

# Chai~Lights



May 2010

17 Iyar - 18 Sivan 5770

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

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**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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## President's Message Alan Beth



This will go down for us as the best Passover ever! I need to give thanks to several people that were of tremendous and special help this year: to Joan Boruszak and Leslie Dillon, who arranged and prepared the community Seder, where each of us received a prepared plate and were served delicious food (really); to Jim and Gloria, who led the service, which was short, musical, light in humor and yet meaningful; to Yardena and Gloria for leading the children's service at the KJCC. We thank Joel Pollack for his many years of dedication leading prior Passover Seder services. He's earned his retirement, but we'll miss him.

Every year, a few days before Passover, we get several out-of-towners desperate for a Seder. I am so proud of Bill and Freda Ferns, who opened their home to anyone with no Seder to attend. Freda said she did not want anyone to be alone. Some of our KJCC members and all the out-of-towners attended Bill and Freda's Seder. Truly they embodied the Passover spirit, where we are obligated to open our door.

Judy and Frank Greenman, together with its minister, organized a community Seder at the Episcopal Church in Marathon. Pauline Roller, Candy and I represented the KJCC. We were warmly greeted by over a hundred of the local parishioners. The pastor in-

vited their community and ours to build stronger ties for the future. Which, of course, I would welcome.

Special thanks go to Beth Kaminstein, who again this year offered her house and studio prior to the KJCC Women's Seder, so those attending (over 50!) could create the plates and cups and bowls they would use at the Seder.

Last month also saw some emotional events. Judge Stanley Nason, who described himself as an "atheist Jew," passed away. At the end, though, he found G-d and asked that the Shema be read. We were visited on a Sunday evening by seven Holocaust survivors. This was an unplanned event, as they were heading to Marathon to speak at several schools the next day. At the last minute, we arranged for them to visit us and address our membership. They were supposed to stay only for one hour, but ended up staying for three, remembering and teaching.

Special thanks also go to Yardena, Medina, and Muriel, who spent many, many hours researching, creating and presenting our Yom HaShoah Holocaust remembrance.

*B'shalom...* Alan

# May 2010

17 Iyar - 18 Sivan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i>					1
2 Lag Ba-Omer Sisterhood luncheon KJCC Board Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 Yardena Kamely & George Swartz  <i>Joan &amp; Harvey Kay</i>	8
9 Mothers Day	10	11	12 Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)	13	14 Yardena Kamely & Steve Steinbock  <i>Medina Roy &amp; Bernie Ginsberg</i>	15
16	17	18 Shavuot Celebration  7:30 p.m. KJCC	19 First Day of Shavuot	20	21 Gloria Avner & Alan Beth  <i>Medina Roy (Happy 95th, Bianka)</i>  Yizkor service	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28 Gloria Avner & Cory Wasser  6:30 Service	29



# Nosh

## 30<sup>th</sup> Gala DVDs available

DVDs from our 30<sup>th</sup> Gala celebration, with hundreds of photos shot by Richard Knowles, are now available from KJCC Sisterhood's Gift Shop, for the incredibly low price of \$20 each. (Thank you, Richard and Barbara.) Contact Joan Boruszak at joanborus@aol.com or 852-0833.

## Got Ink?

I have two unopened HP ink cartridges: #96 (black) and #97 (tricolor), purchased for my HP 7210 all-in-one, but I no longer have this printer.

Will be happy to give them away as my new printer does not use these. Let me know if you can use them.

– Linda Pollack

## Welcome Newest Member

The KJCC *Mishpocha* welcomes new member David Gitin of Key Largo, who chose love over Monterey, California. We think you made an excellent choice!

## Yizkor Service This Month

Don't forget that Shavuot means the final Yizkor service for 5770, to be held on Friday, May 21st, at 8 p.m., led by Gloria and Alan.

**Shavuot Celebration:  
Tuesday Night,  
May 18th, 7:30 p.m. at KJCC**

Don't be caught sleeping when the Torah arrives. We've been wandering in the desert counting Omer for 49 days, and tonight's the night. Perform the *mitzvah* of listening to the Ten Commandments, hear "The Book of Ruth," discuss, learn, argue, watch a stimulating short film, eat (!), see the list of 613 *mitzvot*, be with your *mishpocha*, eat, hear the sound of the Shofar. It will be an evening of study and celebration (and *milchedikeh* treats like cheesecake and blintzes). What could be better?

## May Birthdays

1st.....	Jonathan Schenker
2nd.....	Barney Coltman
3rd.....	Michael Solomon
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
4th.....	Ryan Curtis
5th.....	Richard Palacino
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
9th.....	Reid Schur
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Mark Burnett
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
17th.....	Alex Shatz
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Boruszak
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
19th.....	Shelby Strean
20th.....	Rita Williams
21st.....	Tracey Greenberg
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
25th.....	Carolyn Kaufman
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
25th.....	Susan Schwaid
26th.....	Randy Robins
27th.....	Alan Beth
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
29th.....	Liati Mayk
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Robin Forman
30th.....	Julie Burnett
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Wes Conklin

## Stanley Nason, R.I.P.

Judge Stanley H. Nason, May 5, 1919 - March 26, 2010. Earned his law degree from New York University. Lived and practiced law most of his life in New York. Preceded in death by his wife; three children; avid dancer and fisherman. Retired to Key Largo more than a dozen years ago, living in Silver Shores because he loved his "million dollar view." For years he swore in each year's Board and Officers for KJCC. The funeral service was officiated by Cantor Lisa Segal and attended by several neighbors from Key Largo. Phyllis Moffit, one of Stanley's caregivers over the last few years, spoke of his background and of his frequent visits to Harriette's Restaurant. "They always had his hot coffee on the table even before he sat down," she stated. "Stanley had a dry sense of humor, always telling the ladies in his family, 'Don't pick up any sailors!'"

-Stuart Sax

## May Anniversaries

		Years
4th	Alan & Susan Cooper.....	24
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	19
<b>24th</b>	<b>Alfred &amp; Sue Ann Wehl.....</b>	<b>51</b>
29th	Lawrence & Judith Weber.....	48
30th	Harold & Shelley Schenker.....	17

## Oneg Sponsors for May 2010

May 7th—Joan & Harvey Kay in honor of Cele's Yahrzeit.

May 14th—Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg in celebration of their shared birthday.

May 21st—Medina Roy to celebrate the 95th birthday of her mom - Bianka Kirschenbaum.

## Ongoing Projects and Programs of KJCC

**General Donations** - can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Holocaust Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Call Linda Pollack 852-8575.

**Gift Shop** - We have many lovely gift and holiday items on hand and can special order for you as well. Contact Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

**Jewish Youth Enrichment Program** - will assist in involving our children in Jewish activities. Call Neal Rakov 852-9400.

**Sunshine Committee** - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from the Center, call Rene Rose, 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, 852-0214.

**Picture Postcards** - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities 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 Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

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

**KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim.** Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

**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, 852-4353.

**Chai-Lights Mitzvah** - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

**Advertisement in Chai-Lights** - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for the low annual rates.

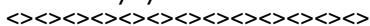
*Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well.*

# *In Memoriam May 2010*

In Memory Of

**Rose Roazen**

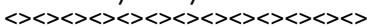
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Stanley Boxer**

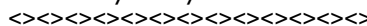
By Shirley Boxer



In Memory Of

**Hal Burnett**

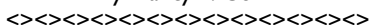
By Shirley Burnett



In Memory Of

**Charles S. Cohn**

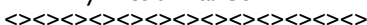
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Sam Hitzig**

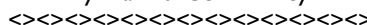
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In Memory Of

**Gertrude Weisberg**

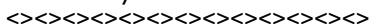
By Frank & Gerri Emkey



In Memory Of

**Billie Kornbloom**

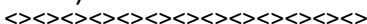
By Erica Garrett



In Memory Of

**Jennie Geller**

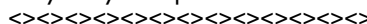
By Milton & Claire Geller



In Memory Of

**Albert Gilderman**

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman



In Memory Of

**Hyman Goldberg**

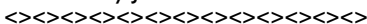
By Joseph & Susan Goldberg



In Memory Of

**Julie Gorson-Marrow**

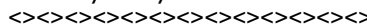
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Belle Kirschenbaum**

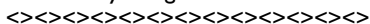
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Anna Haber**

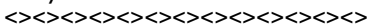
By Margaret Gross



In Memory Of

**Kurt Scaller**

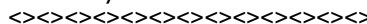
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Morris Moshe Grossman**

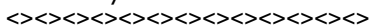
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

**Louis M. Biderman**

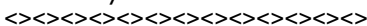
By Estelle Incociati



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Biderman**

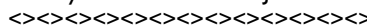
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In Memory Of

**Esther Jacobs**

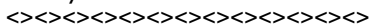
By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

**Jack Kantor**

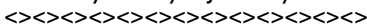
By Erwin & Barbara Kantor



In Memory Of

**Cele Rosen**

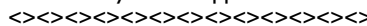
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

**Milton Lippman**

By Lillian Lippman



# *In Memoriam May 2010*

In Memory Of

**Florence Savage**

By Marjorie Present



In Memory Of

**Lilyan Sax**

By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Robert W. Singer**

By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Sam Wainer**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Susan Cimkowski**

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Ida S. Reider**

By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Etia Turner**

By Salomon & Mary Turner



In Memory Of

**Itka Raij**

By Salomon & Mary Turner



In Memory Of

**Stuart Weiss**

By Sheldon & Carole Weiss



In Memory Of

**Norma Cutler**

By Donald & Nancy Zinner



In Memory Of

**Robert Schur**

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Phillip Temkin**

By Robert & Susan Temkin



In Memory Of

**Rose Wainer**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Benjamin Weber**

By Lawrence & Judith Weber



## **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 you care about to be included in the *mishebeyrach* prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com).

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# **YEDA VE'TORASHA**

Yardena Kamely



## **Yom Yerushalayim: After 1,900 years, Jerusalem is Again a Jewish City**

At the very end of the 1948 War of Independence, the Arab Legion of Jordan, under King Abdullah, seized the Old City of Jerusalem, or East Jerusalem, thereby dividing the city in two. Under Jordanian rule, there was no possibility of Jews reaching the Temple Mount or Western Wall, which lie within the Old City. The Jewish nation was detached from its heart.

Nineteen years after independence, the Six-Day War broke out on June 5th, 1967. Orders came down not to open fire in Jerusalem since Jordan, still controlling the Old City, had not joined the war. Under intense Arab pressure, King Hussein of Jordan changed his mind and decided to fight. With the situation changed, orders were given to recapture the Old City of Jerusalem.

### **The Liberation, a first-hand account**

After surrounding the Old City, the paratrooper brigade received an order to capture it. They burst through Lion's Gate, one of the gates of the Old City, captured it and liberated the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

"...The clocks showed 10:12 in the morning, on 28 of Iyar, 5728. The half-tracks moved quickly forward. The commander of the paratroopers unit, Motta Gur, stood in line. In an emotional voice, and yet reserved as was his way, he announced over the communication equipment: 'Paratroopers. Today we are standing at the gates of the Old City that we have dreamed of for so long. Be proud of yourselves!' We all shivered. The order went out to move forward. The command half-tracks burst forth to cross Lion's

Gate, shattered earlier by our tank mortars. The sound of the impact was enormous and the gates trembled before the onslaught of the troops. We were inside. The rest of the troops burst through in the wake of the half-tracks. We reach the Omar mosque. From here until the Western Wall, the distance is short. With great emotion, the heart beats quickly. We were among the first to reach the small opening. From here, narrow and winding steps led us to the Western Wall, the *Kotel*. The Western Wall, the last remnant of the Temple, *Beit Hamikdash*. Jewish footsteps have not walked here for nineteen years. We are pushed forward by the stream of exultant



**Michal Kamely with son Uri at the Kotel during their trip to Israel in 2007.**

soldiers...hundreds of dusty, sweaty soldiers, their clothing stained with blood...crowding into the narrow rectangular space in front of the Wall...tough men, who for two days have carried out heavy fighting, imprinted with blood...stood and cried out loud without embarrassment, a cry of release and emotion, a cry of spiritual elevation and a recognition of the greatness and eternity of the nation of Israel...."

(Excerpt from text by one of the soldiers)

### Words to the liberators

On Monday, the fourth of Sivan, June 12, 1967, at the end of the War, the paratroopers brigade formed on the Temple Mount. Their commander, Motta Gur, spoke the following words, to them, to the world and to posterity:

"To the paratroopers, liberators of Jerusalem: when the Temple Mount was captured by the Greeks, it was liberated by the Maccabees; in the destruction of the Second Temple fought the zealots and Bar Kochba. Until you came—you the paratroopers—and returned it to the nation [of Israel]. The Western Wall, towards which every heart beats, is again in our hands. Many Jews put their lives in danger, throughout our long history, in order to reach Jerusalem and live in it. Numerous songs of yearning expressed the deep yearning that beats in the heart of every Jew for Jerusalem.... For me – my goal has been achieved. The Temple Mount is in our hands. The Temple Mount means also the Western Wall...The Temple Mount. Mount Moriah. Abraham and Isaac. The Temple. The zealots and the Maccabees, Bar Kochba, Romans and Greeks. Everything is mixed together in our thoughts. However, the *feelings* are stronger and deeper than anything. We are on the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is ours!"

The liberation and reunification of Jerusalem in 1967 united more than the physical city itself. It united hearts and minds across the entire spectrum of the Jewish nation. From religious rabbis to secular poets; from old people who remembered touching the stones to young children who only had the memory of other people's memories...The liberation of the Old City, and particularly the Western Wall, carried immense implications for all.

The newest holiday on the Jewish calendar, Yom Yerushalayim—the liberation and unification of the city of Jerusalem, the spiritual heart of Judaism since King David made it his capital in 1,000 B.C.E., more than three thousand years ago—is celebrated on 28 Iyar, which this year is May 12. ◇



## KJCC GIFT SHOP




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If you do not see what you want, we can order it for you.

Call Joan Boruszak 852-0833.

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## Sisterhood Joyce Peckman



**S**isterhood's final meeting of this season on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> will not be held at the KJCC, but instead at Pilot House Restaurant, at 12:30. Sofy told them to set up for 25, so even if you've missed our regular meetings, we'd love to see you there. Instead of focusing on the business of the KJCC, we'll focus on lunch.

We can do that thanks to the work of Joan S. and Candy, and everyone who already signed up to help set up the Onegs on Friday night during the summer. If you will be around in the Keys from late June through October, please volunteer to help out for a couple of Friday nights. (Men are invited to help as well! After all, Marc Bloom provides essential energy to everything that goes on in the kitchen.) If that means you will attend Friday services several times more than you usually do, so much the better! Angela, who works the kitchen during the winter season, will have returned home. She's spoiled us all by setting up and cleaning up. So please, come to Friday services, then lend a hand and clear your table when you've done eating, drinking and socializing!

While we are on the topic of Friday nights, consider sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat during the summer. You can either send a check to Sisterhood for \$50, or pick up a bottle of Manischewitz, coffee creamer, some fruit and/or cake and a challah from Publix. Just let me know. I'll be coordinating the dates. My e-mail is [joyce@adoctorsbag.com](mailto:joyce@adoctorsbag.com). My cell phone is 305-240-1000; home phone is 451-0665.

The KJCC Second Seder seems like a long time ago, but I did not have a chance to thank everyone who made it so memorable. Joan Boruszak (assisted by her able helper,

Jim) and Leslie Dillon put in long hours organizing and planning the event. The Seder itself was beautifully led by Jim and Gloria Avner. I was told that the food was absolutely delicious and the service excellent. The Passover Seder is a central part of the Jewish faith and tradition, and one of the keys to our existence as a people. To all who attended and to all who labored to make it possible, I wish continued blessings and "may we go from strength to strength."

Each May we celebrate Mothers' Day. I was thinking about the responsibilities undertaken by the mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts and mentors in our community. We are responsible for the physical, educational and spiritual well-being of our charges. As I have become involved in the Upper Keys community, I am struck by how much the women (and men) of the KJCC have taken upon themselves the care and enrichment of the community at large. We are at the forefront and behind the lines of efforts at Mariner's Hospital, Voices for Florida Keys Children, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We have volunteers at the schools, the scouts, Keys for Peace, and Volunteers for Literacy Project. Cultural events presented here by ICE and the Upper Keys Concert Series are the direct result of efforts spearheaded by members of the Jewish community. Our involvement and concern extends beyond our own species to the Bird Sanctuary and local rescue shelters. So to all of us, young and older, who have reached out with love and energy to those around them, this mother wishes you flowers, a beautiful spring, and the gratitude you deserve. ◇

# 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.

*Holocaust Education Center*  
Goldfinger, David & Toby

*JNF Certificates Sent By*  
Cooper, Murray & Claire  
Peine, Richard & Rachel

*Meditation Garden*  
Barefoot, Rosemary

*KJCC Tree of Life Leaves*

*Oneg Fund Sponsors*  
Silverman, Mort & Gene  
Silverman, Mort & Gene  
Ulpan Class

*In Honor of*  
Holocaust Survivors

*In Memory of*  
Philip Ross  
George Britton

*In Honor of*  
Steve Steinbock

*In Honor of*  
Anniversary  
Gene's birthday  
Morah Yardena

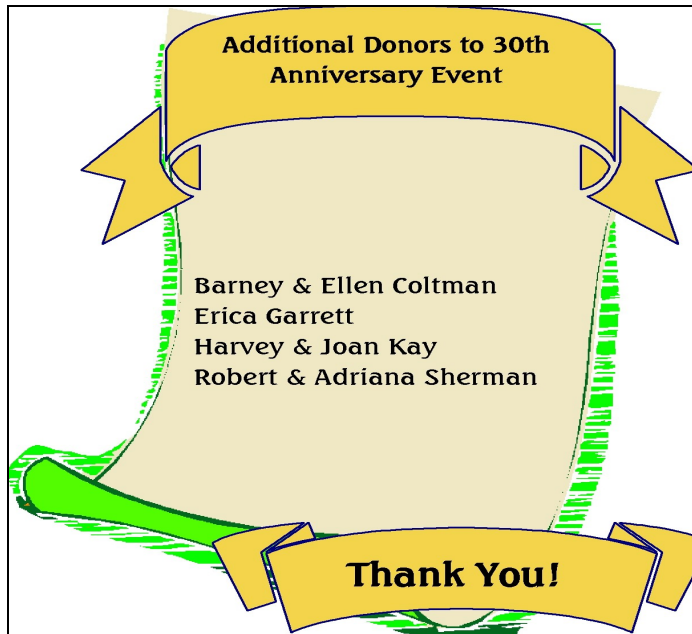
*Yartzeit Contributions*

Elson, Barry  
Elson, Neil  
Graham, Bea  
Rubin, Myron & Myrna  
Sheinker, Miltra  
Tallent, Ralph & Lillian

*30th Anniversary*

Bernard, Edward & Diana  
Coltman, Barney & Ellen  
Garrett, Erica  
Gould, Maryon  
Kay, Harvey & Joan  
Line, John & Arlene  
Sherman, Robert & Adrianna

*In Memory of*  
Saul and Selma Elson  
Selma Greenspan  
Marty Graham  
Herman Rubin  
Warren Sheinker  
Ida Tallent





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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### 2010 Cholent Cook-Off

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Yeshiva University's Weissberg Commons, in the Washington Heights section of New York City, played host to the 2010 Cholent Cook-Off. (Cholent is a robust type of stew created because religious Jews are not permitted to cook on the Sabbath. The dish is prepared in advance and can stay warm over night over a low flame.) Sixteen teams made up of 64 students from the men's undergraduate schools of Yeshiva College and the Sy Sims School of Business fought it out in a culinary battle to proclaim a true cholent champion. Among the contest judges were renowned kosher chef and best-selling author of *Kosher by Design* Susie Fishbein, TV personality and author Jeff Nathan, and president and publisher of *Great Kosher Restaurants Magazine*, Elan Kornblum. "One of the nice things about this year's contest is that we tied it with our food drive for the Upper Manhattan Food Pantry," said Jonathan Mantell, organizer of the event. After a three-way dead heat was announced, Yeshiva University's President Richard M. Joel was called in to break the tie. The results: Team Heerlijk, (Flemish for "delicious") was crowned cholent champion. Second and third prize went to teams Cholent Fulfillment and the Maccabeans.

([www.vosizneias.com](http://www.vosizneias.com), 3-12-10)

### Two Jews on the Short List

Jewish representation on the Supreme Court could reach a historic high following the April 9<sup>th</sup> announcement that Justice John Paul Stevens plans to retire. Two candidates often mentioned to replace Stevens on the bench are Jewish: Solicitor General Elena Kagan and Judge Merrick Garland. Currently justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen

Breyer, two of the nine Supreme Court members, are Jewish. Kagan, 49, is the first woman to hold the office of U.S. Solicitor General, having been appointed to the position by President Obama. She is the former dean of Harvard Law School. Garland, 57, formerly a senior official with the Department of Justice, currently sits on the federal appeals court in Washington. In 1916, Louis Brandeis became the first Jew to serve on the Supreme Court. Since that time, six other Jewish justices have served. If either Kagan or Garland is chosen and confirmed, one-third of the court would be comprised of Jews, and, for the first time in the history of the United States, there would not be a single Protestant sitting on the nation's highest bench. (*The Forward*, 4-9-10)

### Copy of Schindler's List for Sale

One of the remaining five copies of the famous "Schindler's List" has been put up for sale, with the asking price of 2.2 million dollars. "It is the only one [of the lists drawn up by Schindler himself] remaining in private hands," Gary Zimet, the New York-based seller of the document said. It contains details of 801 men, along with their occupations and birth dates. Schindler gave the Nazis up to ten different lists of names. Only four others are known to have survived. One is housed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., another at the German Federal Archive in Koblenz and two others at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Oskar Schindler, made famous by the book by Thomas Keneally and the subsequent movie by Steven Spielberg, died in 1974 at the age of 66. He is buried in Jerusalem and was

named a Righteous Gentile Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.  
(*World Jewish Congress, 3-25-10*)

### **His Mameloshn is ASL**

T. Alan Hurwitz, 68 and profoundly deaf, has become the 10<sup>th</sup> – and first Jewish – president of Gallaudet University, the renowned school for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Washington, D.C. Gallaudet, founded 146 years ago, has been “the seat of significant innovation in deaf education.” Hurwitz, who until recently was president of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, was born profoundly deaf and grew up in Sioux City, Iowa using American Sign Language (ASL). His parents were also deaf. In recent years, significant advances have been made for deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews. Many rabbinical schools have yielded several deaf rabbis and more synagogues are providing interpreting services. Skokie, Illinois, the home to Congregation Bene Shalom, is geared toward deaf and hard-of-hearing Jews. (*The Forward, 4-7-10*)

### **Israel Knows the Laws of War**

An Israeli team from the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya recently beat out 44 universities to take first place in the 2010 Jean-Pictet Competition, a prestigious week-long competition on international humanitarian law. The event, held at the end of March in Quebec, Canada, matched up teams from universities around the world to test their knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law (IHL), commonly referred to as the “laws of war.” The four core principles of IHL are: distinction of soldiers from civilians; military necessity as a rule of evaluating targets; proportionality; and humanity to the enemy. In the competition, nations and continents are fictitious. The teams role-play as representatives from foreign affairs, military advocates or the Red Cross. They are questioned by judges and evaluated by a jury. One of the judges for the event was Philippe Kirsch, first president of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. The final round was held against New York University and the

University of Montreal.  
(*The Jerusalem Post, 4-8-10*)

### **In Memoriam**

–Israel and the world Jewish community lost a friend when Lech Kaczynski, the President of Poland, along with his wife and 95 other people, were killed in a plane crash on April 10<sup>th</sup>. They were en route to Katyn in Russia to honor the 22,000 Polish officers killed there in 1940. “President Kaczynski and his wife did much to promote closer ties between the Polish and Jewish peoples, making a significant contribution to the healing process of the scars of the past and the building of a common better future,” said Israeli President Shimon Peres. “The State of Israel bows its head, as it partakes in the deep sorrow of the Polish people on the occasion of their dreadful loss.” Yad Vashem highlighted Kaczynski’s commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. (*World Jewish Congress, 4-12-10*)

–Professor Chanan Eshel, 52, a leading Second Temple historian and archaeologist who taught at Bar Ilan University, died of cancer in early April. He was an expert on Dead Sea archaeology and the Dead Sea Scrolls in particular. Among his discoveries was a fragment from Leviticus from the period of Bar Kokhba (2<sup>nd</sup> century C.E.). The fragment contained a passage that is read on Passover. “The findings show that most of the Jews who lived during the times of the Second Temple...observed the Torah’s commandments,” he once said. Eshel wrote five books, authored over 200 articles and headed the Land of Israel and Archaeology Department at Bar Ilan University from 2002 until 2004. He received research grants from Harvard, Oxford and Michigan University.  
([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 4-8-10)

### **Jewish Women Are on the Map**

“On the Map,” a new virtual mapping project showing locations that are important in Jewish women’s history, is a new interactive tool that appears on the Jewish Women’s Archive (JWA) website and is supported by Google Maps. The site allows individuals to add information and photos about locations

and the women who are connected with them. Two weeks into the project, fifty locations of importance in Jewish women's history, from California to Austria, were added to the map. Gail Reimer, executive director of JWA, said, "We're exploring Jewish women's history in a new way." The map pinpoints places such as Galveston, Texas where Rosanna Dyer Osterman helped found the first Jewish community in Texas in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and aided Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. It also shows Maennerchor Hall in Philadelphia, where a spelling bee was held to raise funds for the first Hebrew Sunday school. The map will soon include *The Milky Way*, a deli run by Steven Spielberg's mother (milk with a hot pastrami sandwich? *Feh!*) (*The Forward*, 3-24-10)

### **Curious George Saves the Day**

An exhibit of 80 original drawings and letters entitled "Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey," opened on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Jewish Museum in New York. Curious George, the monkey created by the artist and author duo of the classic set of children's books, was originally known as Fifi when the couple lived in Paris in the 1930s. "George" quite literally saved the Jewish couple's escape from the Nazis, not just once but twice. In 1939, authorities suspected that their studio was a makeshift bomb factory. But in a search of the grounds, they found drawings of the mischievous monkey instead of bomb parts and did not arrest the Reys. A year later, the couple fled France by bicycle, taking with them sketches of the monkey. They used the drawings to prove their occupations when applying for American visas in New York, where they ultimately settled. (*The Forward*, 3-10-10)

### **"Kosher" Companies**

The Ayalon Investment House, based in Ramat Gan, Israel, has started a new investment fund that promises to invest only in stocks issued by companies that adhere to *halacha* (Jewish law). The fund is supervised by a rabbi. The companies that will be included in the fund will be those that do not

operate on the Sabbath, do not sell food products made with milk and meat and do not collect direct interest from Jews; other *halachic* criteria will be applied as well. The fund will invest 75 percent of its assets in government-issued bonds and 20 percent in "kosher" private firms. Within its first week, the fund attracted close to 16 million dollars in investments. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 3-28-10)

### **And Robots Have No Eyes to Squirt...**

The director of the Israel Cattle Growers Association has proposed a plan to use robots to milk cows and process the raw milk, thereby replacing foreign workers who are now the backbone of Israel's dairy industry. Israel's government is looking to reduce the number of foreign workers. The project would hopefully attract young people to the dairy industry, giving them the opportunity to work with high-tech equipment. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 3-4-10)

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

-In early March, David Habibi, a Chabad 5th grader, beat out fifty other children to win the regional spelling bee in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The winning word: ephemeral. Habibi moves on to the national competition in Washington on May 31st. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-11-10)

-The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on the Mall in Washington, D.C. welcomed its 30 millionth visitor the week of March 9th. The museum opened in April 1993. Its guests have included 8 million school children, 88 heads of state and some 3,500 foreign officials representing more than 130 countries. Admission to the museum is free. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-11-10)

-According to the Western Wall Heritage Fund, over 600,000 people visited the Wall (in Hebrew called the Kotel) during the first three weeks of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which included the Passover holiday. The number represents the highest ever recorded for visitors to the site and is a dramatic increase in the number of visitors during Passover in recent years. ([www.israelnationalnews.com](http://www.israelnationalnews.com), 4-6-10) ♦

# Photo Gallery

At far right, the Board and volunteers of the Upper Keys Concert Series gather for a final photo at season's end. Looks suspiciously like a KJCC mini-meeting, no? Adjacent, the cast of this year's *Dancing With the Stars*, Keys version, managed and directed by KJCC's own Nancy Kluger.



It's never too early to begin promoting for next year. Below, Joyce and Mary Lee in the UKCS booth at Island Fest.



On March 19 Lauren and I welcomed the birth of our first grandchild, who arrived at St Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. Liam Jacob Sax weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 20 inches. He is the son of Jeremy and Kristin and brother to doggies Zeke and Sadie. Grandpa is looking forward to taking his grandson swimming and kayaking; Grandma is looking forward to spoiling him rotten and then sending him home!  
-Stuart Sax



At right, back home in the Keys after seeing *Miss Saigon* in Miami, in a setting slightly more idyllic than *Saigon* in 1975. Carol took the picture.





For art students, Gloria's classes are among the highlights of high season. (She paints, she draws, she sings, her poetry wins awards: the girl's a virtual one-woman W.P.A., not to mention a proud Arbiter Ring alumna.) At right and below are scenes from a class at the Rain Barrel.



Steve and Candy, with a little supervisory help from Joel Pollock, create below the framework for the soon-to-be Meditation Garden of KJCC. The ground has been cleared (as you pull into the parking lot, notice that the huge stump and thorny plant are gone.)

Plans, not yet finalized, include walkways, benches and all-native plants.



# Yom HaShoah

*On two very special Sundays, KJCC honored the memory and the meaning of The Holocaust. Plus, the cherished survivor that lives at KJCC.*

## The Living and the Dead: Remembering, in our own KJCC Sanctuary

Like most synagogues, we take *Yom HaShoah*, and our obligation to remember, seriously. The last few years, under Yardená's Kamely's capable and impassioned direction, we have created impressive visual exhibits that are both educational and moving. We share them with the community. We pay for a bus to take Monroe County youth to the Holocaust Museum in Miami, where the students hear the true stories from the survivors themselves. This year the

We were privileged to be among their "students."

Five people came to us. Four had spent key parts of their lives in concentration camps. Now in their 80s, all were youngsters living normal lives when they and their families were stripped of possessions, taken prisoner, and reduced to the status of a blue number tattooed on the wrist.



**The Holocaust survivors who visited us pose in the KJCC sanctuary. That's David holding our KJCC Holocaust Torah.**

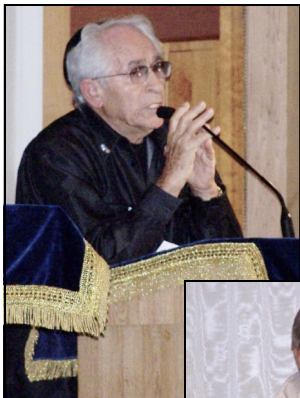
The devil, as well as enlightenment, is in the details. To hear firsthand the calmly spoken, step-by-step accounts of the road from free citizen/carefree child to the horror of family separation, physical deprivation, humiliation, and torture, is to step into another world, an impossible, inconceivable world. As they spoke, so gently and heartfully, occasionally an emotional tremor came



survivors came to the students, stopping at every school along the Keys. They also stopped at the KJCC.







**Joe and David tell their stories. For many years they wouldn't.**



through, occasionally a smile. They spoke of meanness beyond the pale from fellow citizens and they spoke of acts of great kindness. These people

are dedicated to telling their truth. They do it with such gracious, humble authority, that the truth, ugly as it is, shines out from them in testament to their humanity and courage. They were our living exhibit that night. They were our animate Holocaust Torahs. We could listen to them, ask them questions, get them water, share some food, some talk and huge respect. It was a deeply moving evening and all fortunate enough to be there were grateful for the privilege.

A week later we observed the actual day with our own *Yom HaShoah* memorial service, with songs sung by Yardena and Gloria, with readings by Muriel, Medina, Alan and Sam, with a *Yizkor* ceremony, and the showing of an excellent documentary. We can say with confidence that those members of the KJCC and our larger community who were able to participate in either or both of our two *Yom HaShoah* events, performed the *mitzvah* well: ***Never forget.***

-Gloria

## The Story of KJCC's Holocaust Torah

by Steve Smith

In 1941 Bohemia and Moravia were under the rule of Reinhard Heydrich, the head of Hitler's Secret Police and the man who originated the "Final Solution." (And who was assassinated the following year, widely believed by Jews, by a bomb thrown into his moving car.) Heydrich ordered the confiscation of all Jewish libraries, artifacts and religious articles and personal items. He created the "Central Jewish Museum" whose charter announced, "the numerous, scattered Jewish possessions of both historic and artistic value of the entire protectorate must be collected and stored." This included all synagogue-related items. The Nazis felt that after the Final Solution was completed, this massive collection, which filled eight synagogues and fifty warehouses, would allow a permanent exhibition showing relics of an extinct culture and religion.

After the war, the Central Jewish Museum was turned over to Prague's Jewish Community Council. By 1949 it was obvious that this group didn't have the manpower or financial resources to survive. The Museum was turned over to the Czech government, which established the State Jewish Museum. The collection of *Sifrei Torahs* remained an embarrassment to them because they could not be displayed effectively as museum exhibits. It was also realized that these

### Keeping a KJCC Promise

To keep a promise made upon accepting this Torah, we rise at the end of every KJCC service, open the Ark to expose our treasured Holocaust Torah, and say a final Mourner's Kaddish to honor all the victims of Susice and any others from World War II who might not have had anyone to properly mourn them. It is one way we at KJCC help to perform the solemn and sacred duty of *l'izkor*—to remember.

items would deteriorate further if not properly cared for. This realization allowed the Westminster Synagogue to obtain the scrolls with the help of a private art dealer who had connections in the Czech government.

In 1964, 1,564 scrolls arrived at the Westminster Synagogue and their newly established Czech Memorial Scroll Centre. Many had bloodstains, water damage and fire damage, and were wrapped in personal clothing or *Tallit*. A team of five student scribes examined all the scrolls, and each was classified as to details of its condition, place of origin, date of writing and repairs that would be required. Those that were repairable were worked on by a scribe, David Brand, who spent the rest of his career working on those that could be made usable either as Kosher or commemorative scrolls.

Many of these repaired scrolls were placed on permanent loan to congregations around the world, including the Keys Jewish Community Center, which now cares for Scroll 418, originally from Susice, Czechoslovakia.

Susice is located 115 km SSW of Prague in the province of Bohemia, in today's Czech Republic. The first Jewish settlement was recorded in 1562. The first official Jewish prayer room was established in 1659, which was destroyed by fire in 1709 and rebuilt in 1710. Services were held there until 1859, when a newer, larger Synagogue was built, where services were held until World War II. It was in this building that Scroll number 418



1930 the Jewish population had shrunk to 112. After the war the synagogue was never used again for prayer and was demolished in 1964.

Scroll 418 arrived at the Miami Airport on September 8, 1983. KJCC's president at the time was Ron Horn. The whole process had begun with a

letter from KJCC member Gus Zeldich to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Centre. His letter was answered by Ruth Shaffer, the Joint Chairman and Trustee of the Memorial Scrolls Trust of Westminster Synagogue. It was she who ultimately arranged the transfer of Scroll 418 to us. Initially we had been told that no more Kosher scrolls were available. But then Joel Cohen got involved, some contributions got made to the Czech Memo-

**KJCC's Yom HaShoah service on April 11th. David Goldfinger holds our Holocaust Torah. Medina, Yardena and Muriel, our Holocaust Committee, stand before this year's lobby display.**

rial Scrolls Centre, and our Torah was delivered. We even had a scribe visit soon after, spend a day correcting imperfections in the scroll, and declare it Kosher. This was all paid for by a fund-raising drive instituted by Ron Horn. ◊

*Steve Smith was originally scheduled to read these words aloud at Yardena's Yom HaShoah service, but a flat tire kept him away. We happily reproduce his notes here. – Ed.*



# Survey Says!

*Rather than just publish the dry results from the recent survey of the KJCC membership, we asked Alan to write an intro and short summation and to place the survey in context. That follows below. The survey results themselves appear on the following two pages.*

**Y**ou remember a few months ago we sent out a survey to all of our members. The questions came from various committees (Ritual, Membership, Communication, etc.) and of course from me. We placed the survey in Chai-Lights and I twice e-mailed it to every KJCC member. I wanted to get honest feedback from as many people as possible.

We received 65 responses. This represented a 42 percent response rate, very high for such things. Responses to each question were optional. For example, several from out-of-town said they did not attend High Holiday services – so those questions were not answered. But they did answer others. We counted all the responses and tallied them into a spreadsheet. Looking at the chart, you will see the maximum responses for any one question was 52. And the least was 7.

Lets take, for example, the first question: *How satisfied are you with Friday night services?* We had 47 responses to this question. Of those, two said they were somewhat or extremely dissatisfied. Of the same 47, 45 said they were satisfied or higher. We summed these into basically two columns and came up with a 98 percent satisfied and higher vs. 2 percent unsatisfied.

Only one question – *How satisfied are you with the content and presentation of Chai-Lights?* – generated a 100 percent response. Of the 52 responses, all said satisfied or higher – a 100 percent approval rating for Chai Lights.

We have addressed and will continue to address the questions dealing with rabbis and education. We have had two rabbis visit us, one who led Friday services. In the last few months we have hosted outside guest

lecturers. Also, Yarden, Gloria and Bernie are giving us education classes.

Overall, the responses to this survey were very interesting and informative. I especially enjoyed reading all of the feedback from the free-form questions we asked. Some of it was complimentary and some of it was not. The questions that raised the most controversy dealt with the High Holidays. This will be discussed in the next few months prior to Rosh Hashanah.

The two fill-in questions at the end addressed how you, our members, feel about the KJCC generally:

Question 1: *What I like **least** about the KJCC.* Most of the responses were left blank, with a few writing “no comment” or “nothing.”

Question 2: *What I like **most** about the KJCC.* Nearly everyone responded with (an actual selection of the words used): Warmth, Friendship, Openness, Welcoming, Home, Mishpocha.

Anyone who wishes to examine the personalized responses to some survey questions, please contact me and we’ll arrange it. On that note: As I am sure you know by now, I encourage an open-door policy, on this as well as all other KJCC matters. If you ever want to bring something to my attention, then call, e-mail or send me a note. E-mail is my preference; you can reach me at [president@keysjewishcenter.com](mailto:president@keysjewishcenter.com).

KJCC continues to grow, and more activities and services are offered than ever. I think we’re all proud of this, but it’s also vital that members stay in touch and tell us what they’re thinking. This survey has been a part of that process.

*-Alan*

# KJCC Survey Results Summary 2009

## Questions

Questions	Total Responses	Yes	NO	Extre Dissa
a. How satisfied are you with Friday night services?	47			
b. How satisfied are you with the way we communicate our message	52			
c. How satisfied are you with the content and presentation of Chai-Lights?	52			
d. If Saturday morning services were offered would you attend? Y/N ?	50	17	33	--
e. How satisfied are you that we are an unaffiliated synagogue?	50			
f. Would you like KJCC to hire a part- time rabbi or student rabbi to come occasionally? Y/N ?	48	33	15	--
g. Are there additional educational classes or lectures you would like to see offered? Y/N ?	33	20	13	--
<b>High Holiday Q.'s</b>				--
a. Were you aware of Tashlich/Havdalah services at Ocean Point? <b>Yes / No?</b>	40	35	5	--
c. Would you volunteer to help with Children's services on Rosh Hashanah? Y/N?	38	8	30	--
d. How satisfied are you with the practice of reading names aloud during Yom Kippur Yizkor service?	39			
e. How satisfied generally were you with the High Holiday services?	41			
f. Do you believe we need a rabbi to officiate the High Holiday services? Y/N?	42	10	32	--
If you answered Yes: Would you contribute to the additional cost? Y/N?	7	7		--

Extremely Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied.	Summary		
					% Satisfied and Higher	<b>% Not Satisfied</b>	
1	2	3	4	5			
1	1	11	13	21	96%	4%	
	1	1	3	47	98%	2%	
		3	4	45	100%	0%	
--	--	--	--	--			
1	3	6	5	35	92%	8%	
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			
7	6	6	4	16	67%	33%	
1	2	9	11	18	93%	7%	
--	--	--	--	--			
--	--	--	--	--			

## *-This Month in Jewish History-*

# May

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

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

1160 – Bishop William of Beziere, France, is appalled by the custom of beating Jews during Palm Sunday, and issues an order excommunicating priests who do so. His act of tolerance does not become a trend.

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

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

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

1415 – Enraged by the lack of voluntary conversions after the Christian "victory" at the Tortosa disputation in Aragon, Spain—one of

the most famous Christian/Jewish debates—Pope Benedict XIII bans Talmudic study in any form, institutes forced Christian sermons, and tries to restrict Jewish life completely.

1420 – Albert V of Austria accuses a rich Jew, Israel of Enns, of purchasing a wafer in order to desecrate it. All the Jews in the territory are jailed.

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

1861 – David Camden De Leon, a Jew known as the "Fighting Doctor," is appointed as first surgeon general of the Confederate Army.

1882 – Tsar Alexander III issues the May Laws, designed to "cause one-third of the Jews to emigrate, one-third to accept Baptism and one-third to starve." Jews are banished from all rural areas and towns of less than ten thousand people, even within the Pale of Settlement. The laws remain in quasi-effect until 1914 and provide impetus for mass migration to America as well as heightened interest in the settlement of Eretz-Israel.

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

# SHAVUOT:

## *Omer Counting, the 49-Day Walk to Sinai, and Polishing Our “Rocks” to be Worthy of Torah*

by Gloria Avner

An old friend of mine, now the synagogue’s as well, gifted me with a small book three years ago, a spiritual guide that forever transformed my view of *Shavuot*. It is called “Counting the Omer: Forty-nine Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition,” written by Rabbi Simon Jacobsen. Say thank you to Chaim the next time he visits. Ritual Committee bought several books and they are available in the office for your perusal. The counting of *omer* is about more than barrels of barley.

There is a teaching that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon which our life as a people is built. The process of receiving the Torah—“instruction”—actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called “Sefirat Ha’Omer,” the Counting of the Omer.

Ancient Israel’s economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the “waves” of grain were offered up every day from

Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn’t. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphorical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is *mida* (plural: *midot*), the same word used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn’t our language wonderful?

The word *s’fira* (plural: *s’firot*) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the “counting” definition, but listen to what the 16<sup>th</sup> century Kabbalist RaMaK said: “*Sefirah* means both ‘mispar,’ or number, and ‘sipur,’ as in storytelling. A third root is ‘safir,’ or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of ‘emanation,’ light from a source of illumination.”

According to our little booklet, “counting *sefirot* illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of *sefirah* tell us a story—the story of our

### **Lag B’Omer: Insights Into the 33<sup>rd</sup> Day**

As we count each day, let’s not forget that *Shavuot*, this seven times seven series of days for serious introspection, is meant to be both sad and difficult. It is only on the thirty-third day of counting, on “Lag b’Omer,” that we get momentary relief. One may at last get married, have a haircut, wear new clothes, put on perfume, and engage in a whole host of pleasurable activities.

Then there is the story of Rabbi Akiba’s 12,000 young pairs of scholars struck down by the plague, a tragedy beyond measure said to have been related to lack of mutual respect and inappropriate ego struggles. The students stopped dying on *Lag b’Omer*, and we are to rejoice, go outside, have picnics, and shoot bows and arrows. It is also said that at this time the great work of transcribing the mystic oral tradition of the *Zohar* was completed by Shimon Ben Yochai after 13 years in exile, doing his great work while hiding from the Romans in a cave. His followers said great lights shot out of his eyes as he completed his work. Huge bonfires are lit all over Israel to commemorate his life on the day of his death, *Lag B’Omer*. How easily the light of that knowledge could have disappeared. So many lessons, so little time and space. Read last year’s *Shavuot* issue if you are intrigued. There is always more, much more.

souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as *sefirot*. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine."

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

*Chesed*: Lovingkindness, benevolence;

*Gevurah*: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;

*Tiferet*: Beauty and harmony; compassion;

*Netzach*: Endurance; fortitude, ambition;

*Hod*: Humility, splendor;

*Yesod*: Bonding, foundation;

*Malchut*: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

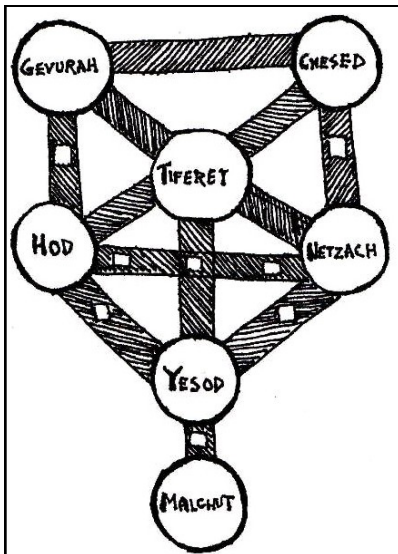
Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these *mi-dot/sefirot*.

Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of the week is represented by an aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days, again with each of the *sefirot* listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for example, we would focus on *chesed b'chesed*—lovingkindness in lovingkindness. On Day Two of Week One, we focus on *g'vura she'b'chesed*—the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the focus is *tiferet she'b'chesed*—harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the *Omer*, we take opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days' walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We

polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource guide not just to behavior in daily life but to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to our source.



Let's take advantage of these days of counting. They come to a close on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. We will have completed our 49 days of wandering and introspection. Our feet may be tired but we must keep our minds alert. We do not want to be caught, as some were in the desert, sleeping when the Torah is given to us. The mystical tradi-

tion, begun in S'fat in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, says we are to stay up studying Torah all night. We call it "*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*" (repair on the night of Shavuot). We can keep the shul open as long as students wish to study. If we could break last year's record of active studying and enjoyment beyond 10 p.m., it would be lovely. Maybe we could reach midnight. Our goal as we prepare to receive the Torah is to achieve unity of purpose and communal harmony.

Come to KJCC on the 18<sup>th</sup> and celebrate *Shavuot* with *mishpocha*. We will listen to the Shofar, read commandments from the Torah, do the customary reading of the "Book of Ruth," and watch stimulating films. Bernie Ginsberg will lead our first Torah discussion group.

So come. Receive. Study. Enjoy marvelous food of the dairy realm. We are hoping for Muriel's blintz casserole (or is it a soufflé?) and myriad other goodies. Discuss. Learn. Argue. Fress. Complete more *mitzvot* than you thought possible, and complete yet another significant cycle and high point of our culture. ◇



# A Surfeit of Seder Riches

A report, in text and photos, on the three KJCC seders for Passover 5770.

by Gloria Avner

Can there possibly be too much of a good thing, especially if the good thing is satisfaction of a commandment? I suspect the answer is no, even when one feels her own shape morphing into something akin to a matzoh ball. I had the fortune to attend four Passover *seders* in nine days this year and heard great stories of at least three more in our very own 'hood.



## The Women's Seder

The Women's Seder led the

way, a largest, best-ever event, if the plethora of e-mail comments and congratulations are to be believed. There is something undefinably special about this ceremonial evening, the singing, the poetry, the storytelling, the seamless shifting from world repair *tikkun olam* motivation to preparation of one's best recipes and bonding through shared creation of covered vessels in



Preparation for the Women's Seder always begins, at top, in Beth Kaminstein's pottery studio.



Beth's magical pottery studio. It makes 53 women, ages 21 to 95, Jewish and non-Jewish, into a family, a microcosm of creativity, sharing, and heartfull social action in the world.

We adored honoring Linda Pollack and hearing the stories of how she came to be the woman so important to our community. We learned from honoring Henrietta Szold, the Founder of Hadassah, how much our two honorees had in common, both of them

skilled in financial management and both having passionate commitment to their community's betterment (only young Linda, however, had the honor of disappointing Playboy readers by turning down their offer to pose as a centerfold).

Next year there will be something new, a tablecloth with all the women's names written in paint on colorful scraps of memory-



**Old, young, regulars, occasionals, newbies, mostly Jewish but not all, they, too, were once slaves in Egypt.**

laden fabric. This was our seventh seder, our Shabbat year. One would think we might rest. Instead we cooked and sang and celebrated

freedom. Then we donated our *tikkun olam* proceeds to the KJCC Scholarship Fund, the Food Bank



next door, and the Women and Children's Shelter. The other "proceeds," the deepening bond among those attending, remains the gift that keeps on giving. ♦





Our sincere thanks to Candy Stanlake, who shot most of the photos of the Women's Seder.



***“A most thrilling and very moving and memorable sound was hearing 54 women, chanting the four questions in unison.”***

***Elinor Grossman***

## Linda Pollack:



## Woman of the Year

by Gene Silverman

When asking people for their thoughts regarding Linda, there was one word that almost everyone used and that was mentor.

But Linda is much more than just a mentor.

Born April 29, 1941, the youngest of three daughters to accountants – yes, both of her parents also counted numbers. She went on to gather many degrees from the University of Miami, University of Maryland and Miami-Dade.

She met her husband Joel while she was working at Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was a resident. She supported their family while her husband was a struggling resident, having her own business as a pension plan administrator.

Oh yes – do you know that our respected Linda was also asked to pose for Playboy while she was working there? (*She didn't do*

*it. Don't ask. There aren't any pictures-Ed.)*

After a brief courtship of six weeks she and Dr. Joel were married on Feb. 11, 1962 and spent their honeymoon at the Yankee training center in Ft. Lauderdale.

That was to become quite a habit – sports.

Their first son, Jeff, was born in 1963 with brother Roy to follow in 1965, with both being born, of course, at Jackson. So now, with three men in her house, she became a life-long sports fan.

She never missed a performance of her sons whether on the playing field or playing in a concert. She was the scorekeeper for their teams, was on the Palmetto High School Booster Club, became an excellent bowler herself—winning many trophies and awards—was active in the P.T.A. and, of course, served as treasurer.

And now, with words from her friends and family to describe her, they say she is: shy, bright, dedicated, compassionate, patient, a great teacher, trustworthy, humorous, naughty, super grandmother, caring and lov-

ing wife, advisor, guide, gracious, wonderful, humble, sweet smile, kindness to all, positive...and the most important, a fantastic mah jongg player.

She is the “beating heart” of the KJCC, always gracious and everlastingly positive and a great friend who knows how to keep a secret and also happens to be wonderful to travel with. ◇







asked the four questions with an extra jazzy kick supplied by Zach Schrader-Grace and Lili Werthamer. Joel Pollack sat in the place of our elder, the grandfather helping to tell the story meaningfully. Jules and

Nettie Seder represented the congregation (and won our hearts and stomachs with matzoh bark), Marc Bloom, Jane Friedman, and Paul Bernstein represented our childrens' parents, and our newest Temple member, David Gitin, took photo-

graphs. It was a perfect dress rehearsal for what would follow on the next two nights, and yet was a complete, wonderful ritual in its own right (rite?). Particularly lively was the singing of "Dayenu" and the ritual "whipping" of parents, students, and teachers Yardena

and Gloria amidst much giggling, with the long green ends of scallions. Hannah Werthamer, Joshua Bernstein, Max Schrader-Grace, and Harry Friedman did a fine job of reading to us in Hebrew about the four sons, and all the children, including our newest and youngest Natalie Werthamer, gave the story-singing their all. Moira found the *afikomen*. We did our duty. (And going beyond the call of duty that very same night, Alan Beth, Candy Stan-



**Joyce's oldest son, Daniel, keeps glatt Kosher in his Denver home. So, for those of you who've never seen it before, here's what burning of the chometz looks like.**

## KJCC Religious School Seder

The Children's Seder came next. The table and seder plates were artfully arranged, pots of matzoh ball soup made by Moira and Barbara Knowles waited temptingly, and the matzoh, thanks to a donation from Freda Ferns, was authentic Israeli "schmeer." Our children

## KJCC Community Seder



At a first-night seder, David braces Gloria while she cups the annual first-night full moon. Many other first-night seders took place, including the one given by Bill and Freda Ferns, where they invited all out-of-towners or KJCC members with no seder to attend.

lake, and Pauline Roller attended yet another *seder* held at a church in Marathon, organized by Judy Greenman--a remarkable interfaith event that even more of us might want to attend next year).

In *grand finale* fashion, just under 100 people gathered at the Islamorada Fishing Club for the second seder, dubbed "best ever" by satisfied participants. Good food (a miracle of intervention arranged by Joan and Jim Boruszak and Leslie Dillon when the club's



Our great thanks to Barbara Knowles, who took all the 2nd Seder photos on this and the next two pages.





chef quit a week before seder time and his replacement had never made a matzoh ball in his life), accomplished leadership under the experienced hand of Jim Boruszak, assisted by Yours Truly (accompanied by my proud

May we be worthy of receiving the Torah. (Aaah, Jewish ritual, it's such a cycle—never over, not even when the fat lady, or the matzoh-ball-filled-one, sings). ◇



and happy mother, Bea), and tuneful asking of the four questions by Cammie Jayne Berk and



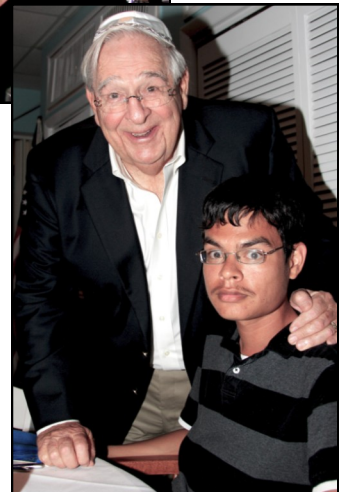
Joshua Bernstein, made the event a multi-level success. The pictures speak for themselves. If Haggadah means “the telling,” and we are commanded to do that re-telling, we definitely fulfilled that *mitzvah* this year.



**At the head table: Alan and Candy, Jim and Joan, Gloria and David, and Gloria's mom Bea.**

May we continue to move out of our “tight, restricted places.” (*Mitzraim*/Egypt) and move onward, counting *Omer*, examining and refining our own behaviors and attitudes for 49 days. Yes, already we're getting ready for Shavuot.







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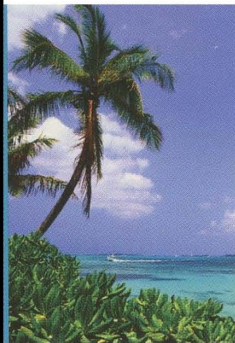
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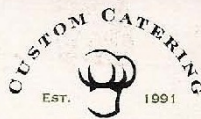
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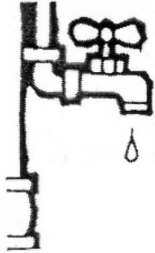
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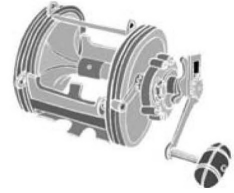
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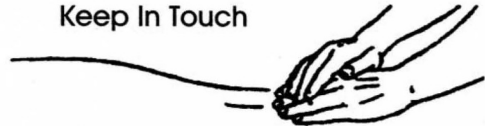


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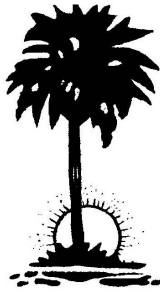
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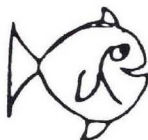
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