page 37**

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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

# June 2012

# 11 Sivan - 10 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services.  <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. KJCC                      offers services every Friday night.</p>					1  KJCC Religious Students  <i>Steve &amp; Barbara Smith</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8  Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur  <i>Carol &amp; Steve Steinbock</i>	9
10  KJCC Board Meeting 9 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15  Joyce Peckman  <i>Steve &amp; Amelia Kasino</i>	16
17  Father's Day	18	19	20  Summer Solstice		22  Stuart, Lauren & Kathy Sax <i>Joan &amp; Milton Wohl Rene &amp; Skip Rose Lauren &amp; Stuart Sax</i>	23
24	25	26	27	28	29  Erica Lieberman- Garrett  6:30 service	30

## 2012 - 2013 Officers and Board

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Stuart Sax

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Bernie Ginsberg

**Vice Presidents**  
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Dave Mont – Medina Roy  
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Steve Steinbock  
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**Newsletter**  
Lisa Richardson Rutherford  
*Editor*

**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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P.O. Box 1332  
Tavernier, Florida 33070  
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## President's Message Stuart Sax



Well, the summer has arrived and that means a hiatus for the Sisterhood and for the Board of the KJCC. But it does not mean that we come to a screeching halt for a couple of months and put our operation on hold. Quite the contrary.

Beginning this month, various committees will meet to formulate their strategies for the fall and winter season ahead. Gloria and the Ritual Committee will still be coordinating our service leaders for the summer months. They will also be hard at work planning for our third year of inspirational High Holiday Services with Rabbi Danny and Cantor Mark. Joyce will continue to notify our congregants of *yahrzeit* mentioned in our services and to coordinate the *onegs* that follow them. Rabbi Agler will continue to lead Torah study services and fine tune our trip to Israel that is planned for June of next year. Be sure to visit the KJCC website for all the details.

The Sisterhood will be meeting to discuss dates for Shabbat dinners and other fund raising opportunities. The Capital Improvements and House Committees will be working on our "bucket list" of wants and needs for our future. The Membership Committee will be meeting to discuss new strategies to grow our membership even

higher than our current record number.

And, of course, our Finance Committee will be discussing revisions to our fees structure and formulating the dues and contribution packages that will go out next month. While our membership income has gone up, unfortunately, our contribution income has not. Our operating expenses are also up and continue to rise. This has led to a discussion of increasing our dues slightly and also soliciting those with greater means to consider a "Fair Share" donation in addition to membership dues.

We welcome your input into any of these committees. New input often leads to exciting new ideas and, ultimately, greater income and reduced expenses to the KJCC. And these ideas need not come from just those that are here in the summer. Our electronic world means that your ideas can be on our agendas instantaneously. Have an idea for the growth of our congregation? Email it to me and I will see to it that it gets to the proper committee for consideration.

It is our goal to spend the summer formulating a positive strategy for next year. It won't happen by itself. It takes dedicated people to make it happen. Roll up your sleeves and be a part of it. ◊  
Chai-Lights June/July/August 2012 3

# Nosh

## Chai-Lights Summer Hiatus

It's that time again. After ten consecutive months of publishing, Chai-Lights will once again not publish this year during the summer. What you're holding is a combined June/July/August issue. See you in September as we all begin preparations for High Holy Days.

## A Special June 1st Friday Night Service

Typically, of course, we have one intrepid KJCC member leading Friday night services, or at most two. For the first service in June, be prepared for up to...ten? That evening services will be led by the KJCC Religious School students, guided and supported, of course, by Yardena and Gloria. They're all working very hard in preparation. So if you're still here, come and be part of one of our most sacred *mitzvot*, to teach our children the ways of Jewish life.

## If You Haven't Seen the Video Yet...

As many of you know by now, there was a reunion on April 22nd, in Princeton, NJ, of six Holocaust Torahs from Susice, Czechoslovakia. (Make sure to read Steve Smith's illuminating, updated story of our Torah on page 37. There are also some photographs of the Princeton event on page 18 of Photo Gallery.) We were sent the lovely, 20-minute video shot during the occasion, and Alan has uploaded it to the KJCC web site. Hana Gruna, 92, likely the last survivor from Susice, was there. It's professionally done, and it's impossible to watch this video without being very moved. Once on the web site, click on "misc." and then you'll see the link to the video.

## More on The KJCC Israel Trip

Planning continues for the KJCC group trip to Israel being planned for a year from now, and to be led by Rabbi Richard Agler. The minimum group size is twenty. We have additional infor-

## June Anniversaries

	Years
1st Jim & Rita Williams.....	28
1st Joel Bernard & Joan Stark.....	26
5th Stephen & Carol Steinbock.....	29
<b>7th Richard &amp; Sheila Steinberg.....</b>	<b>53</b>
8th Stephan & Jane Friedman.....	16
10th Mark & Sofy Wasser.....	17
12th Steven & Jan Hartz.....	36
<b>12th Harvey &amp; Beverly Robins.....</b>	<b>55</b>
12th William & Donna Bolton.....	19
14th Harvey & Joan Kay.....	42
<b>14th Jim &amp; Joan Boruszak.....</b>	<b>59</b>
18th Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace.....	18
19th Richard & Mindy Agler.....	36
<b>20th Milton &amp; Joan Wohl.....</b>	<b>61</b>
21st Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake.....	25
<b>23rd Skip &amp; Rene Rose.....</b>	<b>57</b>
23rd Stuart & Lauren Sax.....	38
24th Robert & Heide Werthamer.....	17
<b>25th Herbert &amp; Elinor Grossman.....</b>	<b>55</b>
28th Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble.....	43
28th Wes & Rita Conklin.....	42

mation in this issue on page 24, and even more information has been posted on the KJCC web site. (It's keysjewishcenter.com.) Once again, click on "misc." and follow the link to Israel trip.

## Sisterhood Needs Utensils

Sisterhood is in need of some items for the kitchen before Rosh Hashanah. If you have any of the following that you would like to donate, please contact me at hippiejap@hotmail.com

- Glass cake-serving dishes and plates;
- Large- and medium-size glass serving bowls;
- Glass serving trays, round and square;
- Stainless steel cutlery sets;
- Stainless serving spoons/pie servers/large forks;
- Kitchen towels and oven mitts. Thanks.

-Erica Lieberman-Garrett

## June Birthdays

2nd.....	Barbara Osder
3rd.....	Abraham Rakov
3rd.....	Elanor Forbes
4th.....	Alfred Weihl
4th.....	Scott Kay
5th.....	Dorothy Wolfe
5th.....	Joseph Sachs
6th.....	Donna Bolton
6th.....	Nancy Kluger
6th.....	Suzanne Gilson
7th.....	Carrie Smith
7th.....	Jim Nobil
7th.....	Joan Wohl
8th.....	Bunny Lohmann
8th.....	Elaine Solas
9th.....	Zoe Moshe
11th.....	Deborah Weiss
11th.....	Linda Feinberg
12th.....	Kevin M. Silverman
12th.....	Michal Kamely
13th.....	Israel Mayk
13th.....	Justin Greenbaum
14th.....	Jennifer Nobil
15th.....	Haley Mayclin
15th.....	William Bolton
16th.....	Peter Kantor
17th.....	Anita Krieger
17th.....	Leo Haviv
18th.....	Amelia Kasinof
18th.....	Arline Mirantz
18th.....	Kim Haviv
19th.....	Danielle Pincus
19th.....	Melissa Pincus
20th.....	Harvey Klein
20th.....	Judy Schmidt
21st.....	Sam Janowitz
21st.....	Taryn Nobil
23rd.....	Dale Chasteen
23rd.....	Joseph Goldberg
24th.....	Delaney Rohde
24th.....	Rita Bromwich
27th.....	Frank Emkey
27th.....	Maxwell Schrader-Grace
28th.....	Alan Cooper
29th.....	Arthur Feinberg
29th.....	Robert N. Kwalick
30th.....	Bob Friedman

## Summer Oneg Sponsors

June 1st - Steve & Barbara Smith in honor of Carrie's birthday.  
 June 8th - Carol & Steve Steinbock to celebrate their Anniversary.  
 June 15th - Steve & Amelia Kasinof in honor of Amelia's birthday.  
 June 22nd - Joan & Milton Wohl, Rene & Skip Rose and Lauren & Stuart Sax, all celebrating their anniversaries.  
 July 6th - Joyce Peckman in celebration of her birthday.  
 July 13th - Barney Coltman In Loving Memory of Ellen.  
 July 20th - Barbara & Steve Smith in honor of son Brian's birthday.

August 3rd - Patricia & Henry Isenberg in honor of Emma Feig's birthday.  
 August 10th - Barbara & Richard Knowles in honor of their anniversary. Also Barbara & Steve Smith to celebrate Barbara's birthday.  
 August 24th - Georgia Landau in honor of (husband) Dave Mont's birthday.

## July and August Service Leaders

July 6th — Steve Steinbock  
 July 13th — George Swartz  
 July 20th — Ken Atlas (*Rosh Chodesh Av*)  
 July 27th — Joe Shabathai (6:30 service)  
 August 3rd — Erica Lieberman-Garrett  
 August 10th — Stuart Sax  
 August 17th — Bernie Ginsberg  
 August 24th — Beth Hayden & Sam Vinicur

## July Anniversaries

	<b>Years</b>
2nd Douglas & Rozi Graham.....	8
9th Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly.....	2
12th Jason & Debbie Madnick.....	17
24th Dick & Rita Bromwich.....	38
<b>29th Bernard &amp; Elaine Solas.....</b>	<b>56</b>

## July Birthdays

1st.....	Alex Hudson
1st.....	Jennifer Gilson
1st.....	Patti Gross
2nd.....	Elissa A. Denker
3rd.....	Max Finkelstein
3rd.....	Michael Kaufman
4th.....	Pauline Roller
5th.....	Ron Levy
8th.....	Erica Morgan Shatz
9th.....	Joyce Peckman
10th.....	Lindsay Gould
11th.....	Steven Hartz
12th.....	Rebecca M. Schur
12th.....	Richard Steinberg
13th.....	Dot Brooking
14th.....	David Gross
14th.....	Paul Eric Bernstein
15th.....	Danna Levy
17th.....	Foster Davidson
17th.....	Robert Werthamer
17th.....	Shira Listman
18th.....	Zachary G. Kwalick
20th.....	Carol Laskin
20th.....	Roosmary Benowitz
21st.....	Arlington Garrett
21st.....	Brian Smith
21st.....	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
21st.....	Linda Perloff
23rd.....	Carrie Temkin
26th.....	Carol Field
26th.....	Lance Royce Kaufman
27th.....	Marc Bloom
27th.....	Rachael Bloom
28th.....	Lila E. Juenger
29th.....	Bruce Boruszak
29th.....	Candy Stanlake
29th.....	Mary Lee Singer
30th.....	Molly Bloom
31st.....	Drew Nobil

## August Anniversaries

	Years
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe.....55
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts.....44
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles.....13
<b>16th</b>	<b>Ira &amp; Shirley Stein.....54</b>
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman.....30
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk.....40
28th	Kurt & Nancy Kluger.....24



### CATHY KAPLAN SISTERHOOD KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Dear Stuart and Members of the KJCC Board,

For the past nine years, members of Sisterhood, our friends, and guests have gathered in the Social Hall at Passover to celebrate a special Women's Seder. We honor Jewish women who have made contributions to our own community and Jewish women of the world who have had an impact upon history. We create art together, have fun, and eat delicious food in the process of having a meaningful spiritual experience, but our deepest goal has always been *Tikkun Olam*, taking part in making the world a better place.

This year we are happy to present \$300 from our Women's Seder earnings to the KJCC Holocaust Education Fund. We believe the work it does in bringing High School students from Monroe County face to face with Holocaust survivors will make a lasting impression on these young people as they become our next shapers of the world. We are also happy to help replenish this fund in gratitude to the members of the Holocaust Committee who make the work happen: Yardena Kameley, Medina Roy, and our own Honoree of the Year, Muriel Swartz.

Sincerely,

The Women's Seder Committee: Beth Kaminstein, Gloria Avner, Marcia Kreitman, Erica Garrett, Lee Schur, Joan Stark, Muriel Swartz, and Susan Gordon, on behalf of the KJCC Sisterhood.

## August Birthdays

1st.....	Nicholas Rivera	15th.....	Patricia Isenberg
2nd.....	Marc S. Field	16th.....	Alan Lindenbaum
4th.....	Jessica Forman	16th.....	Alison Thompson
5th.....	David Kaufman	18th.....	Zachary Schrader-Grace
5th.....	Nissan Mayk	19th.....	Pamela Friedman
7th.....	Emma Feig	20th.....	Amanda Nobil
8th.....	Ilana Gilderman	21st.....	Rachel Zinner
9th.....	Eric Freundlich	23rd.....	Dave Mont
10th.....	Barbara Smith	23rd.....	Morris Willner
10th.....	Rozi Graham	26th.....	Mikhaela Bitton
13th.....	Brian Gilderman	27th.....	Jaimee Marshall
13th.....	Gina Moritz	27th.....	Judy Greenman
13th.....	Stephan L. Friedman	28th.....	Evan Stuart
14th.....	Heide Werthamer	30th.....	Robert Temkin
15th.....	Danielle Zinner	30th.....	Sue Ann Weihl
15th.....	Eileen Kominsky		

## 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 KJCC, call Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

**Cemetery Information** – If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 305-852-0214.

**Picture Postcards** – We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities to fit your needs and can be mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 305-852-0833.

**Oneg Shabbat Sponsor** – To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

**Meditation Garden** – Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 305-394-0143.

**KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim** – Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

**JNF Trees In Israel** – A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Nancy Kluger, 305-852-4353.

**Chai-Lights Mitzvah** – Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152 to make your donation.

**Advertisement In Chai-Lights or Directory** – Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights and/or annually in the Directory. Call Gene Silverman 305-664-3316 for rates.

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

# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2012*

In Memory Of

**Samuel Segal**

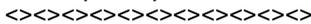
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

**Lois Owen**

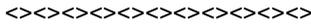
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Betty Weiss**

By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Kurt Scaller**

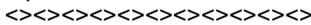
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Lucy Kaufman**

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Arthur Klimpl**

By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**E. Enrique Astray-Caneda**

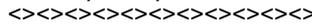
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

**William Owen**

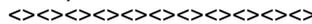
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Louis R. Coltman**

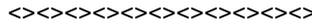
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

**Samuel Schneider**

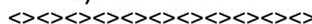
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**Sam Ruskin**

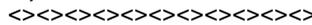
By Allan Holbrook



In Memory Of

**Ruth Rosen**

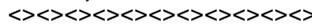
By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Esther Kwalick**

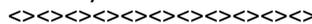
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

**Lionel Cinamon**

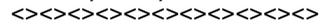
By Arline Mirantz



In Memory Of

**Esther R. Cohn**

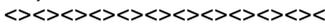
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Leo Finklestein**

By Max & Mildred Finklestein



In Memory Of

**Saul Elson**

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Rose Kantor**

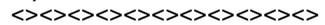
By Erwin Kantor



In Memory Of

**Emilia Mendez**

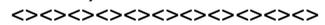
By Michael & Lorena Kaufman



In Memory Of

**Bill Kwalick**

By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

**Dale Gerber**

By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau



# *In Memoriam June, July and August 2012*

In Memory Of

**Sarah Oshinsky**

By Gerald Oshinsky



In Memory Of

**Morris Rose**

By Skip & Rene Rose



In Memory Of

**Jan Finer**

By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Leonard Tobin**

By Andrew M. Tobin



In Memory Of

**Sidney Stark**

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

**S. Marshall Gorson**

By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Sylvia Hershoff**

By Jay Hershoff



In Memory Of

**Leslie Peckman**

By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

**Milton Lang**

By Skip & Rene Rose



In Memory Of

**Rose Graff Rosenfeld**

By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Irma Weihl**

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl



In Memory Of

**Phyllis Bloom**

By Marc Bloom



In Memory Of

**Max Gould**

By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

**Margaret Isenberg**

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Ben Horwitz**

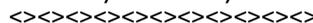
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

**Leon Kirschenbaum**

By Medina Roy



In Memory Of

**Wally Steinberg**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Rose Fine**

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

**Rose Goldberg**

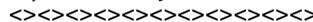
By Joseph & Susan Goldberg



In Memory Of

**Jason Grossman**

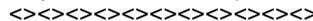
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

**Sydney Emsig**

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs









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## Sisterhood Lauren Sax



On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the gavel dropped one last time on the 2011/2012 season. We put the finishing touches on our very successful year while also setting the date of Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. for our planning meeting for next season. Following the meeting we all traveled down to Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada for our annual end-of-the-year luncheon. We toasted each other for a season well done and gave ourselves a much-deserved pat on the back. Many thanks to Michel and Sylvie for their wonderful hospitality and fabulous food!

Sisterhood could use volunteers for our Friday onegs during the summer and fall, to cut up cakes, fill wine cups and just perform general KP duties. If you can give a couple hours of your time, please contact Joyce Peckman to select your date. By now you should have received our letter — with price list and return envelope — asking that you begin scheduling your oneg sponsorships for the coming year. Please contact Joyce with any questions. Also, speaking of the kitchen, we are already looking towards the High Holidays. Our break-the-fast has become quite a tradition at the KJCC and is more like a restaurant buffet. Consequently, it is no small task to feed some 70 people after a day's fast, and it takes quite a few people to shop, cut up and plate food as well as clean up. Consider starting out the new year by performing your mitzvah and giving a bit of your time for your synagogue. Please say "yes" when called on.

Next time you are at the KJCC take a peek in the gift shop, as Susan has been busy marking some merchandise down to 50 percent off. This might be the chance to grab some great bargains. And next to the gift shop make sure you check out the gorgeous tapestry handmade by our ladies for the Women's Seder. It is a beautiful work of art

listing our honorees past and present, which we plan to keep on display for many years to come. Special thanks to KJCC member and local artist Marcia Kreitman, who spearheaded the entire project. A donation was also made to the Holocaust Fund from some of the proceeds from the Seder. Kudos to all those on the Women's Seder Committee.

As I write my last column of the season, it is hard to believe that I will not be turning in my September article to Sam. I can honestly say it was a pleasure to work with Sam the past 1½ years. He was always there to help when I couldn't find the right words to say. Never turning down "something Sisterhood" for any month's Chai-Lights, Sam is indeed Sisterhood's BFF. (*Well, maybe after Marc Bloom - SV.*) You better not edit this out, Sam! Thanks, Sam, for a great run. Enjoy your newfound freedom and don't be surprised if I still call on you for help!

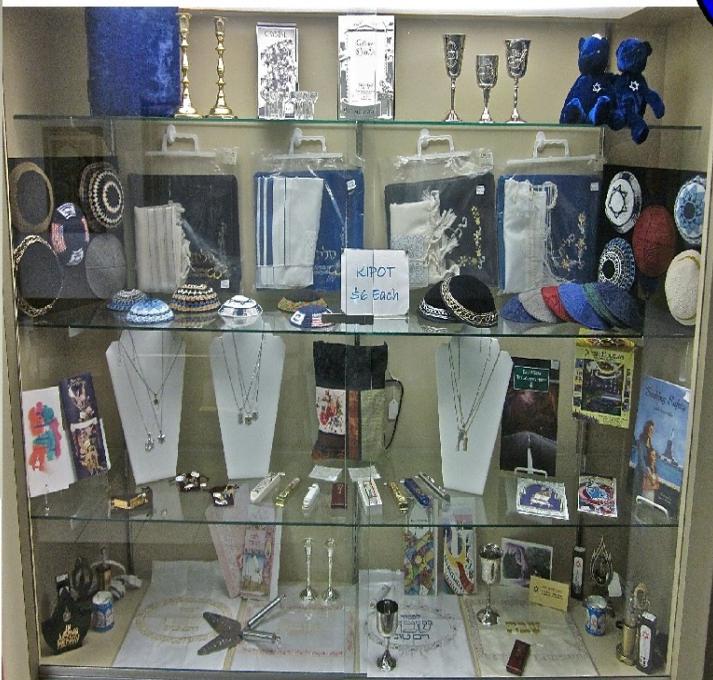
Lastly, through lots of hard work, Sisterhood was able to present the KJCC Board of Directors on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> with a sizeable check, almost three times more than we'd been able to give the year before. It was a nice way to end the year, but how did we accomplish this? First, with the help of my amazing officers and Sisterhood ladies, who gave of their time, monetary donations and their dedication. Second, because of the temple members who supported us financially through oneg donations, fundraising, gift shop purchases, and more. Without the elbow grease of all our members, our KJCC projects would fall short and we would not be able to help the synagogue that we have all come to love and treasure. Heartfelt thanks and a wonderful, healthy summer to all. ♦

# KJCC Gift Shop

Come See  
Our Sale Items!



Mezuzzot  
Handpainted  
by Rosie Biskar



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



For further information contact:  
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585  
Medina Roy (305) 852-3872

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “He’d be Turning Over in His Grave”

Even though Maimonides (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, also known as the *Rambam*) discouraged pilgrimages to rabbis’ tombs and even headstones set above graves, an elaborate high-tech renovation is being planned for the medieval scholar’s burial site. His tomb is located in Tiberias, on the west side of the *Kinneret* (the Sea of Galilee). The renovation plans include a glass enclosure for the tomb and will contain a three-dimensional eternal flame with a powerful laser beam, making it visible from dozens of miles away. “The idea of sages’ tombs as a bridge between man and G-d is foreign to the *Rambam*’s legacy,” said Rabbi Donniel Hartman, president of Jerusalem’s Shalom Hartman Institute. He went on to say that if the intent is to turn Maimonides’ tomb into a pilgrimage site (similar to what has happened in Meron, where Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai – who many believe wrote the *Zohar*, the major Jewish mystical text – is buried, and where hundreds of thousands of people visit every year) the *Rambam* “would turn over in his grave.” For Maimonides, “this was even worse than idol worship,” added Hartman. Born in Spain in 1135, Maimonides (he died in Egypt in 1204), physician, philosopher and rabbinic authority, authored the *Mishneh Torah*, considered to be the greatest Jewish *halachic* text of all time. In it, he states that “for holy men, no headstones should be built on their graves because their words are their memory...and people should not visit graves.” ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 5-8-12)

### A Hidden Treasure Now Made Public

One of the most important documents in American history is set to go on display at the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) on Independence Mall in Philadelphia on June 29<sup>th</sup>. George Washington’s historic

1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in which the first president vowed that America would give “to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance” will form the centerpiece of the exhibit. The letter, in remarkably good condition, is widely regarded as Washington’s most eloquent statement on religious liberty. The letter spent decades on display in the Klutznick Museum in Washington, but financial problems in 2002 forced the letter, along with other documents in the collection, to be placed in an arts storage facility in suburban Maryland. It has remained out of sight until just recently. (*The Forward online*, 5-9-12)

### What a Mensch!

Jake Gyllenhaal, 2005 Academy Award nominee for Best Supporting Actor in the film, “Brokeback Mountain,” considers himself more Jewish than anything else. The 31-year-old actor (born Jacob Benjamin Gyllenhaal to a Jewish mother and a father of Swedish and English descent), is known to be a philanthropist, giving to a variety of causes. Recently, he was spotted putting money in parking meters that were about to expire in a Beverly Hills shopping district. Parking enforcers were preparing to issue tickets when Gyllenhaal reached into his pocket, grabbed a bunch of coins and began feeding the meters. This “little mitzvah” apparently is a result of lessons Gyllenhaal learned from his unconventional Bar Mitzvah, which took place at a homeless shelter. His parents wanted to instill in him a sense of gratitude for what they felt was his privileged life. Perhaps he also remembered the teachings of Maimonides, who stated that the most honorable way to give is to do so anonymously. It’s very likely that Gyllenhaal would have kept this act

quiet, but – being the recognizable star that he is – he was spotted by the press. (*The Forward online*, 4-16-12)

### **The “Peres Gene”**

Scientists at Katzrin Galilee Genetics Analysis Laboratories (GGA) have asked Israeli President Shimon Peres for permission to study the properties of his DNA in order to learn the secret of his longevity. Peres, just a few months shy of his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, readily agreed. GGA wants to study the president’s genome to learn exactly how he is able to work at a pace that would tire out someone half his age. Even his political opponents marvel at the president’s mental and physical stamina. The company’s findings may one day be used to create a prototype for genetic engineering that would increase longevity, promote good health and guarantee the sound functioning of the brain long into old age. (*The Jerusalem Post*, 4-17-12)

### **“Green” in Greensboro**

The American Hebrew Academy, located in Greensboro, North Carolina, was recently recognized as a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The school, one of only seventy-eight public and private schools nationwide that were honored with the award, was cited for its environmentalism and science curriculum. The Academy’s geothermal energy system pumps water from deep below the ground to heat and cool its buildings, claiming the system cuts energy bills by up to 30 percent. The American Hebrew Academy is the only Jewish college prep boarding school in the country. It was founded in 1996 and now has 150 students. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 4-25-12)

### **Honoring the “Munich 11”**

Two Jewish United States Representatives, Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel, both Democrats representing New York, have been urging the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reconsider its refusal for the past 39 years to honor the memory of the “Munich 11” – the Israeli athletes and coaches who were murdered by the Palestinian terrorist group “Black

September” at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. The representatives are backing an online petition launched on April 13<sup>th</sup> of this year calling for a minute of silence at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games that will be held this summer in London. The petition was initiated by the Jewish Community Center of Rockland County, New York and Ankie Spitzer, widow of Israeli fencing coach Andrei Spitzer, one of the eleven murdered. As of this writing, the petition has collected close to 30,000 signatures from around the world. The two representatives, along with Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, pointed out that more than two billion people watched the opening ceremonies at the Beijing Olympic Games and that holding a moment of silence at the London Games would be “a unique opportunity to send a message that can literally reach every corner of the globe.” Emmanuelle Moreau, the IOC’s head of media relations, told the Jerusalem Post that there would be no moment of silence. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 5-9-12)

### **In Memoriam**

- Raymond Aubrac, one of the last great French Resistance leaders against the Nazis during World War II, has died at the age of 97. Aubrac, whose parents died at Auschwitz, and his wife Lucie are known throughout France as the most famous couple of many who fought against the German occupation, which began in 1940 and did not end until the Americans swept across France after D-Day. Born Raymond Samuel, Aubrac was the child of assimilated Jewish parents. He changed the family name to Aubrac because “Samuel” proved to be too dangerous in Vichy (occupied) France. He and Lucie joined the Resistance in 1940. They published *Liberation*, one of the most widely read underground newspapers. In June, 1943, the Gestapo arrested him and other leaders of the Resistance in east-central France. Lucie, pregnant at the time, led a daring commando raid to free her husband. They ambushed a truck carrying 14 resistance fighters during a prison transfer and Aubrac escaped. The

event became one of the most celebrated Resistance stories in all of occupied Europe. The Aubracs spent the end of the war in London. After the liberation of France in 1944, the couple returned immediately. Aubrac was named the State supervisor for the city of Marseille, in charge of reconstruction efforts. Lucie died in 2007.

([www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk), 4-12-12)

- Benzion Netanyahu, father of the current Israeli prime minister, died at the end of April. He was 102. He was a journalist, encyclopedia editor, professor and noted Jewish historian. An unapologetic hawk, the elder Netanyahu argued that Jews inevitably faced discrimination that was racial and not religious, and that efforts to compromise with Arabs were futile. He was born Ben-Zion Mileikowsky in Warsaw, at that time controlled by Tsarist Russia. His father Nathan was a rabbi who toured Europe and America making speeches supporting Zionism. After Nathan moved his family to British Mandate Palestine in 1920, he changed the family name to Netanyahu (Hebrew for “G-d-given”). Ben-Zion studied medieval history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He became involved with the right-wing Revisionist Zionists, led by Vladimir Jabotinsky. The Revisionists split from their mainstream counterparts, whom they believed were too conciliatory toward the British, who had been given control of all of Palestine by the League of Nations after World War I. In 1940, Benzion Netanyahu went to the United States to work for Jabotinsky, who was seeking American support for his muscular and militant brand of Zionism. He was executive director of the New Zionist Organization in the United States – the goal of this group was to prevent dividing Palestine between Jews and Arabs to create the new Israel. The group wanted a single, bigger state that would have included present-day Jordan (which represented about 80 percent of historic Palestine, and had been carved into a separate state by the British in 1922). In the 1950s and 60s the family lived both in Israel and the U.S., where Benzion taught at several universities, including Cornell. Benzion Netanyahu edited two classic

works, the “Encyclopedia Judaica” and “The World History of the Jewish People.” In his 1995 book, “The Origins of the Inquisition in Fifteenth Century Spain,” Netanyahu offered a radical new way of viewing the notorious Inquisition. He felt that this persecution of Jews had been fueled by jealousy over their success in the economy and at the royal court. He traced what he called “Jew hatred” to ancient Egypt, long before Christianity. (By the way, it’s interesting to note that “Jabotinsky” is the most popular street name in Israel). (*The Forward Online*, and [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 4-30-12)

- Vidal Sassoon, celebrity hairstylist who became known for his modern and low-maintenance hairstyles, creating a natural look in the 1960s, died recently at the age of 84. His geometric “wash-and-wear” styles framed the face and were easy to maintain, liberating women from the “untouchable” and high-maintenance bouffant hairstyles (like the “beehive”) of the 1950s. As a result, he built a multi-million dollar business using his name, bringing him international fame and fortune. Sassoon was born in London, the son of a poor Turkish-Jewish carpet salesman. His father abandoned the family when Sassoon was three years old, causing his mother, who was facing extreme poverty, to place him and his younger brother in a Jewish orphanage, where he spent the next eight years. Vidal quit school at fourteen to become an apprentice hairdresser. In 1948, at the age of 20, Sassoon spent a year working on a kibbutz, joined the *Haganah* and fought in Israel’s War of Independence. He later credited that year with giving him the direction and discipline he needed to jump into a full-time career in hair-cutting. In 1982, he established the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism (SICSA) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 2009, Sassoon was honored by Queen Elizabeth when he was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He set up the Vidal Sassoon Foundation to help the needy in educational pursuits, both in Israel and abroad. Sassoon married four times and had four children. ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 5-10-12) ◇

# 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.

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Sunshine Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Emkey, Gerri		Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Ellen Coltman
Geller, Milton			
Pollack, Joel & Linda	new flowers for bimah	<i>Yartzeits</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Steve Hartz - speedy recovery	Dorf, Barry and Natalie	Emanuel Schafer
Sachs, Joseph and Susan	marriage of	Grossman, Stuart	Morris Moshe Grossman
	Dr. Sheldon Kushner and Lynn Gielda	Incociati, Estelle	Louis & Dorothy Biderman
Silverman, Morton & Gene	Zoe and Joshua	Kantor, Erwin	Jack Kantor
	Moshe's wedding	Lieberman-Garrett, Erica	Morris Kornbloom
		Lippman, Lillian	Milton Lippman
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Smith, Steven and Barbara	Louis Smith
Peckman, Joyce	Ellen Coltman	Temkin, Dr. Robert	Phillip Temkin
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Ellen Coltman		
<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>		
Shulman, Herbert & Sylvia	Marvin Galanty		
Steinbock, Stephen and Carol			
<i>Sunshine Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>		
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Steve Hartz - speedy & complete recovery		

## 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 two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 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. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

# Photo Gallery



On April 14th, I took children and parents from my class at Avocado Elementary to participate in the 5K walk/run for asthma. We all did a 3.1 mile walk/run at the Miami Zoo in the rain!

I want to thank a few KJCC members for their donations, which allowed some of the children and adults to participate. Thank you to Linda & Joel Pollack and Muriel & George Swartz. This was a day I will never forget and neither will my students.

*Love, Gerri Emkey*

All the other photos on this page were taken on April 21st during a Havdalah service at the home of Steve and Carol Steinbock. It's a delightful (and short) ceremony, which Gloria always does beautifully.

She even brought a new candle. All she needs is for two people to verify that there are three stars in the sky, the time-honored, pre-scientific way the ancient rabbis accepted as proof that the day, and Shabbat, had ended.





**On April 22nd, in Princeton, NJ, six Holocaust Torahs, all originally rescued from Susice in the Bohemian region of today's Czech Republic after World War II, re-**



**stored by the Westminster Synagogue in London and then sent out on permanent loan to synagogues and Jewish centers around the United States (like KJCC), were brought together, in a reunion of sorts, for the first time in almost 40 years.**



**Hana Gruna, 92, shown lighting the candles at top, the only Jewish survivor from Susice still alive, was the honored guest. Please see Steve Smith's story on these Torahs, including Scroll No. 418, KJCC's own Holocaust Torah, beginning on page 37. Photos courtesy of Michael Mancuso of The Times of Trenton, NJ.**



The architecture is classically Moorish, with a touch of Greek columns. The doors just below are part of an elaborate and ornate entrance to the Ark. The center bimah, below, is characteristic of a Sephardic synagogue.



At the end of April, Jim and Joan Boruszak, on a cruise of the eastern Atlantic and western Mediterranean, stopped to visit legendary Casablanca on Morocco's Atlantic coast. The photos here are of the exterior and interior of the main (and very old) synagogue in Casablanca. (One wonders whether the Epstein brothers, who wrote the movie, considered using it as the place where Rick might hide the Letters of Transit.)

Jim says he bribed the sextant to let him look into the Ark and photograph their Torahs. He was told that the silver-clad one on the right is several thousand years old. If you look carefully, you can see that the Hebrew letters above the exterior door say "Beit Ha-Knesset" and "Beit El."



On Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Steve and I went to Homestead to attend Friday night services at Temple Hatikvah, (formerly called the Homestead Jewish Center).

We went at the invitation of Sandy Liebowitz, the temple's president. Sandy also is our contact at L & M Engraving in Miami, the company that creates all of KJCC's plaques. Sandy had attended a Shabbat Dinner a few months ago when we invited the Chai-Lights advertisers. Perhaps some of you remember meeting him.

They have a cantor and a rabbi as well as an organ player, although they have services only every other week. The service was most enjoyable. Steve and I were invited to the Bema to open the Ark for the *Alenu*. We enjoyed reading from the Gates of Prayer. (That's the Reform *siddur*; it's also the *siddur* Rabbi Agler uses for his Saturday morning services at KJCC.) Brought back memories.

The Ark doors and the Torah covers are very beautiful. The photos we took do not do them justice.

Surprisingly, we learned they only have 40 member units/families. We were very warmly welcomed, not only by Sandy but by the rabbi, cantor and a number of the members. Their building, we were told, is paid for, though they'd had to rebuild it after it was destroyed during Hurricane Andrew in August of 1992. That was when it was re-named *Hatikvah*, which as many of you know means "the hope." Only the Torahs survived the hurricane without any harm. (Amazing!)

-Carol Steinbock



**Temple Hatikvah has stained glass as an integral part of their Ark, unlike KJCC.**



**One of the Temple Hatikvah Torah covers has a familiar south Florida motif.**

At this year's Women's Seder April 1<sup>st</sup>, BZ Slutzker was honored as 2012 Woman of the Year *in Memoriam*. (Actually, she was co-honoree. Muriel Swartz, shown with BZ in the left photo, was also honored.)

Blanche "BZ" Slutzker was born Blanche Zion (thus the BZ) in Johnstown, PA. BZ and husband, Dr. Harold Slutzker, made their home in Everett, PA, and wintered here in



the Keys for many years. She was active in the KJCC in every way imaginable and was our first official Historian, keeping scrapbooks and pictures of all our events over many

years.

BZ passed away in 2006. The KJCC Sisterhood honored her memory at that time with a donation to the Board of Directors in her name. Nettie Seder was Sisterhood President then and I will quote her words: "We give this in memory of BZ Slutzker, who was a most loved, active and dedicated member of the KJCC. It is her words that I have been using every week. 'Your check is your reservation for the Seder.' Although they moved several years ago, she was always in touch and in our thoughts. We all miss her greatly."



-Linda Pollack

In the photo at right, KJCC members gather on April 22nd at the Nelson Government Center to preview a PBS food show, Flavors of the Florida Keys.



All the other photos on this page were taken April 28th during another of Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Sessions. The Torah that Rabbi Agler is reading from in the above left photo, and that Dave Mont is carrying at left and below, is the KJCC Holocaust Torah. It's the largest of KJCC's three Torahs.





The top four photos on this page are from Rabbi Agler's "Lunch & Learn" class at KJCC on Sunday, April 29th. The whole idea of the class is to become better and more informed service leaders, and for Gloria's sake to try to expand the roster of volunteers. But providing lunch — and quite a nice lunch at that — doesn't hurt attendance at all.



Sunday, April 29th. The whole idea of the class is to become better and more informed service leaders, and for Gloria's sake to try to expand the roster of volunteers. But providing lunch — and quite a nice lunch at that — doesn't hurt attendance at all.



The two photos at bottom are from the end-of-April kayaking excursion from Dave and Georgia's home in Key Largo. Careful observers will notice Joseph Beth, in the Keys for a weekend break from classes in Tampa.



The top four photos were taken

at the end-of-season Sisterhood luncheon held at Bitton Bistro Café in Islamorada on May 6th. Michel and Sylvie were wonderful hosts. (One wonders just how many Sisterhood meetings Pauline has been to.) Our thanks to Mary Lee for the photos.

The two center photos are from the May 11 service. Rosie and Muriel light the candles at left, using the new melody Rabbi Agler pointed out we should use. It was also the annual oneg sponsored by Medina and Bernie in honor of their shared Far Rockaway birthdays. Yet



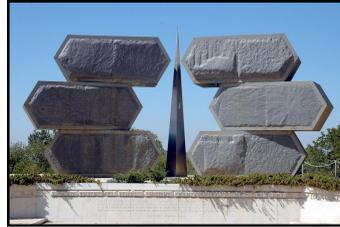
there was another oneg sponsor that night, a late-comer, Mindy Agler. Turns out that May 11th, that very day, was also Rich Agler's 60th birthday.

The bottom photo was taken in the local bloodmobile on May 13th in KJCC's parking lot. The tee shirt being held up, given to all who donated, sports a silk screen of a painting by KJCC's own, multi-talented Gloria Avner.



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

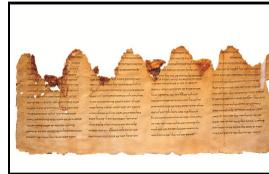
Bahai Gardens on Mt. Carmel in Haifa



Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem



The Eastern Gate



Dead Sea Scrolls



The Jewish Quarter

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

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

### ***Tour features:***

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

### ***Tour highlights:***

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

# Creating our Beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden

The pages of Chai-Lights regularly acknowledge gifts to KJCC. We've often talked about and shown photos of the Garden. What we haven't yet done is tell the full story of the Garden or acknowledge by name all those whose contributions have made it possible. We remedy both omissions here. On this page and the next you'll see a facsimile of every brick ordered or placed in the Garden through Mid-May. At the article's end are photos of all four donated benches.

by Carol Steinbock

It all started a little over two years ago. Medina Roy had called Sam Vinicur, wanting to do something in memory of his sister, who had recently died. They decided on a plant or tree or shrub with purple flowers, since pur-

ple was her color. Sam called Alan Beth, then KJCC's president, to get approval to plant something on KJCC's grounds. Alan readily agreed. Sam then wondered if it would be possible to set aside an area on the KJCC

grounds so that others could do the same. Alan enthusiastically agreed to that, too. So the idea for our garden was born. Very soon after, Medina's dad Leon died, and she knew she also wanted a living memorial in his name.

My husband Steve loves gardening and has worked for years designing and building our backyard garden. So the day after his conversation with Alan, Sam called Steve to see if he wanted to design a garden on the KJCC grounds. The answer was yes. As often happens at KJCC, a committee was formed. At one time or another, the people involved were Steve Steinbock, Sam Vinicur, Medina Roy, Candy Stanlake, Georgia Landau, Alan Beth,

GENE & MORT SILVERMAN 55TH ANNIVERSARY APRIL 30TH, 1955	THE RAKOV FAMILY	THE POLLACK FAMILY IN HONOR OF WILL AND MADELYN	IN LOVING MEMORY OF BEN STEINBOCK STEVE, ROSE & KAREN
TO THOSE HERE AND TO THOSE BEFORE US THE SAX FAMILY	OUR LOVE TO THE KJCC JIM AND JOAN BORUSZAK	FREDA SHIPMAN 9-12-1910 - 10-5-2003 GREAT GRANDMA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF BILL GORDON 2010 "WIDE OPEN, GO FOR IT" SUSAN & ROSE MARIE
REMEMBERING ROSE & LAURIE BETH WITH LOVE ALAN, CANDY & JOE		IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN CIMKOWSKI AND M. SUSAN CIMKOWSKI CAROL & MARIANNE	
REMEMBERING MY DAD LEON KIRSCHENBAUM 2009 MEDINA ROY	IN MEMORY OF DICK JACOB LOVE PATTY & DAVID		BRIEZE AND STELLAR WE LOVE YOU MOM AND DAD
HAVE FUN HANNAH AND SARAH LOVE, GRAMMY AND PAPPY	IN OUR HEARTS WILLIAM & SYLVIA KAY IRV & CELE ROSEN	IN MEMORY OF BILL KWALICK 1932 - 2005	THE POLLACK FAMILY JOEL & LINDA 2010
IN MEMORY OF ROBERT & JON SINGER MAY 2005 OCTOBER 2008	IN HONOR OF PAULINE ROLLER'S 95TH BIRTHDAY THE STEINBOCKS	CELEBRATING OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY JOEL & LINDA POLLACK FEBRUARY 11TH, 2012 LOVE FOREVER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER DALE VINICUR MATT, JASON & GABE
IN MEMORY OF LESLIE M. PECKMAN	IN HONOR OF LOUIS & SHIRLEY BOXER AND FAMILY	LOVED AND MISSED PAUL AND RICHARD GOULD	IN LOVING MEMORY OF SI & LILLY SKOLNICK "TO LOVE & BE LOVED" SUSAN & ROSE MARIE 2010
IN LOVING MEMORY WARREN J. SHEINKER APRIL 11TH, 2006	FOR NATHAN MISKIN... ATHEIST, JEWISH MOUSE AND GRANDFATHER	WELCOME GRANDSON CRUE LAMARCHE BORN 1-3-2011	IN MEMORY OF DAVID KAMELY MICHAL & YARDENA

Stu Sax and me. Please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone.

Originally, the idea was to call it a memorial garden, but after sage advice from Linda Pollack it was decided that we would call it a Meditation Garden, a place where KJCC members and other supporters of the temple could honor friends and family and celebrate life events as well as memorialize those who have passed.

Steve, Sam and I went to a nursery in The Redlands to look at plants for the garden. Steve and Candy built the gated entrance. Steve carved the "welcome" sign. Silver but-tonwood, several palms and various small

shrubs and miscellaneous plants were purchased. Mike Pravata of Florida Keys Native Nursery leveled the ground and made holes for the plants. (That was after the group tried to do it ourselves with no success; the area is a little dirt and a LOT of solid rock.)

A bricklayer laid a four-foot by ten-foot section at the entranceway. We found a company that creates permanent, imprinted bricks and benches for organizations like KJCC. Whenever bricks would be sold, plain bricks would be removed and imprinted, donated bricks put in their place.

To our surprise, three benches and many bricks were purchased with donations by

members in just a couple of months after KJCC announced the project to our members. Steve found a native *lignum vitae* tree for Sam, which blooms with beautiful purple flowers each spring. It was planted in the garden with a plaque stating:

*This Lignum Vitae tree  
planted June 2011  
In memory of  
Dale Vinicur.  
Purple forever.*

Steve designed and delineated plant beds and the walkway. Mulch was placed and continues to be fresh-ened as needed.

As donations came in, the brick pathway was expanded. Additional donated bricks were placed in the garden path.

In the spring of 2011, Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake purchased all the materi-

IN MEMORY OF JOEL R. BAKER AUGUST 2007	LOVING MEMORIES ROBERT C. SCHUR 1927 - 2008	BARRY S. KWALICK 11-14-41 - 11-2-92 IN LOVING MEMORY	IN MEMORY OF JERRY TABASKY SEPTEMBER 2010
IN MEMORY OF LOUISE F. BAKER APRIL 2010	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS ETHEL & WALTER HANKIN FROM BARBARA, RICHARD AND MORRA KNOWLES AND GINA MORITZ	THE KNOWLES FAMILY RICHARD, BARBARA MORRA & SAM	IN MEMORY OF MORGAN ROWEN JULY 16TH 2001
PRECIOUS WILLNER GRANDCHILDREN ETHAN TALIA ASHER  JORDAN MADISON CALEB HAILEY	IN HONOR OF PAULINE ROLLER'S 96TH BIRTHDAY THE KNOWLES FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF AUNT MAE ALWAYS A FREE SPIRIT KAREN, ROSEMARY & STEPHEN STEINBOCK	IN MEMORY OF STEVE RICHARDSON... WITH LOVE TO LISA FROM STEVE & CAROL, ALAN & CANDY, GLORIA, MEDINA AND SAM.
GOODNIGHT SWEET PRINCE 1925 - 2006	IN HONOR OF THE KJCC 30TH ANNIVERSARY SKIP & RENE ROSE	IN HONOR OF MY DAD MAX LIEBERMAN ERICA LIEBERMAN	JOEL & LINDA POLLACK MAZELTOV ON YOUR 50TH LOVE ALAN & CANDY
TO RABBI RICHARD AND MINDY AGLER, OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND GIFTS OF SELF, FROM A GRATEFUL KJCC.	IN MEMORY OF SELMA AND LOUIS SMITH AND THOMAS DAVIS	SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW LINDA & JOEL POLLACK GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY LANI MOSS	IN MEMORY OF TALIA AGLER, AN ETERNAL LIGHT. WITH LOVE TO RICH & MINDY FROM YOUR KJCC FAMILY.
LINDA & JOEL HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY LOVE, GENE AND MORT	FOR KAREN HAYHURST DEAR SISTER TO STEVE AND CAROL, A PRAYER FOR PEACEFUL REST AND PETS FOREVER YOUNG.	REMEMBERING CAPT. LEN ROBERTS 3/31/48 - 9/17/11	
THE BADER FAMILY PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SINCE 1892		ALVAN AND CAROL FIELD	

als and personally built a beautiful, wooden, multi-purpose pergola. (Though we usually now call it our gazebo.) This would become our *Sukkah*, a *Chuppah* for weddings, a Sunday school class venue, and a peaceful place to sit and talk or just think and enjoy the garden. Its perfect placement makes it a visual standout in the Garden.

The pergola was formally dedicated on April 29, 2011. Alan and Candy and Gloria Avner, our Ritual Chair, presided. Candy's father, J.D. Stanlake, was there, as well as many KJCC members. A mezuzah and bronze plaque now mark the entrance on the right side. The plaque states:

*Gazebo Donated and Built By  
Alan Beth and Candace Stanlake  
In Honor Of Our Parents  
Rose & Laurie Beth  
Dorothy & J.D Stanlake  
Dedicated on April 29, 2011*

Over the entrance to the pergola is the word *Shalom* carved in Hebrew into a wooden plaque, also donated by Alan and Candy. The pathway that Steve designed was extended into the pergola. More bricks have been donated and installed in place of plain bricks.

After Passover 2011, the Women's Seder committee donated the funds to purchase a fountain for the garden. To make a long story short, we now have a concrete, three-tier fountain (but are still working to achieve a consistent and graceful water flow.) A brick sits at the base: *This Fountain Was Donated By The KJCC Women's Seder 2011.*

Meanwhile, additional palm trees and other shrubs and plants were purchased or donated and planted. Recently a group of volunteers from a local church donated an afternoon of their time and did general cleanup, spread mulch and delineated plant beds under the direction and guidance of Steve and Stuart. We have a wonderful lawn maintenance artist, Teó Rodríguez, recommended to KJCC by Stu and Lauren Sax, who now lovingly tends and nurtures the garden in addition to all of KJCC's grounds.

To date, we have four beautiful benches,

35 single bricks and 18 double bricks, all bearing inscriptions as directed by the donors. (*Please see the Roll of Honor for the names of each individual donor.*)

Our Meditation Garden is truly a peaceful, lovely place where a person may walk, sit on a bench or in the pergola, and enjoy the peaceful surroundings, whether you want to read, pray or meditate. Come outside, sit amongst the beauty and quiet and achieve a closeness with God.

We look forward, of course, to many more bricks, plants and trees being donated to make our Meditation Garden ever more beautiful and unique. We have lots of room to expand.

Sponsoring a Garden element is a wonderful way to celebrate an occasion, or remember a loved one in a setting outside the sanctuary. We still, of course, offer Tree of Life leaves and Yahrzeit plaques inside, where more traditional prayer takes place. ♦

### ***The Meditation Garden Roll of Honor:***

*As of mid-May, the following KJCC members (and some non-members) have contributed benches, bricks, trees, shrubs or other greenery, or just made a donation to our Garden. Though a number of our members have sponsored multiple bricks, some bricks have had multiple donors, and some members have made a number of contributions of varying kinds, each individual or couple's name is listed only once:*

#### **Benches:**

Margulies, Stanley and Jenny  
Nobil, Jim and Lynn  
Schwaid, Harvey and Susan  
Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

#### **Bricks:**

Avner, Gloria  
Bader, Ivan and Jean  
Beni, Michael  
Beth, Alan and Candy Stanlake  
Biskar, Rosie  
Bloom, Marc  
Boruszak, Jim and Joan  
Boxer, Shirley  
Brand, Samuel and Yvonne

Chodikoff, David and Marjorie  
 Denenberg, Nancy and Steven Osder  
 Fein, Michael and Deanna  
 Field, Carol  
 Friel, Patricia  
 Gessman, Warren and Margaret  
 Ginsberg, Bernard P.  
 Gordon, Susan  
 Gould, Maryon  
 Graham, Bea  
 Hartz, Steve and Jan  
 Hayden, Beth  
 Hirschlein, Sharon  
 Jerud, David and Lorraine  
 Kamely, Michal  
 Kamely, Yardena  
 Kay, Harvey and Joan  
 Knowles, Richard and Barbara  
 Kwalick, Teresa  
 Levy, Ron & Beth Kaminstein  
 Lieberman-Garrett, Erica  
 Line, Jonathan and Arlene  
 McMahon, Mike and Maggie  
 Millbridge Sunshine  
 Mont, Dave and Georgia Landau  
 Moshe, Joshua and Zoe  
 Moss, Elaine  
 Peckman, Joyce  
 Pollack, Joel and Linda

Rakov, Neal and Cathy  
 Reese, Stephen  
 Rose, Skip and Rene  
 Roy, Medina  
 Sachs, Joseph and Susan  
 Saperstone, Michael and Penni  
 Sax, Stuart and Lauren  
 Schur, Lee  
 Sheinker, Miltra  
 Silverman, Mort and Gene  
 Singer, Mary Lee  
 Smith, Steven and Barbara  
 Stein, Ira and Shirley  
 Steinbock, Stephen and Carol  
 Swartz, George and Muriel  
 Tabasky, Suzanne  
 VanArtsdalen, David and Patricia  
 Van de Vaarst, Karen  
 Vinicur, Samuel E.  
 Willner, Morris and Sherrie

**Other trees, plants, or general giving:**

Barefoot, Rosemary  
 Hayhurst, Karen  
 Peckman, Joyce  
 Roy, Medina  
 Sax, Stuart and Lauren  
 Steinbock, Stephen and Carol  
 Werthamer, Robert and Heide

***The Four Donated Benches Situated in KJCC's Meditation Garden***



## *-This Month in Jewish History-*

# June, July, August

1257 – Kraków, Poland receives city rights under the Slavic Piast Dynasty. Having begun to move from Germany into Poland during the Crusades, and being well-known traders all through central Europe, Jews are probably among the earliest settlers of Kraków. Enough Jews are there some one hundred years later to support a synagogue. Kraków will become a major center of European Jewish life and culture. Some twenty-five miles to the west is the town of Oswiecim, the German name for which is Auschwitz.

1365 – Pope Urban V issues “Sicuti judaeis non debet,” a Papal Bull forbidding Christians from molesting Jews or forcing them to be baptized.

1381 – As a result of the Black Plague, which ultimately reduces Europe’s population by a third (and at the same time reduces the population of Asia by almost as much), Rabbis and communal leaders from Speyer, Worms and Mayence (today’s Mainz) meet at Mayence to review laws pertaining to marriage and the rights of widows amidst such unnaturally high rates of death. One of the rules enacted is *Tekanoth Shum*, which allows a childless widow to receive a specific portion of a late husband’s property even if she refuses to marry a surviving brother-in-law.

1492 – Christopher Columbus, aboard flagship Santa Maria, sets sail for the New World. An entry in his diary notes the expulsion of Jews from Spain just before their departure. Also aboard ship is Luis de Torres, a Marrano and recent convert to Catholicism (to avoid the expulsion edict). Torres is there because he also speaks Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Portuguese. He is to be Columbus’ interpreter in their expected destination of Asia, since Columbus expects to find local Jewish traders there. Born Jewish, Torres is almost certainly the first person of Jewish birth to set foot in the Western Hemisphere, though records –

and certainly legends in both Spain and South America – tend to indicate that other members of Columbus’ crew are also Jewish.

1621 – The Dutch West India Company, with a Jewish merchant named Joseph d’Acosta as one of its shareholders, receives a charter for New Netherlands, which includes what will become the city of New Amsterdam. Having Jewish shareholders will matter when Peter Stuyvesant, the company’s representative in New Amsterdam, tries to expel the city’s Jews.

1662 – Asser Levy buys a lot from Barent Gerritsen on Hoogh Straat (Stone Street) in New Amsterdam (now New York). By this simple and unremarkable act Levy becomes the first Jewish landowner in what is now the United States. A successful businessman, Levy also petitions to be allowed to serve in the local militia, a privilege previously denied to Jews, or be excused from the special militia tax placed on Jews. He puts pressure on Peter Stuyvesant by directly contacting his bosses in Holland, and wins.

1687 – Isaac Newton publishes “Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica,” the groundbreaking three-volume work that includes Newton’s Laws of Motion, revolutionizing the field of physics. Newton also apparently is fascinated by and writes about Jewish law, and researches the Book of Daniel for clues about the date for the end of the world. In one manuscript from the early 1700s, Newton uses the Book of Daniel to calculate the date for the Apocalypse, reaching the conclusion that the world will end no earlier than 2060. “It may end later,” he writes, “but I see no reason for its ending sooner.” Newton also writes treatises on daily practice in the *Beit HaMikdash*, the Temple in Jerusalem. He believes that the Temple’s plans mirror the arrangement of the cosmos, and in one document discusses its exact dimensions.

1802 – The U.S. Military Academy opens its doors at West Point, New York, along the Hudson River. The first graduating class consists of two cadets, one of whom is a Jew named Simon Levy. In the 1980s, the West Point Jewish Chapel, a beautiful \$10 million facility, is opened. In 2002, in honor of 200 years of West Point Jewish history, the Jewish Chapel begins building a commemorative wall to recognize all of its Jewish graduates.

1806 – Louis Napoléon Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, begins his reign as King of Holland. Louis seeks to make his Jewish subjects full-fledged citizens. He changes the market-day in Utrecht and Rotterdam from Saturday to Monday. Jews and Christians are to swear the same oath when testifying in Dutch courts of justice. In an attempt to improve Jewish skills in the art of war, he forms two battalions of 803 men and 60 officers, all Jews. Prior to his reign, Jews are barred from military service.

1844 – Dankmar Adler, American architect and engineer, is born in Germany, the son of a rabbi. The Adler family moves to Chicago, where Adler learns his trade as a draftsman. He enlists in the Union Army during the Civil War, fighting in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. After the war, Adler designs or helps build a number of important American buildings, including The Stock Exchange in Chicago and Carnegie Hall in New York. He also builds temples and synagogues in Chicago. In his offices a young, aspiring architect named Frank Lloyd Wright gets his training.

1877 – In “The Return of the Jews,” one Captain Charles Warren, best known for creating maps of Jerusalem, promotes Moroccan Jews as being the best candidates to restore Judea “to its former glory,” because they are the only significant Jewish population there with agricultural skills, with proven ability to use irrigation for crop-raising. He pointedly disdains the existing Jews of Jerusalem, describing them as “incompetent to revive the glories of the past” because of long years of “indolence and degeneracy.” Warren’s efforts

at Jewish re-colonization predate Herzl by thirty years.

1881 – Oliver Hazard Perry Belmont graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy. His father is August Belmont, the Jewish financier who comes to the United States in 1837 as a representative of the Rothschilds and becomes one of the most prominent, and assimilationist, of the early German-Jewish Wall Street bankers. (His birth name, Schönberg, is German for “beautiful mountain.” The name he adopts in the United States, Belmont, is French for “beautiful mountain.”) With wealth he marries into social prominence, takes up the sport of kings (Belmont Park is built by his son) and delves deeply into American politics, all activities carefully avoided by the rest of “Our Crowd,” New York’s quiet and isolated community of wealthy German-Jewish bankers.

1895 – Theodor Herzl meets with Max Nordau, who will become an important Zionist leader. He writes in his diary: “Yesterday with Nordau, over a glass of beer. Also discussed the Jewish question, of course. Never before had I been in such perfect tune with Nordau. Each took the words right out of the other’s mouth. I never had such a strong feeling that we belonged together...We agreed on every point, so that I already thought that the same ideas had led him to the same plan. But he comes to a different conclusion: ‘The Jews’, he says, ‘will be compelled by anti-Semitism to destroy among all peoples the idea of a fatherland.’ Or, I secretly thought to myself, to create a fatherland of their own.”

1904 – Jacob Pincus Perelmuth is born. He gains adult fame as a cantor and long-time tenor at New York’s Metropolitan Opera under the stage name Jan Peerce.

1916 – After a long confirmation process unshamed by its open anti-Semitism, Louis Brandeis becomes the first Jewish Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1917 – At the beginning of American entry

into World War I, registration of all men between twenty-one and thirty begins under the Selective Draft Act. Universal military service, one American rabbi insists, is an institution deriving from the time of Moses. Within two months of the passage of the Selective Draft Act, Jews make up six percent of the American armed forces, though they constitute only two percent of the population.

1923 – Hannah Golofski is born in Brooklyn, New York. She is now better known as fashion designer Anne Klein. A mere year out of design school in Brooklyn, Hannah is working at Varden Petites and redesigns the firm's entire line, introducing a new style of ready-to-wear and sophisticated clothing for slender young women in a category that will become known as Junior Miss. As principal designer of Junior Sophisticates, a new company established by husband Ben Klein, Anne transforms clothing design for petite women like herself. She is the first designer to follow Coco Chanel and adapt men's styles (suits, jackets, shirts) for women's use. In the 1950s, she introduces clothing to be sold as "separates," offering women a range of jackets, blouses, skirts, and slacks that in combination can become many different outfits.

1934 – Leo Szilard, a Hungarian-born Jew, already the holder of a number of patents together with Albert Einstein, patents the chain-reaction design for the atomic bomb while in London. He will later, along with Enrico Fermi, patent the design for the first nuclear reactor. After seeking refuge in the United States, he originates the super-secret Manhattan Project, fearful that German scientists are developing their own bomb. After the defeat of Germany, he strongly urges Harry Truman not to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

1941 – During World War II, Palestinian Jews fighting for the British begin operations in Lebanon and Syria, controlled by occupied France's Vichy Government. It is during this combat that Moshe Dayan loses an eye and begins wearing his iconic eye-patch.

1941 – Joseph Stalin orders the establishment of a network of partisan units to harass German troops storming through Soviet territory toward Moscow after the Nazis invade from occupied Poland. Jews play an active role in these units. Some units are made up exclusively of Jewish partisans.

1942 – The Battle of Midway begins in the Pacific, an audacious gamble pitting a depleted U.S. Navy against a far-superior Japanese force and which leads to the first American victory over Japan during World War II. The stakes are merely the vulnerability of the entire U.S. Pacific coast. A major component of the American victory is the cracking of the Japanese military code by a team led by Colonel William Friedman, the son of Russian immigrant Jews. It is an astounding example of pressure-laden code-breaking, especially since the first true computer is not functional until after World War II.

1944 – Zionist pioneer and poet-turned-paratrooper Hannah Szenes is arrested in Hungary after completing a behind-the-lines mission for the British in Yugoslavia to help anti-Nazi partisans. Born in Hungary in 1921, Szenes moves to Palestine in 1938, joins a kibbutz, and by 1941 is also a member of the Haganah. Just before her execution Szenes writes the following poem: "One-two-three... eight feet long, Two strides across, the rest is dark... Life hangs over me like a question mark. One-two-three... maybe another week, Or next month may still find me here, But death, I feel, is very near. I could have been twenty-three next July; I gambled on what mattered most; The dice were cast. I lost."

1960 – Archeologist Yigael Yadin – Head of Operations for the IDF during the 1948 War of Independence, Army Chief of Staff for three years after that and who then resigns and earns his PhD in Archeology – presents, in a lecture at Hebrew University, four newly deciphered letters of Bar Kochba that describe organizational challenges faced by the leader of the third Judean revolt against the Roman Empire (132-135 CE). The letters reveal Ein Gedi and Tekoa as the supply route for Bar Kochba's soldiers. ◇

# EAT, PRAY, STUDY

## Rabbi Agler's Classes and "Tikkun Leil Shavuot"

by Gloria Avner

If you've noticed an upswing in creativity and a deepening of traditional prayer focus at Friday night services of late, it is because we are inspired. One of our newest programs, Rabbi Agler's "Lunch and Learn" series on "Leading a Friday Night Service," is paying dividends, not just to the learners, but also for the whole congregation. We are correcting old mistakes and changing melodies when we realize they are inappropriate. (Be sure to check the "miscellaneous" page on KJCC's website for proper Shabbat melodies for candle lighting and "Bar'chu.")

We've been learning all kinds of small things, like the "whys" and "hows" of bowing, bending the knee, and taking those little back-and-forth steps at the end of the *Amidah*. On a broader level, though, Rabbi Agler is helping us re-think what we do, balancing tradition with modernity. We are becoming more *aware* of what we do and why we do it. With that increased awareness comes more enjoyment. Studying Torah means re-examining it in the light of our own lives. Making choices about what we say and choose to read takes us from rote performance to intentional, meaningful experience.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> after the early Shabbat and *Yizkor* services, we continued our learning, self-directed. Instead of lunch, our learning meal was dinner; we performed the requisite *mitzvah* of eating all things dairy (from Muriel Swartz's blintz soufflé to cheesecake and beyond, thanks to Joyce Peckman and her gracious cooks and volunteers). One of the many reasons we eat dairy (see sidebar

for others) is that the Hebrew word for milk, *chalav*, has the numerical value of 40, symbolizing the number of days Moses was on Mt. Sinai learning and receiving the Torah. *Chalav* is spelled *chet* (numerical value of 8), *lamed* (30), and *vet* (2). I particularly like the Torah's explanation that the Jewish people were promised a "land flowing with milk and honey." Dairy meals recall this lyrical description.

On the final eve of counting Omer, commemorating the next-to-last day of our newly liberated proto-Jewish forebears' trek with Moses through the Sinai desert, we take part in one of our newest KJCC traditions, the fourth annual *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* program after our dinner/oneg. (The idea was introduced in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the mystical wise men of the Israeli city of *S'fat*, often written as *Safed*). We know the word *Tikkun* from the context of *Tikkun Olam*, "repair of the world," a phrase that carries with it a directive: we are responsible for doing whatever it takes to make these repairs. *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* (Repairing the Night of Shavuot) is a little different. Bernie chants the Ten Commandments, we discuss the Book of Ruth,

and perhaps see a wonderful movie. We celebrate *Shavuot* by staying awake and studying, unlike our ancestors at Sinai, who overslept and nearly missed the giving of the Torah. We may overeat but we do not fall asleep. We don't quite stay up all night, either, but many of us planned to be at shul the following morning to continue our studies with our generous teacher as we read and discuss Torah during Shabbat morning services. A huge *Today Rabah* to Rabbi Agler. ♦

### Why We Go Dairy for Shavuot

1. Once the Jews accepted the Torah, they became obligated in the laws of kosher. But since at that moment they were not yet familiar with the laws regarding animal slaughter, they ate dairy.
2. Receiving the Torah was a form of rebirth. We celebrate this newness by consuming baby food. Namely, milk.
3. Shavuot coincided with the time when the lambs and calves born in the spring would be suckling. Therefore an abundance of dairy products were available.
4. Legend has it that the Jewish people were at Sinai for so long that all their milk soured and turned into cheese.

# The Extraordinary Journey of Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger

by Medina Roy

I was on my way to visit my mom when I caught the tail end of an interview on NPR with Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger. Did I really hear what I thought I just heard? Son of a Nazi who converted to Judaism? Immigrated to Israel and served in the Israeli army? Has written a memoir? What a story! Since I was driving at the time, I quickly made a mental note to look this up once I returned home. Online I found the transcript of the interview at NPR, became intrigued by the story and ordered the book, *"A German Life: Against All Odds Change is Possible."*



Systems) hoping she would like the place and agree to move there. I spent the first few days of *Pesach* with her checking the place out. During the course of a conversation with one of the residents, I heard about interesting speakers that occasionally come to the facility for presentations, one of whom was a man born in Germany to a Nazi soldier and then ended up converting to Judaism. My radar went up! "Would this happen to be Bernd Wollschlaeger," I asked? "Yes," was the reply. "He's a practicing physician in Miami and tells his story quite often."

I replayed this scenario to Gloria, thinking this might be an incredible opportunity; perhaps we could get this man to come to the KJCC and tell his story. And it happened. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger



As part of KJCC's Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 20th, Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger shared his extraordinary story. Yardena, Susan and Gloria led the congregation in the singing of Hatikvah. At right, our Holocaust Torah exposed, Stuart and Dr. Wollschlaeger lead Kaddish.



Fast-forward to *Pesach*, 2011. I had arranged to bring my mother for a "test run" at the Miami Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged (now known as Miami Jewish Health

stunned the congregation and visitors at KJCC as he spoke of his personal journey seeking the truth about his family and country of birth. Even though I'd already read his memoir, I was as mesmerized by his compelling story as everyone.

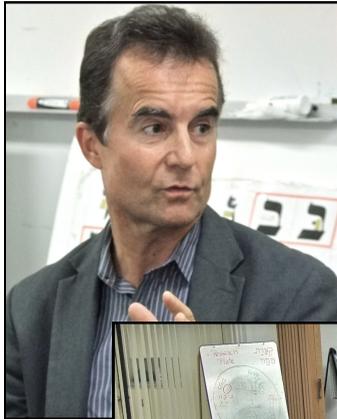
Dr. Wollschlaeger began his story with these words: "When my children started asking questions about my parents, I decided to break the wall of silence and tell them the truth..." The story explores his relationship with his father Arthur, a highly decorated World War II German tank commander who was presented with the Iron Cross by Adolf Hitler himself. But when the war ended with Germany's defeat, Arthur, who proudly supported the Nazi ethos of *übermensch* and *üntermensch*, also felt defeated and betrayed.

Bernd was born in 1958. At an early age, he discovered that his family was concealing their past in order to protect him from the disastrous effects of the war. The early attempts within Germany to deal with the Holocaust caused unresolved conflicts between father and son. Arthur denied any and all atrocities. In a difficult and painful search, Bernd slowly learned that the stories were true.

Bernd's curiosity about finding the truth about his father's past and what role Arthur had played during the Holocaust eventually led him to explore Judaism and Israel. These experiences resulted in an extraordinary spiritual journey that evolved over the course of seven years, culminating in his conversion to Judaism, emigration to Israel and eventual enlistment in the Israeli army. Shortly before he left for Israel, a Jewish friend insisted that he go to see his par-

ents, both of whom had been aghast at his move toward Judaism. But at this point Bernd's relationship with his father was irreparable; his mother spoke with him, angrily, but his father refused to see him, an estrangement that remained until his father's death a few years later. Nothing was ever resolved.

Bernd says in his memoir, "In the quest to find answers to questions about my parents and about my nation's past, I set out to find the truth, and in doing so, I found a new life..." ◇



*Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger and his family live in Miami. He is a specialist in addiction medicine. He maintains dual citizenship, American and Israeli.*



# Summertime, and the Livin' Ain't Easy.

## ***Mourning and Ritual: Rounding out the Jewish Ceremonial Cycle***

by Gloria Avner

**A**s lightning flashes and thunder roars outside my little cement-block Key Largo house, I think back to another roaring, this time last year. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal was blowing our Shofar. The ram horn's thunder echoed through the sound-magnifying KJCC social hall and reverberated through the tissues cushioning our bones. None of us will ever forget it. We vibrated, for a long suspended moment, at the same frequency as the Jews gathered round Mt. Sinai. That attunement, I believe, was, and continues to be, a big part of what makes us into a people, and sets the course of our ceremonial year.

We listened, obeyed, and became acclimated to the different energies of each season through remembrance and celebration. From *Shemini Atzeret* to *Pesach*, we pray for rain during the *Amidah*; we need gentle watering for the growing season. (Remember the ramifications of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams of famine and plenty). Passover always coincides with Spring and burgeoning energy. We access the same power as the plants, to grow, change, and uplift both ourselves and the world. At *Shavuot* we celebrate the harvest of that growth.

But then what? We can't stop the wheel from turning. Here comes June, July, and August – *Tammuz*, *Av*, and *Elul*. In ancient Israel we enter the hot, dry time. We march towards mourning, our first steps towards *Yom Kippur*.

Even our community's communications begin a slight withering process and enter a fallow period in summer. We will see each other in the beginning of June, at least in the photos of Chai-Lights, but for those of us

who spend summer in other cities, there will be a mini-diaspora. For me, at least, there will be sadness at missing friends and Shabbat celebration. Yes, we will meet again on those pages in late August when Sisterhood and Ritual Committee speeds up preparations for the next round of events. But what is happening ceremonially during July? No Chai-Lights, and with the exception of the KJCC's Annual Shabbabeque and Pauline's birthday party on July 4<sup>th</sup>, it is not pretty. In fact, it is pretty bleak. After *fressing* and feasting from the end of Yom Kippur onwards, we now move from fast to fast.

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*On Tisha B'Av,  
we read from  
the Book of  
Lamentations,  
and are  
instructed to  
keep joy to a  
minimum.*

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On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we commemorate "the Five Calamities" by fasting. Three weeks later, on *Tisha B'Av*, July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, we beat ourselves further into depression with an even more serious fast, remembering not just the destruction of our sacred Temples, but nearly every other cataclysmic event of our people's near annihilation. It is appropriate to lament as well as fast so we turn the lights low and read from the book of "Lamentations." We are instructed to keep joy to a minimum.

Ever since I went as a young teenager to summer camp (*Machaneh Massad* in Ontario),

I've known that in the middle of summer, throughout history, the world has wanted to pound the hell out of us.

The political powers of way too many eras, geographies, and despots destroyed our sacred sites, killed our leaders, teachers, and wise men, exiled us, slaughtered our women and children, and did their best to wipe us from the face of the earth. I am not going to list the dates, the countries, or the enemies. I have read something radical which has opened a new window of insight, and I like the context.

What if the mourning originated in desert-dweller days and that what we are *really* sad about is the brutal heat of summer shriveling the earth?

Without doubt, we are an earth-based religion. We lived in tents for hundreds of years, managed our flocks, cared for our herds, watched the skies for signs of weather, nurtured our grapes, and sent scouts to special mountains looking for stars and the tiny crescent that would herald the beginning of a new month. Watching, waiting, and praying, we knew what we needed and did what we could to effect desired results.

As new Jews, we were exhorted to live in harmony with God's law. But for centuries before Moses walked up Sinai, the proto-Jews who were our ancestors lived surrounded by worshippers of a consortium of gods and goddesses who were called on to mollify the effects of nature. Summer was not as we know it today, a time to take the kids to the shore and have a break from work. It was not even a gardening time, as it is for so many of us in temperate and northerly latitudes. Summer was a time of dryness, scarcity, and sadness.

The keen awareness of our thin hold on survival made sadness appropriate. Jews being Jews, sensitive to prevailing reality, we took the tenor of the times, intensified it, and made it fit within our own tribal tradition. If we're going to be sad, let's not just be sad

for the earth in its natural cyclic decline before regeneration. Let's have a truly cathartic moment and mourn all our losses. We go deeply within, as only halting the busy flow of digestive juices can allow us to do. We don't do this often, but we do it well.

After all, we are building up to the greatest fast of all, which comes at the end of summer. We became estranged from God when we put our faith in a Golden Calf. We lost the tablets because of that lack of faith. There is a flow from the *Fast of Tammuz* through to the big final fast of *Yom Kippur*. We are on a journey towards reconciliation.

Once *Tisha B'av* is over, we begin reading the Seven *Haftorot* of comfort. Devastated at our estrangement, we comfort and remind ourselves that it is in our power to change and repair that relationship. As the month of *Elul* begins, we take the journey further. Through the self-reflective process of *T'shuvah*, we turn our thoughts and behavior to reconnecting with God, growing into the moral people we can be, people who try not to "chet," or "miss the mark." (*Chet* is often translated, mistakenly, as "sin.")

We start blowing the Shofar again in the month of *Elul*. "Listen up!" it reminds us. "Be better, kinder people. It's never too late to do the right thing." The cycle goes on, from fertility to drought, joy to sadness, and back again.

I'm a teacher. I know we learn best by repetition. Each year the stories we tell our children are the same ones our grandparents, nanas, *bubbes* and *zeydies* have told to us; hopefully, we do not hear or re-tell them by rote. Our ears and our brains continue to evolve. We may be lucky enough to have a really good teacher inspire us (thank you, Rabbi Agler), or we may have painful brushes with illness and death. All experience keeps us growing, gathering ever more information with which to approach the puzzle that is life.

Let's enjoy our summer and be thoughtful as well. See you when the season turns. ♦

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*After all, we are building up to the greatest fast of all, which comes at the end of the summer.*

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# Czech Memorial Torah Scroll Number 418

*We always thought our beloved KJCC Holocaust Torah was one of three. Recently we learned that there are more. How accurate is the story we've told here over and over? Steve Smith, who visited the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre in London on KJCC's behalf in 1993, combines the old facts (and lore) with the latest information, and now we have the full — and still wonderful — story.*

*by Steven J. Smith, M.D.*

At the Keys Jewish Community Center Board of Trustees meeting prior to the 1993 summer break, the subject was brought up that the Jewish community in a Czechoslovakian town that we memorialized each week, "Kosice," was reactivating. The natural response to such wonderful news was that it would be a great *mitzvah*, if this were true, to return our Czech memorial scroll to its rightful owners, the Jewish community of "Kosice." In order to proceed with this exciting thought, two questions had to be answered. The first was whether Kosice's Jewish community was indeed being reactivated. The second was how the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre of the Westminster Synagogue would feel about this, since our beloved Torah was on "permanent loan" from them. They would have to give the final approval of this plan. Coincidentally my family and I were scheduled to be in London on vacation in a few weeks. I volunteered to personally visit the Westminster Synagogue and ask our questions.

Once in London, I was quickly able to make contact with Ruth Schaffer, who as Joint Chairman and Trustee of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Committee had directed the restoration work of the scrolls and then decided which requests for scrolls would be

honored. Mrs. Schaffer was a wealth of information concerning our scroll and the circumstances of Jewish Communities in the former Czechoslovakia. Our congregation's scroll was Number 418, which came from the small western Bohemian town of Susice. The scroll was written towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was one of 1,564 *Sifrei Torah* that the Westminster Synagogue received from the Czech State Jewish Museum in 1964.

Mrs. Schaffer said that the Jewish Community of Susice had *not* reactivated, and even if it had the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre would not approve Scroll Number 418's return; the new Czech Republic in 1993 was not stable enough to guarantee the Torah's safety. Should our congregation no longer want the scroll, we would

only be authorized to return it to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Center. (Returning it was not at all our plan.) I did learn that the Jewish population of Kosice, the city we once thought had been the source of our Torah, indeed had reactivated. Kosice was, and is, a good-sized city in eastern Slovakia some 400 miles or so east of Susice.

The following day I was able to visit the Westminster Synagogue and the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre, which is located on the synagogue's third floor. The synagogue is located across from Hyde Park and is just a



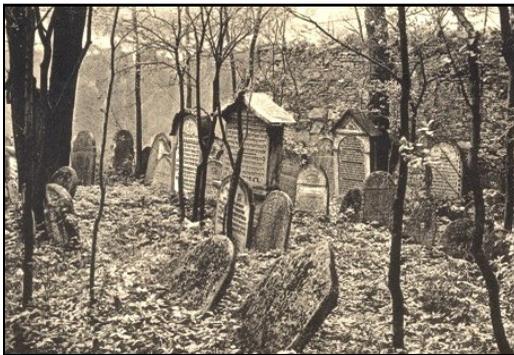
**An old photo of the Torah scrolls rescued from Susice, awaiting restoration at the Westminster Synagogue in London in the mid-1960s.**

short walk from Buckingham Palace and Harrods, the world-famous department store.

In 1957 The New London Jewish Congregation was established, and worshipped in rented rooms much like KJCC did when it was established. At that time they had no idea that within a few short years they would undertake the massive task and responsibility of protecting and restoring hundreds of rescued Czech Torah scrolls. It was the aim of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre to reinstate the Torahs back into Jewish life, as a memorial to the decimated Jewish Czech communities that had once cherished these scrolls. Their work took nearly thirty years.

The Jewish Museum in Prague, the capital of Bohemia, was established in 1906. By the late 1930s there was a desperate effort to make the Museum a symbol of Jewish survival in a region about to descend into total chaos. In 1941 the Nazis, who now controlled Czechoslovakia, planned to confiscate all Jewish libraries, artifacts and religious articles. The SS was placed in charge of the newly titled Central Jewish Museum. The new charter of the museum announced that "the numerous, hitherto scattered Jewish possessions of both historical and artistic value...must be collected and stored." Virtually every type of religious and personal item was confiscated, from musical instruments to all types of synagogue-related items. Thus, an enormous collection of Czechoslovakian Torahs was amassed. Overall this collection – evidence of a once-large and vibrant Czech Jewish population – ended up filling eight synagogues and fifty warehouses. After they won the war, the Nazis intended a permanent exhibition showing relics of an extinct culture and religion.

The Nazis did not win. In 1946 the Jewish museum was returned to the control of Prague's Jewish Community Council. By 1949 it was clear that the remaining Czech Jews did not have the manpower or financial resources to allow this museum to survive. The museum and its contents were given to the Czech government. In 1950 the Czech government established The State Jewish Museum, which to their credit they have maintained as a memorial to the vanished communities. One aspect of the collection had always embarrassed them: the collection of the *Sifrei Torah*.



**The old Jewish cemetery in Susice, in Bohemia of today's Czech Republic.**

Numbering well over 1,000, these Holy Scrolls could not be displayed or organized as museum exhibits. It was also clear that they would deteriorate if left rolled up and unused. Enter the Westminster Synagogue. With the help of a private art dealer trusted by the Czech government, it was arranged for all the scrolls to be transferred to London.

The scrolls arrived at Westminster Synagogue in February 1964. They were stored on specially built wooden racks and numbered consecutively, from one to 1,564. Most of these scrolls had been scarred by the Holocaust. Many had bloodstains, water damage or fire damage. Some were wrapped in personal clothing or *tallit*. Over the next fifteen months, five student scribes meticulously examined every scroll. Each was classified as to details of its condition, place of origin, date of writing and repairs that would be required.

In 1965, Mr. David Brand, a nomadic scribe who had previously lived in Israel, Paris, New York, and London, knocked on the synagogue's door and asked whether the Westminster Synagogue might have any scrolls that needed repair. According to legend, Ruth Schaffer's reply, in Yiddish, was, "We have 1,564; come in!" Mr. Brand (no one ever used his first name) stayed to work on these rescued

scrolls for twenty-seven years.

Over the years, the Czech scrolls, their wooden rollers and their binders were repaired and restored with devoted care. For a *Sefer Torah* to be used in services in a religious context, it must be considered kosher. A kosher scroll does not contain any errors. Its ink should be black and clear, the writing must be meticulous and elegant, and all rules related to the dimensions and style and calligraphy must be observed.

As of my visit in 1993, the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre had received over 2,000 requests for scrolls. In order for the requests to be honored, they had to be made officially

by the organization concerned, not by an individual. The scrolls are not sold. They are distributed on permanent loan.

According to the August 1983 issue of Chai-Lights, a conversation held by Bob and Jan Faeges with Rabbi Barry Takechnikoff in Miami prior to their May 1983 wedding is what led to KJCC taking possession of its Holocaust Torah. Bob and Jan asked how KJCC could obtain a Torah, and Rabbi Takechnikoff explained to them the process of obtaining a Czech Memorial Scroll. A report was made back to KJCC's Board. Unknown to anyone on the Board, Gus Zeldich had written a letter to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Committee on June 10, 1982 re-

## Creating a Kosher Torah Scroll

The parchment used for the scroll is made from the skin of a sheep. The animals used must be set aside and raised for this purpose only. Each piece of parchment is joined by gut that is made from cow sinews. The making of the gut strings, or *gidde*, is the only work on the Torah that can be done by women. They however, may not sew the parchment together to form the scrolls. Each piece of parchment between the sewn joints must contain not less than two and not more than six columns. The space between the columns must be two fingers width and the margins on both sides must be even. To align the ends of the lines, the letters may be extended but not otherwise enlarged. The column width is that taken up by three times the longest word in Hebrew text, *l'mishpachotechem* (to your family). Each column must be 42 lines. This represents the 42 stops that the Israelites took to reach Mt. Sinai. Ten letters are written larger than the rest, starting with bet. Six letters are written smaller than the rest, and six letters must appear at the beginning of a column. At the very end of a scroll the very last line must be a full line.

No marks can be made on the parchment other than written text. In order to insure that lines are straight and spaced properly a small wheel with evenly placed spokes is run over the page. Lines are further defined by marking the parchment with a faint line created from a sharp knife connecting each point created with the spoke.

The ink used by the scribe is made by boiling tree galls; it is then mixed with gum arabic as a preservative. The pen is a sharp quill from a goose feather. Pens only last a limited amount of time. Good tools, such as special awls, sewing needles and sharp knives are a necessity not only to create a new scroll but correct errors or damage. There must be no stains or marks. Corrections must be undetectable. The name of G-d must be written in one attempt with no interruptions. If any mistake is made in this, the whole section must be cut out and rewritten. Special glue must be used in repairs.

If an established scroll has been damaged, the rules of repair are not as strict as in writing a new scroll. A damaged area must be scraped away, then dusted with powdered chalk and rewritten. Repairs must cover whole letters or words. Individual letters are not interrupted for repair.

-Steve Smith

questing a Memorial Scroll. Ruth Schaffer answered, saying she needed an official request from our congregation. Mr. Zeldich was also informed that there were no longer any kosher scrolls available. Unfortunately, Gus Zeldich passed away early in 1983 and this information never reached the KJCC Board. In late June of 1983 a letter from Joel Cohen was hand-delivered to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre by Milton and Lillian Lipman. During this visit Mrs. Shaffer showed them the letter from Mr. Zeldich. As a result of this visit and the second request for a scroll, the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre agreed to place a scroll at the Keys Jewish Community Center. A \$500 contribution was sent to the Scrolls Centre. One week later a letter was sent back indicating that scroll No. 418, from the town of Susice, which had been written in the late nineteenth century, was to arrive at Miami International Airport. On September 8, 1983, scroll No. 418 was delivered to the KJCC. Upon arrival it was dedicated to the memory of Gus Zeldich for his "integral part in obtaining this Torah," the first Torah of the Keys Jewish Community Center. From the day of its arrival at KJCC, Scroll Number 418, our beloved Holocaust Torah from Susice, has been proudly and reverently displayed during any service the Mourner's Kaddish is recited. The story of its survival of Nazi occupation and its being on permanent loan from the Westminster Synagogue is told to KJCC members and visitors at every service. At the end of the service, the Ark is partly opened to reveal this precious Torah, and then a final Kaddish is recited in the memory of the slaughtered Jews from Susice as well as the six million other Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

In the summer of 1999 a debate started in KJCC's Board whether to "kosher" our Susice Torah. Our then-president, Susan Horn, wrote a letter to Ruth Shaffer to ask if this would be permitted. On July 14, 1999, the same day our letter was received, Mrs. Shaffer wrote back and enthusiastically supported the koshering of our Torah, calling it a "great *mitzvah*." In January, 2000, Joel Pollack and Shelby Streaan delivered Scroll 418 to Rabbi

Mordechai Tzvi Karro in Miami, a *sofer* (scribe), who undertook the task to kosher our scroll. On Sunday, February 20, 2000, that process was completed at the KJCC. The last letters, words and verses were completed at this service and, according to the March 2000 Chai-Lights, "the newly koshered scrolls were carried outdoors and danced around the front of the KJCC, carried under the chupa by joyful bearers and followed by a singing, clapping, dancing and excited group."

In March of 2004 KJCC had a visit from Hana Gruna, who was born and raised in Susice. She was one of only eight of its approximately 100 pre-war Jewish residents to survive the Holocaust and is likely the last living Jewish survivor from that village. She talked about her life in Susice, the Theresienstadt work camp, and Auschwitz. This inspirational visit infused further life into Scroll 418.

Recently we learned that Scroll 418 is one of *ten* scrolls rescued and distributed by the Czech Memorial Scroll Center from Susice. They're in Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, California, Colorado, and two other than ours are in Florida. According to Rabbi Ariel J. Friedlander, the Memorial Scrolls Trust Administrator, "It is most unlikely that all ten scrolls were in use in Susice. Many towns and villages were collection points for smaller communities. It is quite likely that they were taken to Susice in order to be sent to Prague in 1942."

Six of the Torah scrolls from Susice were reunited at the synagogue in Princeton, NJ on April 20, 2012 as part of this year's *Yom Hashoah* commemoration. Hana Gruna, now 92 years old and living in Hackettstown, NJ, was there as the guest of honor. "These Torahs are like a miracle," she told *NJ Jewish News*. The six scrolls "were found in our little town in very bad condition" after the war.

A professional video was made of the April 20<sup>th</sup> ceremony at the Princeton Jewish Center. It was sent to KJCC and has been posted on our web site. Click on "misc.," then on "Czech Torahs Video." And, no, KJCC's Scroll No. 418 was not there for the commemoration. They thought we were in Key West, not Key Largo, and we knew nothing of the reunion until shortly before the event took place. ♦

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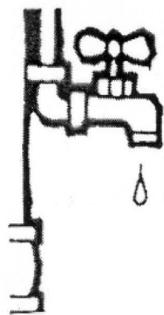
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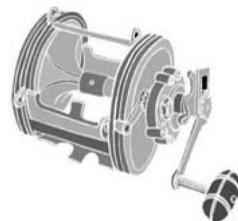
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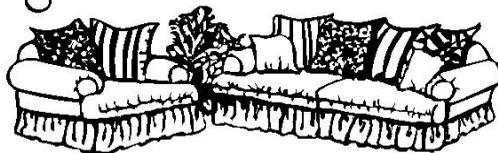


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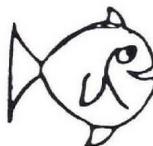
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