

April 2014

1 Nisan - 30 Nisan 5774

Joyce on the KJCC Women's Seder Origins - page 24 Purim at KJCC in text and photos - page 33 Gloria Thinks About the Passover Table - page 39

# April 2014

## 1 Nisan - 30 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	Men's Club Game Night 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Ken Atlas Marsha & Steve Harris	5
6 Sister- hood Meeting 9:30 a.m.	7	8	Dave Feder Concert at KJCC 8 - 10 pm	10	11 Erica Lieberman -Garrett  Barbara & Richard Knowles	Rabbi Agler Torah Learning Service 10 a.m.
KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	Erev Pesach 1st Seder eve.	15 Passover First Day  KJCC Family Seder 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18 Joe Shabathai Susan Ellner Yizkor Service	19
20	21	Eighth Day of Passover	23	24	25 Yardena Kamely, Muriel Swartz and Medina Roy 6:30 Service Erica Lieberman- Garrett	26
Yom Hashoah	28	29	30			

### 2014 - 2015

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### CHAI-LIGHTS is the

monthly publication of the

### Keys Jewish Community Center

P.O. Box 1332

#### Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Bernard Ginsberg

Our Religious School's recent presentation of a Purim play (shpiel) telling the story of Esther after the manner of Humphrey Bogart's Casablanca was a great success. It was light-hearted and enjoyable for the adults, but was an experience that will create happy memories at religious school for our students that will remain with them for life. We hope that such memories will help to keep them joined to the Jewish people.

I want to thank everyone who was involved: teachers Gloria Avner (who also directed). Yardena Kamely and Susan Gordon; Richard Knowles, Marc Bloom and Erica Garrett for joining in the acting, Jules Seder for a fantastic (and evil) Haman and Sisterhood, who arranged the after-*Megillah*luncheon.

In the last month. Rabbi Agler has continued his enlightening Saturday Torah services and Rabbi Ed Rosenthal brought his Eckerd College Hillel divers and graced us with spiritual Havdalah services and Divrai Torahs.

Of course, regular Friday night services are ongoing. We had a Sisterhoodsponsored "Shabbat Across America" dinner, and regular religious school and adult Hebrew classes. Sisterhood had a successful Passover/ Purim bazaar, where I got some presents for the ainichklach (grandchildren). Right around the time you're



reading this there will be

a very successful Woman's Seder and also a Sisterhood theater trip to the Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables.

Our KICC Second Seder will be 6:30 p.m. April 15th at the Islamorada Fishing Club. It has become a beloved synagogue tradition.

It takes money to continue these activities, so I urge all of you to purchase a Sisterhood "Get Outta Town Raffle" ticket for \$100 to support our programs. We are also having a musical evening fundraiser April 9<sup>th</sup> with our own Dave Feder (and friends) playing Dave's unique and electrifying music. Tickets are \$25; "Angel" level sponsorships are \$500. and regular sponsorships are \$250: both include two tickets plus other benefits. Many of you have already purchased tickets for these fundraisers as soon as you heard about them. I thank you personally for not making me and our other board members "twist vour arm" to get the donations. Our ancestors felt that charity collectors were to be honored because they enable those they solicit to get the mitzvah of donating. Still, it's hard to ask; vet someone has to do it.

It is my fervent wish that G-d grant each and every KICC member a Happy Passover.

B'Shalom, Bernie Chai-Lights April 2014 3

### Nosh

### Rabbi Agler's April Torah Service

The season is winding down, as are the scheduled dates for Rabbi Richard Agler's gift to KJCC of monthly Saturday morning Torah Learning services. This month's service (the second-to-last scheduled) will be on April 12th, at 10 a.m.

So what's so special about these services, that Keys-ites (Keysists? Keysers? KeysMOTs?) should forgo a morning of fishing or diving to attend? Well, for one thing, it's Shabbat morning,, so we read from the Torah (if only briefly), an act that carries with it a certain majesty and high purpose. (The Torah, of course, is THE BOOK we're the people of.) But the true attraction is when we put down the siddurim, pick up our purple Tanakhs and explore not prayers but the actual words of that week's Torah portion. We look at the people, the events, the conflicts. Who are these people? Are they always holy? Are they always wise? Are they always worthy of emulation? What meaning can we find in seemingly innocuous or simple narratives? How would we feel about one of these larger-than-life figures if they were, say, a neighbor and not a Bible star? One of Rabbi Agler's gifts is always managing to get a spirited discussion going. (Well, that and his unabashed willingness to be lead singer for the prayers, but I digress.)

If you think that Torah discussions are dry and legalistic, you haven't been coming. So join us. Feel the best that Judaism has to offer. Shake off the memories of crusty old monotonal teachings that years ago caused you to stop going. We guarantee you'll head to the oneg full of questions and ideas and a happy reactivation of the lewish lobe in your brain.

### To Our Departing Snowbirds

Most of our Snowbirds will soon head back north for the summer. Unless we have your schedule on file, we won't know where to send Chai-Lights. (It doesn't get forwarded.)

### A Table for the Meditation Garden

As most of you know, Steve Steinbock is the architect and prime steward of the beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden. He and Carol decided that the Garden needed a table, not just benches. So they bought one. They're dedicating it to Joel and Linda Pollack. Here's the inscription to be engraved on a plaque for the table:

May All Who Come to This Table
Ponder and Appreciate
The Innumerable Gifts
of Joel & Linda Pollack
to The KJCC and its Members
Over the Years — as Officers
and Benefactors and Warm
Companions, and as Role Models
of an Honorably Lived Life.

With Love From Your Friends, Steve & Carol

### **Oneg Sponsors for April 2014**

April 4th — Marsha and Steve Harris - Thanks for the Welcome.

Aprill 1th — Barbara and Richards Knowles in honor of Richard and Moira's Birthday.

April 18th — Susan Ellner to mark a birthday.

April 25th — Erica Lieberman-Garrett, honoring the great work Sisterhood has done this season.

# KJCC Meditation Garden Bench

In Honor and Memory of Rene Rose (Also Known As Momsi) Love — Della, Steve and Johnathan

### **April Birthdays**

	Bennet Beinfest
	Harvey Kay
	Justin L. Lebofsky
4th	Larry Weber
4th	Lauren Lane
	Thomas Brodie
	Faychesca Graham
	David Feder
	Gene Silverman
	Abigail Everson
	Addison Greene-Barnett
	Ilese Vorcheimer
	Miriam Sklar
	Richard Knowles
	Moira Knowles
	Samantha Lebofsky
	Shawn Borisoff
	Toby Bofshever
	Dave VanArtsdalen
	Katie Greenman
	Susan Ellner
	Jennifer Garrett
	Lauren Sax
	Jonathan Nobil
	Robin S. Denker
	Susan Temkin
	Lynn Nobil
	Susan Gordon
	Tiffany McNew
	Shirley Stein
	Baryann Boruszak
	Beverly Robins
	Elinor Grossman
28th	Joni Sages Dandrea
	David Goldfinger
	Linda Pollack
	Jason Sherman
30th	Rachel Barrett

### A Correction to the 2014 Directory

Lauren and Stuart Sax have let us know that part of their Texas address is incorrect in the 2014 KJCC Directory. The correct street address should be 1675 Garrison Drive. Everything else is accurate. Please mark your copies.

April Anniversaries					
	Years				
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder48				
7th	Salomon & Mary Terner21				
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew33				
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder18				
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz7				
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman59				

### April Sisterhood Events Deadlines

Don't forget that Sisterhood's Family Seder is Tuesday, April 15th. That same night they'll draw the winning ticket for the "Get Outta town" raffle. Also, on April 1st they're opening seder seats to the general public. If you haven't reserved your seats or bought your raffle tickets, please do so very quickly. Call or e-mail Barbara.

### The KJCC Garden Needs Red Mulch

We're always asking Steve Steinbock what the Meditation Garden needs. Right now, he says, he could use a twenty or so bags of red mulch, for spring beautification. You don't have to help spread it, but that would be nice, too.

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of Madge Klein Benovitz by

Dr. Burton Benovitz

### **BOOK PLATE**

In Memory of

Lila Line,

Mother of John Line. by Muriel & George Swartz

### **Sober Thoughts from Stuart Sax**

Dear KICC Mishpocha,

While it is important for every person to have regular checkups and testing, this note is targeted to the men of KJCC. Through the government's V.A. program, I have annual blood tests for everything from cholesterol levels to diabetic indicators. One of the tests is a PSA, which charts the condition of the prostate. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) tells us that testing should begin by age 40 if there is any family history of prostate issues and, if not, then no later than age 50.

Within a period of nine months my PSA count went from an acceptable 1.77 to a questionable 7.63. After further tests, I recently learned that I have stage two prostate cancer. The treatment options vary from active surveillance to radiation therapies or the removal of

the gland. I have already started hormone therapy to reduce the prostate and in mid-April I will begin nine weeks of daily radiation therapy.

The good news is that with this treatment regimen, my form of cancer has a ninety percent cure rate. I am extremely optimistic and send this note as encouragement for everyone, especially as we get older, to have your vitals checked so that if something develops you can catch and treat it in the early stages. More information is available from the NCI website at cancer.org, WebMD, or consult your physician.

Please take care of each other and yourselves and know that we think of y'all frequently.

With love from Texas.

Stuart Sax

### Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# In Memoriam April 2014

On Expendent 2014							
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Bozsi Schon Grunhut	Clara Bloom	Nat Feldblum					
By Eva Ban	By Marc Bloom	By Marc Bloom					
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~							
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Jean Blumenfeld	Audrey Pearlman	Baruch Epstein					
By Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld <><><>>>>>>>>>	By William & Donna Bolton	By Joan Boruszak <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>					
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Joseph T. Cline	Ellen Coltman	Mark Hitzig					
By Meredith A. Cline	By Barnet O. Coltman	By Wes & Rita Conklin					
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Frances Wolfe	Bill Gordon	Marty Graham					
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson	By Susan Gordon	By Mrs. Marty Graham					
<><><><><>	<><><><><>	<><><><><>					
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Sylvia Grossman	Stella Hartz	Michael Janowitz					
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman	By Steven & Jan Hartz	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz					
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Gertrude F. Kaplan	Nathan Klein	Fred Klimpl					
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	By Harvey & Judith Klein	By Michael Klimpl					
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of					
Marilyn Janet Barr	George Nobil	Erwin Moss					
By Michael Klimpl	By Lynn Nobil	By Joel & Linda Pollack					

# ⊠n Memoriam April 2014

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

Louise Folks Baker

Sam Sax

By Paul & Susan Roberts

By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><><><><><><><><><><</p>

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

**Dolores Feldman** 

Richard Schulberg

Sally Shabathai

By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket <><><><><>

By Alan & Elaine Schulberg <><><><><><>

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai <><><><><>

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

**Ginger Lewis** 

Louis S. Smith

By Robert Silk 

By Steven & Barbara Smith

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Ida Tallent

**Benjamin Terner** 

By Lillian Tallent

By Salomon Terner 

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

Charles Kram

Hilda Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow 

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

**David Wernicoff** 

Cantor Alex Chapin

By Donald Zinner <><><><><>

By Steven & Barbara Smith <><><><>

In Memory Of

In Memory Of

**Irwin Cutler** 

**Luis Terner** 

By Donald Zinner 

By Salomon Terner

Chai-Lights April 2014

### Mishebeyrach List

For those of you who might not make it to services regularly, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone vou care about to be included in the mishebeyrach prayer, call or email and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KICC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com. Or email Bernie at president@keysjewishcenter.com

### Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



I hope everyone who was able to attend our Purim play and Meaillah reading had a good time. Our Hebrew students, along with many adult volunteers, did a great job. The food afterwards was, as always, plentiful as well as delicious. Kudos to Nettie and Carla for their hard work. Thanks also to Director Gloria and the teachers. All of you together made this, from start to finish, another successful event. We raised a full basket of tzedakah (one of the mitzvot of Purim), which will be going to Burton Memorial's food pantry to help feed the hungry.

We also want to give a heartfelt thanks to Toby and Joel Bofshever for their donation of a beautiful Purim basket. It was raffled off and won by George and Muriel Swartz. Let's not forget the massive amount of Hamantaschen that was consumed vesterday. Thank you to Steve Hartz who "special delivered" lots of it and to all you wonderful ladies who made them and brought them in. And then there was the special, yummy group handmade by our Sunday School students the previous week.

The "Get Outta Town" fundraiser is well on its way to selling out. I want to encourage everyone who hasn't bought a ticket for Sisterhood's fun-and-fundraiser raffle to do so. To increase your chances, since I'm only selling a total of a hundred tickets, why not buy two, three or maybe even four?

It will be Sisterhood's major fundraiser of the year. Tickets are \$100 each, and the winner will be offered a choice of three great trips:

- A New York Weekend, which will include three nights at the Hilton New York, dinner at one of three top restaurants and a Broadway experience for two.
- A Sonoma, California VIP Wine Experience, which includes lodging at the Fairmont Sonoma Inn & Spa and limousine service to a privately hosted tour of the Jacuzzi Family Winery.

 A New Orleans Jazz and Dining Package which includes three nights at the Renaissance Pere Marquette Hotel, VIP seats at Preservation Hall and a five-course dinner for two at Commander's Palace Restaurant.

All packages are for two and include air travel and lodging. Travel Times and itineraries are flexible.

The winner will be drawn April 15, 2014 at KJCC's Family Seder. You don't need to be present to win. Ticket Sales will be available at KICC before and after Friday night services or by contacting me directly:

iweddu@bellsouth.net. You can also mail your checks (specify how many tickets, please) to KJCC Sisterhood, Attention: Barbara Knowles, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Well, here are some more of the events happening at the KJCC in April: On Wednesday, April 9th, 2014, from 8 - 10 p.m., our very own Dave Feder and his musical friends will be doing a full concert (something Dave doesn't often do) to formally dedicate our new sound system. Donation: \$25.00 per person. There are upgraded categories of support available and it should be a great event. Please contact Sam Vinicur, email: sev165@bellsouth.net for ticket reservations. There will be refreshments served immediately afterwards.

Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. will feature KICC's Annual Family Passover Second Seder. It will be again held at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Members are \$50.00 each; member children 12 and under are our guests. All non-members are \$75.00 each. Please mail your checks to KICC Sisterhood at P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070. Your check is your reservation. For more information, please contact me at iweddu@bellsouth.net.

Together, Let's All Make April "A Wonderful Month"!! ◊

# 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.

Bookplates In Memory of Sisterhood Oneg Fund In Honor of

Bernard Solas Solas, Elaine Grobman, Marc

Lila Line Grossman, Herb & Elinor Swartz, George & Muriel Anniversary Steinbock, Steve & Carol Steve's birthday

General Fund In Honor of

Lewis, Phil & Arleen You have a great congregation! Tree of Life In Memory of Shirley Boxer's 95th birthday Bernard Solas Main, Ron & Judy Solas, Elaine

**Yahrzeits** 

Harry Phillips

Anne Temkin

Louis Weinstein

General Fund In Memory of Foley, Robert H. Ruth Richardson

Boruszak, Joan Robert Kohlenbrener Ginsberg, Bernard Dr. Michael Markowitz. Elson, Neil Selma Elson David Harvey

brother of Toby Goldfinger Harvey, Mitchell Isenberg, Patricia

Meditation Garden Olsen, Gerald & Sheila In Memory of Temkin, Robert Rose, Della Rene Rose

Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Sara I. Cohen Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Sally Sussman

### 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 \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

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

## YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



## Stories of Holocaust Survivors

om Ha'shoah will be commemorated this vear on April 27th. I think a good and effective way to commemorate, to remember, and in my case as an educator, to teach about the Holocaust is through reading or hearing stories, testimonies of Holocaust survivors. As I was searching for stories of children in the Shoah, I came upon an interesting book: "How We Survived: 52 Personal Stories by Child Survivors of the Holocaust" by Marie Kaufman, Michael Berenbaum and Sarah Moskovitz, Ph.D (2011).

Each author is a member of the "Child Survivors of the Holocaust, Los Angeles," an organization that was founded in 1983 after the publication of the book "Love Despite Hate" by Sarah Moskovitz, which consisted of interviews with child survivors of the Holocaust as adults. This organization was one of the first child survivors' support groups formed in the world. Today they have more than 500 members. They are affiliated with the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust, representing nearly twenty thousand child survivors around the world.

On the organization's website you can read: "We were Jewish children, up to 18 years of age at the end of the Holocaust. We were persecuted during the Nazi era in ghettos, in concentration camps, in hiding, or passing as non-Jews, wandering about in forests and other places on the run or forced to leave Nazi-occupied Europe.

"We pursue [our organization's] objectives by telling the stories of our survival in schools and other places, by community interaction, education, and by holding conferences and

organizing support groups."

In the book "How We Survived," 52 authors tell their story of survival in the Shoah as children. Each story describes one child's experience, whether in the ghettos, the camps, in hiding, or fleeing from one place to another throughout Eastern Europe. Each survivor speaks of situations no child should ever go through: living daily with uncertainty, anxiety, insecurity, fear, pain and losses. The losses of family were the most traumatic experiences. And all this trauma is told by the survivor as seen through that survivor's eyes as a child.

From the introduction in the book, we learn that many of the authors have given oral testimony to museums and to the Shoah Visual History Foundation. They shared with other survivors the "mission" imposed on them to tell the story, to tell what had happened to the Jews in the Shoah. But 15-20 years later they have become aware that, for various reasons, they have not told every part of their story. There are many reasons: some survivors felt quilt for not having done enough to save other family members. Others felt ashamed for having being "weak," afraid, helpless. Another group harbored feelings of anger and hate. This book gave the survivors an opportunity to tell their "secrets," the parts of their story they had never spoken about

We might ask ourselves, how accurate are the memories of these child survivors? Experiences such as being taken away from one's parents, hiding for prolonged periods of time, starving, witnessing death and being threatened with death and destruction, are

very intense and traumatic. As a psychologist, I have treated a few Holocaust survivors and also children of Holocaust survivors. In the course of psychotherapy we often help patients reconstruct early childhood memories and feelings. How accurate the actual memory is may not be as important as its meaning, the way the child perceives (or perceived) the experience. I believe that the memories of these authors, because of the extremely traumatic experiences involved, are likely quite accurate. Reflect back on your own three or four earliest childhood memories. It might be helpful to choose an event which had an impact on you, something that happened to a parent or to a sibling, an accident (even if small), an injury, a death or tragedy; or think of a famous event such as the assassination of IFK or the landing on the moon, etc. Often the event that you recall will be about something negative, or will have something to do with a conflict. You'll see that you can clearly remember events that happened at an age of five years or less.

There is another important reason that inhibited many of the child survivors from telling their story. Many were hidden children who had to assume non-Jewish identities, sometimes having several different gentile names, as young children during the war. Each time they learned that *under no circumstances* were they to reveal their Jewish identity, as this could mean death to them and their adopted families. So even after they were liberated, reunited with any surviving families and were beginning new lives, many still would not readily talk about their Jewish identity, especially with strangers.

As mentioned above, the loss of parents and other family members was the hardest experience for most of these children of the Holocaust. The fate of their Jewish parents was often death. While many of the child survivors intellectually came to understand that the decision to try to hide them allowed them to live, the full emotional understanding of this act on the part of their parents did not come to them until many years later. It was often when their own children were of the age at which they had been put into hiding that they fully understood and appreciated 12 Chai-Lights April 2014

the sacrifice that was made for them. For some this realization did not occur until they had grandchildren who reached that age.

As was the case of many adult survivors of the Holocaust, these child survivors spent many years trying to forget and not to look back. They were building a new life and did not want their own children to be haunted by such terrible experiences. As they moved on to a "normal life," the child survivors were not inclined to talk about the Shoah. But in their stories in "How We Survived," many tell of a dramatic unburdening feeling when they attended their first meeting of child survivors. The intensity of that feeling and the realization that so many other children had gone through similar events changed the course of their lives. Perhaps because they themselves had been helped by strangers (many of whom have been honored in Yad Vashem as the "righteous gentiles" or "righteous among nations"), they chose a helping profession themselves. A high percentage seem to have become social workers, therapists and teachers. Others have become artists and poets, finding expression of their feelings and experiences in their work. In "How We Survived" we can read poems that are part of the narratives.

How these children coped during and after the Shoah, and how they recovered to live meaningful lives, is a highly moving story of strength and courage. ◊

# Some significant Holocaust survivors, and their ages at liberation

Robert Clary — 19
Roman Polanski — 12
Bruno Bettelheim — 42
Elie Wiesel — 16
Jerzy Kosinski — 12
Primo Levi — 26
Robert Maxwell — 22
Simon Wiesenthal — 36
Rep. Tom Lantos — 17
Abraham Foxman — 5
Ruth Westheimer — 17
Viktor Frankl — 40

## World Jewish Report Medina Roy



### A New Face

The Bank of Israel has introduced the design for its new fifty-shekel note. The note includes the face of socialist Hebrew poet Shaul Tchernichovsky (1875-1943). Born in Crimea. Tchernichovsky was a physician who settled in mandatory Palestine in 1931. He is best known for his poem "Ani Ma'amin" ("I believe"). Both sides of the note contain quotes from his poems. Tchernichovsky is seen as an icon of the original spirit of the founders of Zionism. He loved classical culture, translating Homer's Iliad and Odyssey into Hebrew. Tchernichovsky is one of four Hebrew poets chosen to appear on future Israeli currency. The others are Rachel Bluwstein ("Ve'ulai" - "And Perhaps"), Leah Goldberg and Natan Alterman ("On a Silver Platter"). Some Israeli civil rights leaders are pushing to have Tchernichovsky's "Ani Ma'amin" as an alternate national anthem, instead of or alongside "Hatikvah." (Note: One of the most memorable moments for me on the KICC trip to Israel was listening to Rich Agler tell us the story of Alterman's poem "On a Silver Platter" when we visited the graves of Israeli soldiers at Mt. Herzl. You should have been there.) (The Forward, 3-2-14)

### JNF: Planting "Water" in Israel

Thanks to the visionary non-profit Jewish National Fund (JNF), donations from generations of Jews in the Diaspora have made it possible for some 240 million trees to have been planted in Israel over the last 113 years. When the INF was established in 1901. Israel was under Ottoman rule. The country was neglected and infested with malaria. The JNF came up with a long-term plan to turn things around. (By the way, Israel is the only country in the world to have a net gain of trees in the last 100 years.)

The focus of the INF has now shifted to water. The organization has helped build (in Israel) some 180 dams and water reservoirs. established about 1,000 parks (many of which feature hiking trails around water) and cleaned up the polluted Alexander River. At a recent water technology conference in Tel Aviv, the JNF showcased its expertise for countries experiencing conditions similar to those in Israel. Having dealt with water scarcity for the past few decades, the JNF has plenty of experience knowing where the rain flows, which trees can tolerate water stress, and how to make non-arable land better suited for people and agriculture. One of INF's biggest achievements in this area includes the reclamation of the Hula Valley. The swampland in northern Israel was once drained to rid the country of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, but recently ecologists helped persuade authorities to re-flood the swamp, since it offers a special ecosystem for wildlife as well as a refuge for millions of migratory birds. The JNF financed the project. As a result, some animals thought to be extinct, such as the Hula painted frog, have made a comeback. (www.israel21c.org, 2-5-14)

### It's a Beginning...

For the first time ever, the Reform Movement in Israel has received money from the government to pay the salaries of four community rabbis. This comes eighteen months after Israel's Supreme Court approved a measure to allow non-Orthodox rabbis who lead congregations to be paid, as their Orthodox counterparts are, by the government. Under this new agreement, Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel's regional councils (but not in large cities where most serve), will be recognized as "rabbis of non-Orthodox

communities." The agreement was driven by a lawsuit filed in 2005 by Rabbi Miri Gold. Previously, only Orthodox rabbis received funding from the state. With this new agreement, the rabbis must be employed full-time and be present at their congregations for at least forty Sabbaths each year. This arrangement provides full-time wages only to rabbis of congregations with at least 250 members; those leading smaller congregations (50-250 members) may receive half a salary, even though they'd be required to work full-time. Rabbi Gilad Kariv, director of the Reform Movement in Israel said. "This is a historic and important step in the long struggle toward pluralism, religious freedom and the recognition by the State of Israel of all branches of Judaism. The Reform Movement will continue to act to redefine the relationship between religion and state in Israel..." (www.haaretz.com, 1-1-14)

### Open to All Visitors (Except Israelis)

Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Line has dropped Tunisia from its itineraries after the country recently refused to allow Israeli citizens to disembark when they arrived at the Port of Tunis. About 20 Israelis were told that they were not welcome "because of a lastminute decision by the Tunisian government." (Jewish passengers who were not Israeli were permitted to disembark.) An official from the Interior Ministry said the Israelis did not have visas and "did not meet the legal conditions for entering our country." CEO of Norwegian Cruise Line Kevin Sheehan said, "We want to send a strong message to Tunisia and ports around the world that we will not tolerate such random acts of discrimination against our guests." The subject of relations with Israel is not a well-received topic in Tunisia. In Ianuary, the country's Tourism Minister was forced to resign just hours after being sworn in because of a trip she had made to Israel for professional reasons. Tunisia ended relations with Israel in 2000 in protest of Israel's response to the Second Intifada. The lewish presence on the island of Djerba, in the Mediterranean off the far southeast coast of Tunisia, is believed to date

back some 2,500 years, to the first exile in the 6th century B.C.E. (In the wake of this recent incident, the Tunisian Tourism Minister said that the country is open to all visitors. Israeli tourists may enter Tunisia with "prearranged papers.")

(www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-12-14)

### A New Interactive Map

Jean-Luc Pinol, a French historian, has created an interactive online map that charts the deportation of children from France to concentration camps during the Holocaust, Based on data collected by Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, the map shows the origin of every child deported from France between July 1942 and August 1944. Some 11,400 children were among the 76.000 lews deported from France and sent to death camps during those years. Red circles on the map vary in size, indicating the number of children deported from that particular location. Users can zoom in on a circle and see the exact location where a child was taken for deportation. The map is part of an exhibit on display outside the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts) in Paris. At that very site, 577 Jewish children were deported. To check out the map, go to tetrad.huma-num.fr Tetradmao\_Enfant\_France/ (www.tabletmag.com, 2-20)

### A Major Torah Rescue

One hundred and three Torah scrolls looted from Hungarian Jews during World War II and stashed in a Russian library were recently discovered by Rabbi Shlomo Koves, executive rabbi of the Unified Hungarian lewish Congregation. Koves found the scrolls and other pieces of Judaica in the Lenin Scientific Library in the town of Nizhniy Novgorod. 240 miles east of Moscow, Numerous Hungarian artifacts, including the scrolls, were looted from the country by the Russian army in the years after World War II. The Torah scrolls, some of which are several hundred vears old, need to be restored before they can make their way back to Hungary. Koves called the discovery historic and plans to take them on a world-wide tour once they are restored. More than 500,000 Hungarian Jews died in World War II. most of them deported to concentration camps in only a two-month period in 1944. The Jews of virtually every city in Hungary (except for Budapest) were wiped out. Only some 100,000 Jews, mostly in the capital, escaped the deportations. Budapest has since rebounded and today is home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe. (The Forward, 2-18-14)

### A Flea Market Find

Some 500 pages from the Nuremberg Trials, including documents used to convict top Nazis, were sold at auction to an American collector for \$10.000. The documents were found at a flea market in Israel. The papers arrived in Israel for the auction after being on public display at the Berlin Chabad Center as part of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27th. The documents are said to be a part of a collection that belonged to Isaac Stone. Stone headed the Berlin Document Center and the U.S. Foreign Service Office in the 1940s. (www.ap.org, 1-30-14)

#### In Memoriam

 Alice Herz-Sommer, believed to be the world's oldest Holocaust survivor and a renowned concert pianist, died in late February. She was 110. Her life was the subject of the thirty-eight minute documentary film "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life." She died one week before the film won the Academy Award for Best Short Documentary. "I am Jewish but music is my religion," she's quoted as saying. Herz-Sommer was born into a German-speaking Jewish family in Prague when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1943, the Nazis sent her and her young son Raphael to the Theresienstadt concentration camp where they spent two years. Nearly 35,000 prisoners died there. Fortunately, mother and son managed to remain together in the camp. (Both Herz-Sommer's husband and her mother did not survive World War II.) She became a member of the camp orchestra and gave more than 100 recitals. Raphael was one of only a handful of children to survive

the camp. Mother and son were liberated in 1945 by Red Army troops and returned to Prague. Four years later, they immigrated to Israel. There she taught at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and performed in concerts often attended by Golda Meir. In 1986, after 37 years in Israel, she followed her son to London. Raphael, himself an accomplished cellist and conductor, died in 2001 at the age of 64. Herz-Sommer claimed that her devotion to music is what sustained her in the camp. (The unofficial title of the world's oldest Holocaust survivor now belongs to Yisrael Kristal, an Israeli confectioner from Haifa, who celebrated his 110th birthday in September 2013.) (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 2-24-14)

 Sid Caesar, pioneer of television sketch comedy during the 1950s, died recently. He was 91. Caesar enjoyed a career in TV, film and on stage for six decades. He is best known for his work with comedienne Imogene Coca (she died in 2001 at the age of 92) on "Your Show of Shows," 90 minutes of live, original comedy which aired every Saturday night, 39 weeks a year (1950-1954), on NBC. (He was, at the time the show began, 28 years old.) The program is widely considered the prototype for every TV sketch comedy series that followed, including "Saturday Night Live." Professor von Votsisnehm, one of Caesar's most popular characters, allowed the comic to display his talent for mimicking foreign languages, having it sound authentic when it was merely gibberish. The son of Jewish immigrants, Isaac Sidney Caesar got his start playing saxophone and performing comedy on the "Borscht Belt" circuit in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York. He served in the Coast Guard during World War II. Caesar struggled with a 20-year addiction to alcohol and pills (and food, apparently, since he occasionally ballooned to over 300 pounds), but pulled himself out of it in the late 1970s. "Your Show of Shows" and "Caesar's Hour" helped launch the careers of a number of important and enduring comedy writers, including Neil Simon, Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Larry Gelbart (M\*A\*S\*H), and Woody Allen. (www.reuters.com, 2-12-14) ♦

# GET OUTTA TOWN

A fundraiser for the Keys Jewish Community Center

# Tickets \$100 each

Only 100 tickets will be sold. Where else can you fly to an exciting weekend destination for \$100?

Rules are simple. Buy a raffle ticket and when you win, you choose your destination from one of these three exciting weekend packages.

### New York Long Weekend

Includes 3 nights at the Hilton New York, dinner at one of three premier restaurants, and a Broadway experience for two.

### Sonoma, CA VIP Wine Experience

Includes lodging at the Fairmont Sonoma Inn & Spa and limousine service to a privately hosted tour of the Jacuzzi Family Winery.

## New Orleans Jazz & Dining Package

Includes 3 nights at the Renaissance Pere Marquette Hotel, VIP seats at Preservation Hall, and five-course dinner for two at Commander's Palace Restaurant.

All packages are for two and include air travel and lodging. Travel times and itineraries are flexible.

Winner to be drawn April 15, 2014 at Second Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club You do not have to be present to win.

Contact Barbara Knowles @ 305-772-0503 or email iweddu@bellsouth.net



# **Photo Gallery**

The photos taken on this and the next two pages are from what has now become an annual KJCC tradition: each year we schedule a dinner and invite all our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers, to let them know how much we appreciate their support. This year's dinner took place on February 21st. That's Dr. Bob Foley and partner Carol Chandler (the tall one and at far right) from Upper Keys Veterinary Hospital alongside KJCC members Rebecca Boehling (far left) and Mark Lipkus. Rebecca is a history professor and Holocaust scholar, and is currently Director of an international Holocaust archive in Germany. She was only in town for a week.





Rabbi Agler was kind enough to lead the Kiddush, explaining to our guests the meanings of some pre-meal Jewish rituals, such as the blessings of the wine and bread.



Whenever possible, Bernie likes to include KJCC's younger members in the rituals, the theory

being that if you do it it becomes something you do. Harry Friedman often is asked to slice the challah for the hamotzi. On this night he just barely got

to KJCC from his boy scout meeting. When's the last time you saw someone in a boy scout uniform wearing a kippah? Linda Pollack insisted on the

photo below right. She thought that Jonathan, our young guest, looked like Alan Beth. So she asked for a picture with the two together. What do you think?



Above, Susan and Leslie Janowitz take their turn helping in the kitchen. Below, Zoe Moshe was in town, so we captured her along with Bea Graham, Yardena Kamely and Elaine Solas.



After dinner it was time for services. Bernie was leading, and he asked new member Bobbie Chester, at left, who'd brought her mother as a guest, and Leslie Janowitz to light the Shabbat candles. It was, in many ways, a warm and nourishing evening at KJCC.



The top four photos were taken at Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning service on February 22nd. Assisting with the prized KJCC Holocaust Torah, on the right, is Joel Bofshever, who along with wife Toby drives in from their Davie home especially to be

part of these Saturday services. At left and above with old friend (no pun intended) Pauline Roller is New York's Arthur Plutzer, a long-time KJCC supporter and

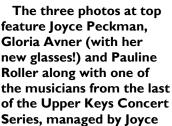
occasional visitor.

In the lower right photo, Yardena points out some of the important figures from Judaism's Golden Age in medieval Spain. The photo at bottom left was taken after her final lecture on March 2nd. Elaine Solas had brought the flowers, but was too shy to present them to Yardena publicly, so she made Bernie do it.

Elaine was certainly right about one thing: they were well deserved.







with lots of help from KJCC volunteers. If you look carefully at the end-ofseason picnic photo on the left, you'll see that about half of all the Concert Series volunteers are familiar KICC faces.

The two photos at bottom are of KJCC member Natalie Dorf and the painting she entered in the big Purple Isles Art Guild Show. Here's what Gloria had to say when submitting the photos to Chai-Lights: "Tonight Jon Landau handed out the awards at the Purple Isles Art Guild Show. Yay, Natalie Dorf!! A truly

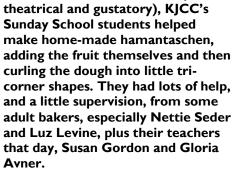














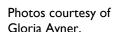
Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Eckerd College Hillel Scubi Jews had once again camped out in KJCC's David Kamely Classroom the night of March 8th, here as part of their ongoing Tikkun Olam project to help repair and restore the Keys reefs. When the KJCC Board showed up for its monthly 9 a.m. meeting (after having also lost an hour of sleep to daylight savings time), the students were gone, the room spotless. But one of them, Galit, left something behind, a drawing on the classroom's white

> board as his way of saying thanks. You can probably make out the word "shalom" on the drawing's left side.

The other four photos on this page were taken at pot-

tery-making sessions at Beth Kaminstein's studio in preparation for the Women's Seder. As Joyce notes in her article on page 24, creating usable pottery began with the very first Women's Seder. This year is the eleventh. In the photo at top, left to right, are

Susan Ellner, Joyce Peckman, Barbara Bernstein, Susan Gordon, Gloria Avner and Marcia Kreitman. (Beth took the photo.)







After the Sisterhoodled service on January 24th, a challenge was issued for Men's Club to also lead a service. The challenge was met on March 21st, proctored by Steve Hartz and Prez Bernie.

Why the big time gap between the two services? The men knew well that the more time allowed to elapse, the less bad they'd

look by comparison. Men might not always be overly bright, but they did have this one scoped out. Now they can preten...er, claim that the competition was a draw.





Photos courtesy of Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon.

Alex's alabaster sculpture that she'd donated to KICC and that now resides in the KJCC lobby. It was his first attempt at fine arts after a long business career. Talent rules. Great genes rock.

# The Genesis of the KJCC Women's Seder

by Joyce Peckman

bout eleven years ago, Beth Kaminstein came across a book, "The Journey Continues: The Ma'Yan Passover Haggadah," by Tamara Cohen. It was a collaborative haggadah with a dual focus: tikkun olam (repairing the world) and women's contributions to the story of liberation through the ages. This version was not meant to replace the traditional hagaddah, but rather to add a way of looking at the history, much as our Purim play enhances, rather than replaces, the Megillah reading. It featured gender-inclusive and feminine blessings, with a focus on the "Shechinah," the feminine aspect of G-d, and called on us to work towards freedom from hunger and fear for everyone in our time.

Beth was enthralled. At about the same time, Lee Schur, who had participated in

women's seders in Chicago, brought the idea for a Women's Seder to Sisterhood. Beth was very enthusiastic and loved the idea, which then went to the Sisterhood Board for discussion. A few were against the idea and some were lukewarm. feeling that Sisterhood's main goal was to support the KICC and to run its annual Second Seder. But most liked the idea. A majority voted yes, and agreed to form a committee. Meredith Cline, Joan Stark, Muriel Swartz, Gloria Avner, Beth Kaminstein and Suzie Feder took Lee's suggestion, and in

her words, "They ran with it!" A seder was planned around the Ma'Yan Haggadah. The committee condensed the book into something that would not last all night.

The Ma'yan Haggadah included short biographies of important Jewish women, and suggested mentioning or honoring some of them in the service. Our group decided to honor women closer to home. Our first local honoree was Shaloma Shawmut-Lessner, who. at age 17 worked in the underground evacuating Holocaust survivors after World War II and had then been a pilot and trainer in the infant Israeli Air Force. She had been formally recognized by the State of Israel for service Beyond the Call of Duty. In later years, a second, historical honoree was added. The names of our honorees, and some of the historical ones, can be found in the KICC lobby.

> on the magnificent quilted wall hanging created by Marcia Kreitman and her

I stood before the quilt the other day with Gloria, who will be this year's honoree. It struck us that a number of those whose lives we had celebrated have themselves passed into history: Elaine Hirsch, Michal Kamely and Rene Rose. Then I considered that each of the historical figures we honored - Rebecca Gratz, Henrietta Szold - were in their time, two very different times, honored as living women. Our historical honorees



The Women's Seder guilt of honorees, hanging prominently in the KICC hallway.

this year will be the untold number of female artists and artisans who have decorated ritual objects through the centuries. Their tradition lives on right here in our artists, whose paintings, shofar holders and tapestries adorn our walls. The chain of past, present and future is real and resonant.

Beth, a professional potter, envisioned each woman bringing a hand-made pottery goblet to the seder. She opened up her studio, and patiently gave lessons in coiling, molding, shaping and glazing. Her encouragement made each person feel that their

work was admirable. Thus began a wonderful tradition that continues. and has produced platters, bowls, cups. candlesticks and mezuzah hold-



ers, as well as a special camaraderie that comes from working together with clay.

I have been asked why we need a women's seder. Isn't a total of two more than enough each year? I initially asked the same question. For many women, this is a stressful time of year: cleaning, cooking, dealing with extended family. My memory includes constantly getting up to provide salt water, washing water, towels...then most of the second half of the seder spent in the kitchen cleaning up. The stories in the traditional haggadah are full of men: rabbis staying up all night, rabbis expounding on Midrash, four sons one who is wise, etc. I discovered at the first Women's Seder I attended that many women had never been given the opportunity as children to participate at all. The youngest boy asked the four questions. The men did the reading, sometimes only in Hebrew.

At the planning sessions, we talked about how, with a few notable exceptions, the Bible is male-centered. The Woman's Seder helps to rectify that. This Seder also allows us a break from family, to show off our culinary accomplishments, yet also to sit and be served, to share our rituals with friends in the larger community and, most importantly, to celebrate and draw strength from the lives of women in our history and in our neighborhood. It is a chance for women to take a once -a-year break from family and synagoguecentered ritual, and create a ritual including and celebrating women in the population bevond the KICC. From the beginning, it was to

include raising funds for charities that serve women and children in the larger community. That tradition continues as well.

Among the Keys charities we have donated to over the years are the Domestic Abuse Shelter. **Burton Memo**rial Food Bank. Healthy Start Coalition. Voices for Florida Keys Children, and the KICC Scholarship Fund. >



Modern hagaddot clearly show the growing inclusion of women at Passover. The drawing at top is from a 2004 hagaddah by Tamar Messer, a Haifa artist. The watercolor just above is from a hagaddah illustrated by New Yorker Leonard Baskin.



# Tuesday, April 15, 2014 6:30 pm Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact:
Barbara Knowles 305-772-0503, iweddu@bellsouth.net
Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,
Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will be opening this to the public after April 1st.



Donations:

Members: Adults \$50; Children 12 and under are our guests.

Non-Members: \$75

# On Cavern Diving in the Yucatan

bv Sv Gelbard

**√**his has been the most personally rewarding trip that I've had in years.

But first let me explain what a cenote is. It is a Mayan word used to describe a "place of accessible water." It is a cavern or sinkhole. The "ground" in much of the Yucatan and other parts of the world (including northern Florida) is actually made up of limestone. a very porous material.

Because of this, rivers actually run underground, because water has seeped through the porous

limestone over the eons and created these rivers. Over long periods of geological time there have been instances where the limestone caves in and crashes into these underground rivers, leaving a hole above.

Rain then fills these holes and they become their own pools.

What is most interesting, though, is what is underwater, in these rivers. As one leaves the open-to-the-light pool area and enters the dark cavern underneath, one sees enormous chunks of limestone. Huge boulders and what

looks like debris are scattered all around, chillingly reminiscent of those images we all saw after 9/11. As you proceed into complete darkness (happily, we always carry high-intensity flashlights), you enter what are ap-

propriately called "rooms," some the length of a football field, and you marvel at the limestone stalagtites and stalagmites and other incredibly shaped objects.

Our dive depth rarely reaches more than



fifty feet, though there are cenotes several hundred feet deep. One marvels at the absolute clarity of the water, due to the natural filtration of rainwater at the surface seeping down through the limestone over time.

There are some moments of nearterror at being underwater in total dark-

ness in an inescapable "no overhead" (scuba talk for no air overhead) environment. I catch my breath and realize that, in the very unlikely event that my regulator were to fail, I have another diver within about six feet of me and could (hopefully) be able to "buddy breathe" my way back to the surface. It is not a situation I'd like to find myself in, but cave and cavern divers take meticulous care of their equipment, so there's probably a much greater statistical possibility that I would break my neck trying to avoid the potholes

> and uneven streets while walking in Playa Del Carmen than there is having a catastrophic regulator failure in a cenote.

Anyway, the episodic feelings of terror morph into an absolutely thrilling feeling as I journey, weightless, through an environment that seems



From Sy's notes, the light in the above photo is from a lantern; the light below is from the surface. He took the photos. The diver featured was his dive partner.

more extraterrestrial than anything of this Earth.

As you fin through underwater tunnels and archways you will see what I believe to be the most incredibly beautiful sight imaginable - rays of light, colored in greens and

blues, coming through a hole or gaps at the surface. It is like nothina else I have ever seen or experienced. Some of these beams are from small holes and are like beautiful natural spotlights comina from above, as if vou had entered a "heaven" of sorts. Hollywood Special Effects masters would be hardpressed to conjure up such imagerv.

I managed to get several hours of video. much of it with the herky-jerky

movement of the amateur photographer that I am. The videos comprise dives in five separate cenotes, each having its own "personality" and qualities. I hope to edit these videos to at least convey some sense of the magical enormity I experienced there.  $\Diamond$ 

# **KJCC Gift Shop**

All items are offered to our KJCC membership & guests at INCREDIBLY affordable prices! \$\$ See you at the KJCC gift shop for all of your Passover wants & needs!



Seder Plates, Matzo Trays, Matzo & Afikomen bags, Saltwater & Horseradish bowls, Charoset bowls, Miriam's Cups, Children's Passover toys & books



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

# The Wealth of Our **KJCC Weekends**

## Shabbat Across America

bv Gloria Avner

ou can never tell what you will learn during one or our increasingly full KICC weekends. It might happen at a dinner, a Saturday morning service led by Rabbi Agler, or during a Havdalah service with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.

Take the weekend of March 7 - 9. We began with a full fleishig dinner sponsored by Ritual Committee and Sisterhood in celebration of the crosscontinental event. "Shabbat

Scuba lews from Eckerd College. here once more on their Tikkun



HaYam (repair of the Sea) project. working underwater to restore the health

across America and Canada." This is the fifth year we have taken part in this National Jewish Outreach Program, and each time the

sharing reinforces connection to each other in our own haimishe mishpocha and to our larger community as well, the extended mishpocha of Jews from "sea to shining sea." We imagine and feel the tens of thousands of other Jews celebrating along with us. simultaneously nourishing body and soul. And how appropriate that this year we were joined by our young friends, the Hillel

of our endangered coral reefs. Led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal (young-atheart, though wise of spirit), they come from far-flung U.S. cities and bring us the youthful, young adult energy we don't have enough of on Friday nights. "Do you need any help?" These were their first words as they walked in during dinner. Their generosity of

spirit is always refreshing and heartwarming.

On Saturday night, Rabbi Ed led all of us in a candlelit Havdalah ceremony in our own Meditation Garden. The talk before Havdalah



They fasted and they prayed for three davs. (All of them, includina Esther and even her maids.) Though God's name

never mentioned



in the entire story, the rabbis teach that God's hand works for us when

is the surprise nugget of learning for this weekend.

"This

is not a children's holiday," says Rabbi Ed. "What?" we think.

Yes, we sing, drink, eat, wear masks and act crazy on Purim, with its seemingly simple, joyous story. But the deeper meaning behind and within the story turns out not to be simple or lighthearted at all. The Jews of Shushan, King Achashuerosh's seat of power

in Persia, did escape slaughter. This was a rare event in Jewish history, especially when a strong man with the ear of a all-powerful king hated Jews. Yet the real point of the story, according to Rabbi Ed, is that the lews of Shushan were saved by one thing only — unity.



KJCC joined the intimate Shabbat dinner of tens of thousands for "Shabbat Across America and Canada" on March 7th. As Bernie likes to say, if you feed them they will come. We fed them. They came.

we are united as a community and trust in God. This kind of unity did not exist during the time of the Holocaust. We are stunned by Rabbi Ed's final revelation about the connection between the hanging of the ten sons of Haman 2500 years ago in Persia and the post -Holocaust hanging of ten Nazi war criminals

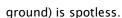
at Nuremburg, the last of whom, an odd man named Iulius Streicher. glared at the witnesses, uttered a piercing scream of "Heil. Hitler" and with his last human

Sunday School students, guided by Nettie Seder (also known as Nana Nettie), prepare dough, fill, bake, and eat many cookie sheets worth of Hamantashen, also known as "the ears of Haman." A board meeting proceeds in half the schoolroom, while in the other half the children, along with brave adults, practice

> for their *Purimspiel* play the next weekend. Sisterhood meanwhile is in the Social Hall providing a festival shopping experience with The Chosen for all who need supplies for Purim and Passover. The Hillel kids left just that morning, but the schoolroom (their weekend camp-

utterance shouted from the top steps of the gallows: "Purimfest, 1946!" He must have seen himself as Haman.

Unity among all Jewish communities is not the case now.



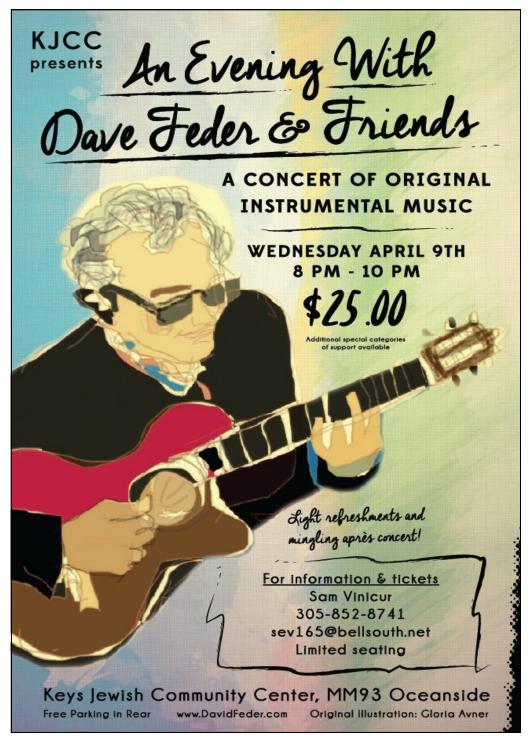
At the end of the weekend, we are filled and fulfilled. Unity in community is our

> strength. Through continued learning, celebrating, and, um, eating, may we continue to grow from strength to strength (and have a good time doing it). Yasher Koach. ◊

Once again, Rabbi Ed led Saturday night's Havdalah ceremony in KJCC's Garden gazebo. He talked of Purim. This time it was Alison who held the candle aloft just before its dousing.



either. There is a huge lesson here. Once more we are brought back to the theme we embraced in our Shabbat dinner and service on Friday night, March 7th and which continues on Sunday morning. Our



# Purim 2014 at KJCC

by Joyce Peckman

"The King's Place" was Casablanca-in-Persia (in the Keys, no less) for Purim this year. The Purimspiel, by playwright Larry Smith, was nominated for Best Comedy of the Decade, directed by Gloria Avner, and starred Wesley Silverman as King Ahasverosh, Natalie Werthamer as Queen Esther, Moira Knowles as Mordechai and Jules Seder as a villainously

despicable Haman. Up for best supporting actors were Cole Silverman ("You played it for her, you can play it for me..."), Mikhaela Bitton as Queen Vashti, Marc Bloom and Richard Knowles as courtiers/attendants Bigthan and Teresh, Erica Garrett as Miss Chaldea and Susan Gordon as Miss Babble-On and Vashti's friend. Up for cutest extra was Rachel Levine, who played a

Shushan Girl and raised the sign cueing us when to boo. Up for most versatile prop were

the bottles of root beer, which not only inebriated the king and cohorts, but also served as microphones and the weapon of royal execution.

After the audience finished laughing and

Ginsberg began by showing everyone



our genuine hand-written scroll, donated to KJCC by Rabbi and Mindy Agler's friend Marc Kravit, pointing out the tiny calligraphy crown drawn atop the first letters of the king's name, and also

above each use of the words *Ha-melech*, Hebrew for "the king." Bernie chanted the first several sentences from the *Meaillah*.

then led us collectively in the prayers before the reading.
Many rabbis have said that listening to the entire



applauding, Megillat Esther was read in earnest. President Bernie



Megillat
Esther is one
of the most
important
mitzvot of the
year. We fulfilled that
commandment roundrobin style, in
English, many



was his personal favorite – drinking! To that end, wine, beer and Slivovitz (plum brandy, for the maybe two or three of you who might not yet know) were provided. The second mitzvah is to send Mishloach manot (gifts of food) to friends. The Sunday School provided goody bags, but since we

were having a potluck brunch, every-

one who brought food was included in this mitzvah. In addition, Joel and Toby Bofshever donated a beautiful basket, filled with fruit, beer and hamentashen.



of us still in costume, including a do-rag-clad Rabbi Agler. As a community, we read and heard every word.

When we finished reading, Bernie pointed out the remain-

ing mitzvot of the holiday: The first



which was raffled off by Sisterhood. (Muriel and George Swartz were the lucky winners.) The third mitzvah is to provide food for the

needy. Rachel helped to pass the basket around, and \$85 was raised for the food bank next door at Burton Memorial Church. The fourth mitzvah is



and more. Sylvie Bitton and Erica Garrett brought cheesecake, and there was a variety of delicious homemade and store-bought hamentaschen.

It takes a village to properly celebrate Purim, and we did! ◊

to have a joyous feast, and we did! Nettie

Seder was kitchen

queen, and wants to thank everyone who helped to set up and clean up. (You too, Carla.) The table was loaded with scrumptious dishes and desserts. Among the more notable dishes were Medina Roy's vegetable soup, Barbara's Knowles' mac &

cheese, Nettie's quiche, Linda Pollack's famous corn soufflé, Elinor Grossman's bulgur

salad.

Muriel & Susan Ellner's blintz soufflés, my watermelon barley salad, Jane Friedman's tortellini with pesto, and Luz Levine's homemade hamentashen and mandel bread. Thanks to everyone else who brought salads









George and Muriel Swartz, seated, with the Purim basket they won in the raffle. To fulfill another mitzvah, all the money collected went to charity.

## Pesach and the Power of Place

Shulchan, not Shul

bv Gloria Avner

The Yiddish word for synagogue is "shul." our well-tended house for ritual objects and also communal gathering place for prayer, education, and celebration. On Passover, the holiday observed by more Jews than any other, the "people of the book" gather not in shul, but around the family table, the shulchan.

We not only look forward to this holiday more than any other, no Jew of any stripe wants to miss it. Let's add a fifth question to the mah nishtana our youngest children will be chanting. Why are we so drawn to and happy to celebrate this holiday?

Answer: The Passover Seder tells OUR story, a panoramic nation-shaping story, the Exodus. Each of us has a ritual role, a significant part in a cast of thousands. Our lives are intertwined with our ancestors' in this story of struggle, redemption, and transformation. "The retelling" (the English translation of the Hebrew word *hagaddah*) that happens around the table takes us inside each laver of the tale by involving all our senses.

The hagaddahs next to our plates help us fulfill the commandment to share the story with our children, this year and every year. The words are the bones, a skeletal guide to which we add personal improvisation. We insert ourselves, encouraged to act, think, remember, and behave as if the tale of slaverv. exodus, and struggle toward freedom is happening to all of us that very moment.

So there we sit, young and old, in comfortable, homey surroundings, around a dinner table with family and friends, Jew and (often) non-Jew alike. Stage

and table are set with all the props we need to trigger and reinforce the story; we read out the list of events to come, the overture to our musical. Songs, serious and silly, madrigals, ritual foods to be described and blessed, a delicious meal, and games all work to unfold the story. Ears, eyes, tongues, hands, and stomachs are full participants as we touch, taste, see, sing, hear, bless symbolic foods, dip pinkies into wine as we recount the ten plagues, and talk. (Legs and physical movement come into being. too, as children run around the room looking for the *afikomen* to be ransomed for a gift, helping keep them awake and interested in the seder until it is over.)

We sing songs about our transition from slavery to freedom (Avadim Hayinu) and in praise of God's generous gifts (Dayenu). The "Who Knows One" song ("Echad Mi Yodea") is an amazing teaching tool that summarizes all the basic principles of Judaism - one God, two tablets, three patriarchs, four matriarchs, five books of Moses, and on and on until we return to the oneness of the Creator who brought us

> out of "our tight places." On each table are the mnemonic devices that paint symbols into our souls. We taste bitterness in herbs and are brought to tears by fresh ground horseradish. It is springtime and everything acknowledges renewal, from the baby lettuce to the hardboiled egg. The roasted lamb shank bone re-

> This illustration of the four sons is from the Szyk Hagaddah, created during World War II by acclaimed Polish illustrator Arthur Szyk, called by Sir Cecil Roth "the greatest illuminator since the



16th century."

minds us of the blood painted on the doorposts of our homes that allowed our children to live (paseach). The explanation of matzoh, the "bread of affliction," as it is held up, a focal point for all to see, makes real the haste of our departure and keeps the story in our consciousness for eight days.

Here is the biggest difference between shul and shulchan: at our family seder we are not davening, but evoking and rehearsing the process of liberating ourselves from both outer and inner oppression. (Remember that "Mitzraim," while the Hebrew name for the country of Egypt, is also the Hebrew word for "tight, restricted places," which we are taught include meanings such as our own bad habits and harmful situations from

which we need to free ourselves.) It is all done within the intimacy and continuity of family.

The description of the four children is full of lessons, but the sin of the wicked son is key. On the surface, he has done no physical harm. But worse, as far as our tribal survival is concerned, he keeps himself apart. By talking about what "you" do he removes himself from our people's story and becomes a self-made outcast, ultimately a liability.

What? A child a liability? We come to the nub of our magical, meaningful event. Every element in this evening is about nothing less than national survival. All the storytelling, songs, discussion, the downing of four cups of blessed wine, is to keep us from assimilating, to remain a people keeping the faith. It takes a village, a host of villages, thousands of dining room tables in dozens of countries to keep a people alive.

The parallels in modern times of threats to our people are omnipresent. It is no accident that the time of *Pesach*, spring renewal, was always associated with pogroms in much of Europe and England. At Easter time, fury would be invoked by those in power who attempted to divert their subjects with a few well-chosen finger-pointing whispers about

those who "killed our Lord." Even the seemingly innocent "swallowed a fly" song about the "little goat my father bought for two zuzim" that we love to sing at seder's end - I promise we will sing "Had Gad Yah" from start to finish this year - is actually in code, identifying every empire that defeated or mistreated the Jewish people over the centuries, ending very happily with a victory brought about by none other than our one G-d.

The participants around the table "get" our longevity through the story. The Jews become a people, a society, a religion in the desert experience and not before. The struggle to evolve from captive to free people is not a transition made easily - witness the episode of the golden

calf. Guarding our families by invoking Elijah, the prophet's words help guide us to the future. We set a place for him and open the door so he might join our table.

So we sit and alternate seriousness with kibbitzing, take our time, drink our wine, tell the story in as animated a way as we can so that our children will enjoy themselves and get the message. Whether and how we continue as a people is ultimately up to them, these active young chanters of the four questions.

This is our moment of power to lav groundwork for them and for our future. When we each leave the seder "shulchan," may it be with fullness in our hearts and minds as well as stomachs. And so, looked at broadly, the table is not only a place where we perform one of our most significant rituals, it is also a place upon which we symbolically display our status as a reflective and enduring, continuous people. How significant, then, that the seminal book "The Code of Jewish Law," written in the mystical Israeli city of Tz'fat in 1655 by Yoseph Karo (in whose beautiful synagogue we sat with Rabbi Agler last summer) is known popularly as The Shul-

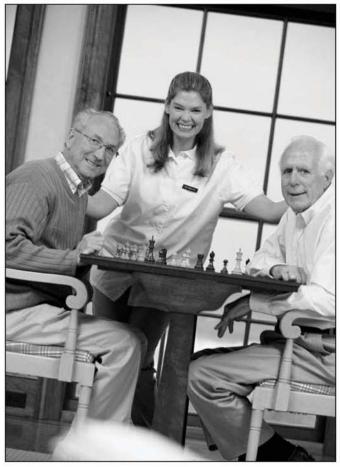
May we perform our Pesach parts well, with zest and commitment. This just may be the year Elijah walks through our door. ◊

chan Aruch, "The Set Table."

The Jews become a people, a society, a religion in the desert experience... not before.

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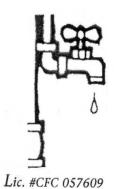


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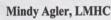
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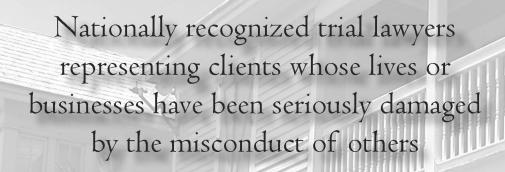
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