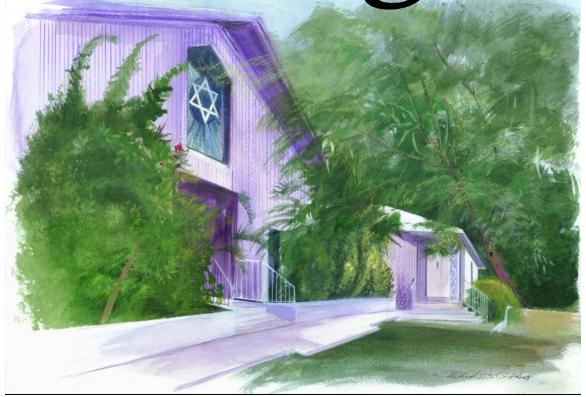
Chai-Lights



January 2018

14 Tevet - 15 Shevat 5778

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Keys Jewish Community Center

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • keysjewishcenter.com

January 2018 14 Tevet - 15 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Blessing of the Fleet Beth Hayden	2	Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	4	5 Joyce Peckman	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8	9	Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	11	Rabbi Ed Rosenthal Shabbaton dairy dinner 6:00 p.m. Joyce Peckman	13 Shabbaton classes & lunch 10 a.m 5 p.m. Havdalah with Rabbi Ed 5:45 - 6:00 p.m.
KJCC Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	MLK Federal Holiday	16	Mindy Agler post-Irma counseling 6-7 p.m. at KJCC	18	Steve Hartz Patricia Isenberg	20
21	22	23	24 Mindy Agler 6-7 p.m. Art Discussion Group 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Steve Steinbock Steve Steinbock	Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00 a.m.
28	29	30	31 Mindy Agler 6-7 p.m. Tu BiShvat (New Year for the Trees)			

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monthly publication of the **Keys Jewish Community Center** P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Beth Hayden

Shalom uvracha,

Thanks to all for a wonderful Channukah and a fabulous dinner. KICC is now entering its "in season" busy time. We have many unique and wonderful activities planned for you, so please pay careful attention to Chai-Lights and the weekly announcements.

As I watched the Channukiyot being lit at our Channukah dinner, they brought to mind another similar symbol of our faith and culture, the menorah. So deeply is the symbol of the menorah ingrained in our culture, a picture of a menorah decorates the front cover of every Israeli passport. The artist Bezalel created the first 6-branched menorah from a solid block of gold. It is described in the Book of Exodus (Shemot) and in the Talmud. Six branches curve out from a central post. One of the best-known historical depictions of this menorah shape is found on a floor mosaic in Beit-She'an's ancient synagogue; of note is the clear depiction of the menorah's trident-like base. The first Temple, built by King Solomon in 1.000 B.C.E.. housed not one but ten m'norot until its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C.E. Some 70 years later the second Temple was built and another menorah with 7 candle branches (the current form of the menorah) was created and placed within its



shelter. This menorah ap-

pears on the Arch of Titus in Rome following the destruction of the second Temple in 70 C.E. Even in this early depiction, the base of the menorah has changed from the original tripod shape to a solid base.

Today's menorah has 7 candle branches and usually a solid base (not the tripod shaped base of the original, historical menorah). What does the menorah symbolize in Jewish history and culture? Is it a symbol of defeat as depicted on the Arch of Titus? No. Long after the fall of Rome, the menorah has endured as a symbol of light to be spread throughout the world. The seven lamps of the menorah also allude to knowledge - six of the branches stand for human knowledge and the seventh center branch for Divine knowledge. The menorah is a reminder of the Temple, a symbol of renewed hope and redemption that Israel should be "a light unto the nations'. And of course, the chanukiyot that we light are a derivative of the menorah. Eight-branched rather than 7 and now available in every form one can imagine and every material from wood to precious metals. Nevertheless, its origin is in the menorah.

Wishing you a healthy, happy secular New Year.

-B'shalom. Beth

Nosh

Rabbi Agler's Next Torah Service

We had 25 people attend our December "Chanukah" Torah service, and if you ask any one of them what it was like, you will get a unanimous, enthusiastic response about how stimulating it was and how much they learned as Rabbi Agler unwrapped a few verses of the familiar Parshah telling the Joseph story to reveal a whole, and much larger, pattern of the cycles in Jewish history. (This Parshah is always read around Chanukah, and Rabbi Agler showed us all the intricate ways the two stories are, for those who look carefully, connected.) Adding in how these patterns relate to our mandate to be a "light unto the nations" and to our ongoing struggle with assimilation made for one fascinating discussion. Each of these monthly sessions led by our generous Resident Scholar is engaging, enriching and irreplaceable. Try not to miss the next one, Saturday, January 27th. It will start precisely at 10:00 a.m. (Breaking news...service dates through April are now set for February 10th, March 3rd, and April 7.)

Thanks to our Shabbaton Donors

We are very grateful to Joyce Peckman and Michael and Lorena Kaufman for helping to support our special *Shabbaton* program of learning about Kabbalah. Thank you to Joyce for sponsoring the Dairy dinner that will begin and set the tone for our *Shabbaton*. Michael and Lorena have our gratitude for helping sponsor the Kabbalah classes and teachings. Dinner will lead to a Shabbat service led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, our gifted teacher for this program. The service will be followed, after the oneg, by Rabbi Ed's introduction to this special, concentrated course on Kabbalah, which will continue on Saturday. (See inhouse promo and syllabus on pages 28-29.)

2nd Annual KJCC Film Fest Begins

Our first film of this winter series begins on January 20th, with "The Women's Balcony." It is a

comedy and you won't want to miss it. (Actually, you won't want to miss any of this year's careful selections.) The second film is "A Stranger Among Us" and will be shown on January 27th. On February 3rd we will feature "The Green Prince." We are grateful to our anonymous donor sponsoring half of this year's Festival and would welcome any anyone else who would like to contribute to this weekly high-season program and its delicious post-movie repasts. (Please see the poster on page 32.) Many thanks to Medina Roy and her Adult Education Committee for preparing this thoughtful and entertaining program for us once again this year. All films begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be shown in the KJCC sanctuary on our beautiful a/v system. There is no charge, and guests are welcome. (It's a great way to introduce potential members to KJCC.)

A Gift for You on Tu BiSh'vat

Think about where you would like to plant the young papaya tree that will be available for you to take home after services on February 2nd. Tu BiSh'vat begins on January 31st, but the trees will still be grateful that you are celebrating their New Year, and so will we. (Please see the article on Tu BiSh'vat beginning on page 46.)

Pizza and Purim, the Whole Megillah

We will hold our annual reading of Megillat Esther (the Purim story) on Wednesday evening, Feb. 28th, starting at 6:00 p.m. Please bring masks and costumes if you have them. This is always a fun evening as well as a chance to perform the important mitzvah of hearing the gannsa Megillah. We'll have healthy food to eat as well as pizza and a movie. Medina's selection is "A Matter of Size," an Israeli film about a group who, tired being abused for being overweight, decide to become Sumo wrestlers. (Upcoming announcements will give us any additional info.) And of course there will be adult beverages, too. Among the other mitzvot of the holiday (to share a festive meal, to give gifts of food to our neighbors - in Hebrew Mishloach Manot - and to give charity to the needy), there is the commandment to drink until

January Birthdays

lst	Jerry Olsen
lst	
lst	
2nd	Sherrie Willner
2nd	Stanley Rosenberg
4th	Howard Gilson
4th	Randi W. Freundlich
6th	
6th	
8th	
8th	
9th	
9th	Deborah Beinfest
9th	Sarah Kamely
10th	Nancy Yankow
I Ith	
12th	
12th	Meredith A. Cline
13th	Amy Nobil
I4th	Tovah Fishman
15th	
15th	
15th	
16th	,
16th	
17th	
17th	
17th	
18th	Barry Alter
19th	
19th	
19th	
22nd	
24th	
24th	
26th	
27th	
27th	
28th	Arthur Itkin
28th	
29th	
29th	
30th	Kristen M. Schur

January Anniversaries

		Years
lst	Sanford & Nancy Yankow	27
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof	36
I2th	George & Muriel Swartz	37
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg	24
26th	David & Pamela Marmar	32
27th	Michele & Ed Riley	44

we cannot tell the difference between the words of Haman and Mordechai. (We count on your discretion, of course, to make driving home safely your prime directive). Bring on the groggers!!! Come prepared to make noise. (Also...spoiler alert: there's tension, and some edgy uncertainty, but the lews win this one and in the end survive.)

KJCC Student Scholarships 2018

We are proud of the youngsters who have gone through our KICC Religious School and wish to advance their educational goals. To this end, Joel Pollack, many years ago, established a KICC scholarship fund, which still receive gifts from people who share this commitment. If you have a child who will be graduating high school this spring and is applying for fall admission to an institute of higher learning, academic or technical, you can go to the KJCC website keysjewishcenter.com and download the scholarship guidelines, eligibility requirements, and application forms as of January 1, 2018. If you have any questions contact Susan Gordon susangordon424@yahoo.com or Gloria Avner geetavner@gmail.com. Deadline for receipt of

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences

to Suzanne Sigel and Sydney Pomenti

on the death of Bill Pomenti, beloved husband and father completed applications is April 1, 2017, and awards will be announced before graduation.

Art Discussion Tackles Rembrandt

The next meeting of the Jewish Art and Artists Discussion Group, with Rabbi Agler, will explore Rembrandt's fascination with and focus on lewish subjects in his paintings. This group will be co-facilitated by Gloria Avner and Beth Kaminstein. Watch Tuesday's e-mails for the lanuary date, yet to be determined. Links to specific paintings by the artist will be provided in advance so that everyone will be able to study first and then join in. Refreshments will be served. It should be a fascinating evening.

Opportunities for Holy Rolling

On Friday night after services on January 26th, and after Rabbi Agler's morning service on January 27th, we will be unrolling and rerolling our two non-Holocaust Torahs with the help of Rabbi Agler. You are encouraged to be part of this important process of preserving our Torahs from degradation and mold by airing them out. (The soferim who repaired our Holocaust Torah say this is vital maintenance.) Our work is our insurance policy. None of us have ever seen these Torahs completely unrolled. Rabbi Agler always has interesting nuggets of information and insight on what we are looking at so this is bound to be a significant learning experience times two. This will happen at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Friday and at noon on Saturday, in the David Kamely classroom.

In Honor of Yardena Kamely

Susan Ellner and Shirley Stein have been discussing the possible formation of a new, informal discussion group to deal with subjects like those discussed in Yardena's Hebrew classes with her students last year. Yardena, on our mishabeyrach list right now, needs all her energy for recovery, but she is thrilled by the idea. The group will probably meet at Shirley Stein's house on Sundays, but call Susan Ellner for more definitive information: 914-907-3993.

Kabbalah Shabbaton Registration

This education program promises to be one of the most interesting, significant and comprehensive experiences we've ever brought to our congregation. Your \$36 donation covers the cost of a Friday night intro, all-day classes on Saturday and a lovely catered luncheon. Please send your check, payable to KICC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier FL 33070. Put "Shabbaton" on the subject line. Absolutely tell any of your friends who might be interested in this learning opportunity, but they'll need to hurry. Call 305-394-1702 to tell Medina Roy you are planning to come, since we need to order the food in advance. (Again, please see House Ad and Syllabus on pages 28-29 for details on this special event being taught by Rabbi Ed.)

Havdalah at KJCC

On January 13th, all KJCC members are invited to observe the shortest, sweetest ceremony in all of Judaism: Havdalah (saying goodbye to Shabbat). As soon as three medium-sized stars appear, sometime around 5:45 p.m., we'll meet in the Social Hall, drink wine, smell spices, make light, chant blessings and say goodbye to our second souls, who have visited for the day. Then we'll douse our multi-wicked candle and sing Eliahu HaNavi. The ceremony will be led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who will have been teaching our Shabbaton participants about the inner workings of Kabbalah all day. Lucky us.

Oneg Sponsors for January 2018

January 5th - Lynn Nobil, in memory of Joel and Sara Cohen.

January 12th - Joyce Peckman, sponsor of Shabbaton dinner.

January 19th - Patricia Isenberg, in memory of husband Henry.

January 26th - Steve Steinbock, in memory and honor of Carol's birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

Robert Coltman

and his grandmother, Eva Levine

by Barnet Coltman

Sisterhood's New Book Club Begins

Come to Linda Pollack's at noon on Monday, January 22nd, for a delicious lunch and discussion of "The Bee Season," by Myla Goldberg. Bring your suggestions with you for future books to discuss so we can choose our next book. For more information, contact Randi Grant at rkgcpa@bellsouth.net or 954-383-4320. Please see the House Ad on page 22.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

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 Beth Hayden, 305-773-0067.

CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, for annual rates.

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

GIFT SHOP: We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, lap top computers, i-devices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KICC.

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225, or email her at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, 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 Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010, or Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

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

TIKKUN OLAM PROJECT: Bring your empty prescription and vitamin bottles to the KJCC and place in the collection box. We are assisting Burton Memorial with a project to provide empty medicine bottles to Haiti where they are needed.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Sydney! Faye-Davis, 305-613-3010 to arrange your donation.

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

In Memoriam January 2018

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Talia Agler	Bea Avner	Bernice Bernstein	
By Richard & Mindy Agler	By Gloria Avner	By Paul & Barbara Bernstein	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Sunnie Bernstein	Annette Bitton	Ellen Bloom	
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein	By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly <><><>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Marc Bloom <>><>><>>>>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Emma Kohlenbrener	Irving J. Kulick	Betty Weinstein	
By Joan Boruszak	By Thomas & Renée Brodie <>>>>>>>>>>>>>	By Dick & Rita Bromwich	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Rita Z. Cline	Carolynne H. Cline	David Cohn	
By Meredith A. Cline	By Meredith A. Cline	By Nancy L. Cohn	
\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>\>			
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Yetta Hitzig	Lola Rosenberg	Joseph Gorson	
By Wes & Rita Conklin	By Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea	By Janice Gorson	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Marvin Greenbaum	Judy Lombardi	Louis Hartz	
By Marilyn Greenbaum	By Marilyn Greenbaum	By Steven & Jan Hartz	
<><><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Ernest Isenberg	Sylvia Emsig	Lillian Janowitz	
By Patricia Isenberg	By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs	By Sam & Leslie Janowitz	

In Memoriam January 2018

In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Dinah Levy	Bernard Kaminstein	David M. Kaplan	
By Yardena Kamely	By Beth Kaminstein	By Marshall & Myra Kaplan	
<><><><><>	<><><><><><>	<><><><><>	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Aaron Rosenzweig	Walter Hankin	Goldie Schweitzer	
By Gunther & Shirley Karger <><><>>>>>>>>>	By Richard & Barbara Knowles	By Richard & Barbara Knowles	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
John Evans	Betty Weinstein	Clayton Allan Rakov	
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies	By Jerry & Sheila Olsen	By Neal & Cathy Rakov	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Ruth Greenwald	Nat Gulkis	Bea Gulkis	
By Paul & Susan Roberts	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Paul Kaminsky	Joan Kaminsky	Joseph Cohen	
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Alan & Elaine Schulberg	By Jules & Nettie Seder	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Jacob Menahem Shabathai	Joseph Shapiro	Karen Hayhurst	
By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai	By Libby P. Shapiro	By Stephen Steinbock	
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/\/	
In Memory Of	In Memory Of	In Memory Of	
Morris I. Estrin	Talia Agler	Bea Avner	
By Lillian Tallent	By Richard & Mindy Agler By Gloria Avner		



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018, 6:00 PM

FOLLOWED BY SERVICES AT 7:30 PM LED BY GUEST RABBI ED ROSENTHAL THIS DINNER IS OPEN TO ALL KJCC MEMBERS. FOLLOWING THE DINNER, SERVICES AND ONEG, RABBI ED WILL INTRODUCE AN OVERVIEW OF THE WEEKEND'S PROGRAM AT ABOUT 9:00 PM. ALL PRESENT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish. Please reserve by January 8th. hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162

> Dinner sponsored by Joyce Peckman No charge -

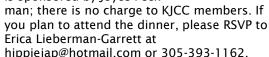
Sisterhood Susan Gordon

// elcome to 2018, a new year filled, as always, with engaging Sisterhoodcreated activities meant to be shared and enjoyed by our entire KJCC mishpocha! For me, the most rewarding aspect of being President of the KICC Sisterhood is seeing our members join together to share one another's friendship during our many celebrations. Socializing is an integral part of synagogue membership and a significant way to deepen friendships beyond coming to services and attending events. The women of our KICC Sisterhood understand this, and we enjoy the camaraderie involved in planning events for everyone to enjoy!

During our December meeting last month, a dozen women were busy planning for the Annual KICC Chanukah Shabbat celebration and dinner. We put together a 'mouth-watering' holiday menu, consisting of homemade latkes of all description with traditional toppings of sour cream and applesauce, but also everything you could want in a dairy dinner, literally from soup (yes, Medina's delicious black bean and tomato soup was there) to nuts! (donated by Barney Coltman). We are fortunate to have among our members so many talented cooks who are happy to contribute special dishes for our celebrations. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Chanukah celebration: the women who helped plan, the members who contributed a dish, and the 'set up' crew, who decorated the social hall and created a festive atmosphere for all to enjoy. Most of all, we want to thank Linda Pollack, who generously has been sponsoring this Chanukah dinner for years so that all our members get to enjoy the bounty free of charge. Chocolate *gelt* and dreidels were available on every table, delighting our younger generation.

This month, on January 12th at 6:00 p.m., we will feast again. KICC Sisterhood members will help prepare a dairy Shabbat Dinner to mark the beginning of the weekend Shabbaton learning experience with Kabba-lah expert and

gifted teacher, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. This Erev Shabbat Dinner is sponsored by Joyce Peck-



Sisterhood is happy to announce that we are re-instituting the KJCC Sisterhood Book Club. The first meeting will be held at the home of Linda Pollack, on Monday, January 22nd, at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served. Please come prepared to discuss the book "Bee Season" by Myla Goldberg. For more information, please call Randi Grant at 1-954-383-4320 or 1-305-664-9349.

Looking ahead to February, on Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the KJCC annual general meeting, Sisterhood will serve a bountiful Installation Luncheon to honor the newly installed KJCC officers and Board of Directors. If you plan to attend, please contact Nettie Seder by e-mail at ngseder@yahoo.com or call 1-305-852-7283. Nettie will take RSVP's and coordinate the menu.

The response for oneg sponsorships has been outstanding, and it's greatly appreciated. We have open dates during this month and February. We also welcome multiple sponsors on any given date. If you would like to sponsor an oneg, please contact Joyce Peckman, at joycepeckman@gmail.com.

The KJCC Sisterhood will hold its annual election and installation of new officers for 2018 during our regular January meeting, to be held on Sunday, January 7th, at 10:00 a.m. All female members of the KICC are automatically members of the KICC Sisterhood, and I welcome you to join us for our first meeting of 2018. Please come and be a part of a wonderful group of women. Group activities will add another dimension to your KJCC membership, while we get to know each other and develop new friendships. >

Photo Gallery

All the photos on this page were taken during and after Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah service on Saturday, November 18th, his first of season 5778. If you're wondering, the shirt he's wearing is embroi-

dered with the Hebrew letter alpha (yes, with its many multilayered meanings.) It was wonderful to welcome Jules and Nettie Seder back from the Jersey 'burbs of Philly.







These photos are all from the Oneg after the November 24th service, sponsored by both Gloria Avner and Marc Bloom. Note the turkey Gloria made out

photo.) And, yes, the gentleman in the photo upper right with Susan, sporting a face eerily similar to Gloria's, is her brother Mark.



Keys Jewish Community Center



Program: Art Discussion Group

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018

7:00 PM Time:

Location: KJCC

ARTIST: CHAIM SOUTINE

Soutine by Modigliani

Chaim Soutine was a Russian-French painter of Jewish origin. Soutine made a major contribution to the expressionist movement while living in Paris.

The KJCC will be hosting a three-session discussion group on artists and their Jewish connections, the first of which will be a discussion about Chaim Soutine, a Russian Jew, born in 1893 died in 1943, who lived in Paris between the two world wars. The group will be led by Beth Kaminstein as the facilitator and Rabbi Agler. Everyone is welcome and all reference links will be disseminated

For more information about this series, please contact Beth Kaminstein - bethkaminstein@gmail.com.



Landscape at Ceret with Red Trees by Soutine

November is always a busy month for our Gloria, for many reasons. The photos on this page were all taken during a dinner on the 21st at Num Thai celebrating her birthday the next day. (Note the nerf tiara.) Almost thirty showed up to offer warm wishes (and, of course, to eat).





At the oneg on December 1st it was time to celebrate Jan Hartz's birthday. Husband Steve provided the cake and also led a rousing chorus of "yom hooledet sameach" (happy birthday). If you're counting, the cake had both seven candles and seven flowers.





uncertainties about inseason services and onegs at KJCC is who might show up. The couple with Steve in the photo at left once lived in Key West. The gentleman's ancestor, he said, had been Key West's very first rabbi.



azel Tov.

Kelley Greenman, daughter of Frank and Judy Greenman of Marathon, married Gadi Rouache in Los Angeles on July 2nd. It was a beautiful wedding, attended by family and friends, with a really great party afterwards. (If you would like to see pictures and videos, Google "Kelley and Gadi.")

Unfortunately, many of Gadi's relatives couldn't attend the wedding, living in Israel, so in December the newlyweds and their parents (and Gadi's three brothers) traveled to Israel to celebrate the marriage again. The Rouache family is Sephardic. from Morocco, and we enjoyed some wonderful Moroccan food as well as generous hospitality. Gadi has a large family and we met them in Tel Aviv, the Golan, and Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Gadi's father hosted a 'Groom's Sabbath' where the family gathered to meet the new bride and groom in the family synagogue in the Old City.

The Rouache family was welcoming and gracious, and the couple was thrilled to see the entire

family for the Groom's Sabbath. While in Jerusalem we were able to visit the market (the 'Souk') and the 'Wailing Wall.' It was a moving experience, although Kelley, the feminist, did not agree with the required separation of the sexes. — Frank





Frank and Judy Greenman are long-time KJCC members. Their three daughters each made Bat Mitzvah at KJCC. Kelley, the beautiful bride, is their eldest daughter. Judy's father Stephen Ban, of blessed memory, was a Holocaust survivor. He and wife Susan were among the original founding members of KICC.

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.

Dinner Sponsorship Joyce Peckman

In Honor of Shabbaton dinner Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Vollmer, Robert S.

General Fund Krissel, Michael

Tikkun Olam

Schur, Lee Starr, Adam & Judy

Oneg Sponsorship

In Memory of

Yahrzeit

In Memory of

Patricia Isenberg Lynn Nobil Steve Steinbock

husband Henry Isenberg loel and Sara Cohen & honor of Carol's birthday

David, Hannah Smith, Lorri Robinson Malka Sandroff Papa Jolo

How Certain Contributions to KICC Can Instantly **Become Permanent, Living Memorials**

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

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 wonders that lie between these covers.'

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

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

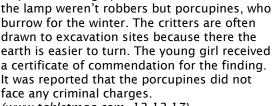
World Jewish Report Medina Roy

Can Turkey Poop Stop Climate Change?

According to researchers at Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, waste produced by turkeys, chickens and other poultry could partially replace coal, be a renewable energy resource and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. The researchers published a study in the journal Applied Enerqy, claiming that the excrement could be converted to biofuels and replace approximately 10 percent of coal used in generating electricity. "Environmentally safe disposal of poultry excrement has become a significant problem," the researchers said. "Converting poultry waste to solid fuel...is an environmentally superior alternative that also reduces reliance on fossil fuels." (The methods big companies traditionally use to dispose of poultry excrement have been linked to environmental issues.) The poultry poop test showed 24 percent higher net energy generation than with coal alone and significantly reduced methane and ammonia emissions, at the same time increasing carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Would there be enough turkey poop to make a difference, say, here? Over 250,000 turkeys are produced each year in the United States. (www.forward.com, 11-20-17)

Porcupines As Archeology Criminals?

A seven-year-old Israeli girl and her mother recently went for a walk in the Beit Shean Valley, an area in Israel's northern Galilee region, when the young girl stumbled upon an unusual object. Her mother, an archeology student at Haifa University, immediately recognized the object as an ancient oil lamp dating back 2,200 years, meaning it could certainly have been in use in the days of Judah Maccabee. Since the artifact was lying out in the open, she assumed that antique robbers were at work. She called Nir Distelfeld of the Israel Antiquities Authority, who arrived on the scene to investigate. Distelfeld immediately understood that the culprits who dug up



(www.tabletmag.com, 12-12-17)

A Kev Role in Eichmann's Capture

In early November, career Mossad agent Avner Avraham revealed that Argentina's Jewish community played a key role in the capture of Adolf Eichmann, who was responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Ending decades of official secrecy surrounding the exact role the Jewish community in Argentina played in what is known as *Operation Finale*, Avraham indicated that these individuals helped procure vehicles and safe houses. The men and women who willingly helped the Mossad were not told exactly why the cars and safe houses were needed. But at least one. Luba Volk. was used by the spy agency without her knowledge. Shortly before Eichmann's abduction, she was offered a position to head a regional office for El Al. Israel's national airline, which in fact was being set up solely to handle Eichmann's transportation to Israel. After the abduction. Volk came under surveillance by local authorities. Fearing that Nazis in Argentina might try to hurt her. she was advised by the Israeli foreign ministry to leave the country and go to Uruguay with her husband, who was fired from his job, and their three-year-old son. "Unfortunately, and I'm sorry to say this, the Mossad didn't really take care of her." Avraham admitted. Eichmann's capture is considered by many scholars to have been a watershed moment in Israel because it prompted open debate about

discussed because of its traumatic effects. (www.jta.org, 11-24-17)

120 Herzls Celebrate

Back in late August, ahead of the 120th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress that Theodor Herzl - journalist, playwright, political activist, and writer who was the father of modern political Zionism - organized in Basel, Switzerland, 120 men and women named after him gathered in the Israeli town of - you guessed it - Herzliya to celebrate his legacy. The original Herzl was born in 1860 in what is now Hungary. In Basel he convened some 200 participants from 17 countries, including 69 delegates from a variety of Zionist organizations. The gathering is widely regarded as a vital step in the creation of the Jewish State. Herzl (again, the original) wrote in his diary: "At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in 50 years, everyone will perceive it." It's worth noting that Israel was founded almost exactly 50 years after the First Zionist Congress. Herzl has no direct descendants left. His only grandson committed suicide in 1946. (www.jta.org, 8-25-17)

WIC Honors General Colin Powell

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was recently awarded the Theodor Herzl Award, the annual award of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), which recognizes "outstanding individuals who work to promote Herzl's ideals for a safer, more tolerant world for the Jewish people." Ronald S. Lauder, president of the WIC, noted in a statement that "General Powell has used the power of diplomacy to build trust and form alliances, and worked tirelessly to promote peace in unstable regions...I am humbled by his great dedication to this country, to the State of Israel, and to the Jewish people." The late George Stevens, legendary Hollywood film director, was honored with the *Teddy* Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture. Stevens is best known for what has often been called his "American trilogy," which earned him two Academy Awards: "A

Place in the Sun" (1951), "Shane" (1953) and "Giant" (1956). During his army service in World War II, Stevens headed combat motion picture photography for General Eisenhower, capturing, among other images, the discovery of the concentration camps at Nordhausen and Dachau. He made two films that were used as evidence for the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. George Stevens, Jr. accepted the award on his father's behalf.

(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 10-17-17)

An Honor for Eliot

Representative Eliot Engel, the Jewish New York Democrat, is now featured on a postage stamp in Kosovo, a majority Muslim country. The nation honored Engel who, along with other United States lawmakers and public figures, urged the Clinton administration to intervene during the 1999 war in Kosovo, helping avert what many feared would be the genocide of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians by the brutal Slobodan Milosevic. (Milosevic has since been charged by the *International Criminal Tribunal* for the former Yugoslavia with war crimes including genocide and crimes against humanity in connection to the wars in Bosnia. Croatia. and Kosovo.) Along with Engel, the group who urged U.S. intervention included Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY), Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), two late congressmen, Reps. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Ben Gilman (R-NY), and the late Elie Wiesel - all Jews. Why? Apparently, the Kosovar Albanians saved Jews during the Holocaust, and the Congressional Jews were reciprocating, "I'm deeply honored and surprised..." Engel said. "My work to promote the U.S.-Kosovo relationship has been among the most meaningful endeavors of my years in Congress." Many of these same lawmakers and public figures were part of an effort to recognize the Balkan state when it declared independence in 2008. The postage stamp is not Engel's first honor in the country: In 2008, the town of Pec named a street for him. (www.jta.org, 11-21-17)

In Memoriam

* Lilli Hornig, Czech-born Jewish chemist who helped develop atomic weapons and later fought against their use, died in November.

She was 96. Her family, many of whom were scientists, fled Europe in the early 1930s after her father was threatened with deportation to a concentration camp. They settled in Montclair, New Jersey. She was offered a secretarial position typing other scientists' top secret reports at the secret laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, part of the government's Manhattan Project. Hornig rejected the offer. Instead, she talked her way into doing research that helped create the first atomic bomb. While researching plutonium, her supervisors realized that exposure to the radioactive element could cause reproductive damage to women, so she was reassigned and joined her husband's department experimenting with conventional explosives. (Her husband, Donald Hornig, was an explosives expert at the Los Alamos lab. He later became a science advisor to President Lyndon B. Johnson and then president of Brown University. He died in 2013.)

Lilli earned a doctorate from Harvard in 1950. Witnessing the testing of the first atomic bomb, she signed a petition urging our government to demonstrate a prototype for the Japanese to see its destructive power before the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The petition was ignored. After seeing photographs depicting the leveling of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she said that although there was a some sense of triumph, the destruction she witnessed haunted her. Hornig devoted the remainder of her life advocating for women in the sciences. Among many other achievements, she was the first director of the Committee on the Education and Employment of Women in Science and Engineering at the National Academy of Sciences. The Atomic Heritage Foundation estimates that only about a dozen of the 1.500 or so scientists who worked at Los Alamos are still alive today. (www.nytimes.com, 11-21-17)

* Marc Klionsky, master portrait painter who gained worldwide prominence with his portraits of many eminent figures, died in October at the age of 90. Born in Russia. Klionsky's family fled the Holocaust by traveling to eastern Russia, away from the advancing Nazi army. In 1974, the family left Russia

due to anti-Semitism and lack of artistic freedom - Klionsky's father was a master printer first fleeing to Rome and then to New York. He was the youngest artist to have had his paintings exhibited in the renowned Tretiakov Gallery in Moscow and his works have been exhibited around the world. Klionsky painted portraits of Dizzy Gillespie, B.B. King, Golda Meier and Elie Wiesel, among others. (www.jta.org, 10-17-17)

Did You Know...

* According to recent rankings by the Times Higher Education journal, the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is ranked number one in the world in "teaching digital skills to its graduates and preparing them for the digital workplace." Professor Peretz Lavie, president of the Haifa-based Institute said. "This is a badge of honor for the university." The University College London was ranked second, with Korea's KAIST coming in at third. The only American university in the top 10 was Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in sixth place. (www.haaretz.com, 11-28-17)

* Over 40 Holocaust survivors who never had the opportunity to celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah did so in early November. The event was coordinated by the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and Israel's Office for Social Equality. (www.forward.com, 11-14-17)

* The number of women who joined the Israeli military's coed battalions reached a record high in 2017. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) four mixed-gender battalions added 2,700 female soldiers in 2017, continuing a five-year trend of women seeking combat positions. Unlike the United States, where there's no difference in training for men and women, the IDF allows for different criteria for women in accordance with physiological differences. (www.ynetnews.com, 11-16-17)

* At the end of October, Israel's newly appointed Supreme Court president Esther Hayut presided over the swearing-in ceremony of seven new judges, which included five women. lustice Minister Avelet Shaked noted that 54 percent of judges in Israel are women. (www.jpost.com, 10-31-17) ◊





Please join us for our first Sisterhood Book Club meeting. We will discuss Bee Season, a beautifully written novel by Myla Goldberg. The book was first published in 2000 by Random House and later adoped as a film starring Richard Gere and Juliette Binoche. The story follows a Jewish family in suburban Pennsylvania through various challenges they face.

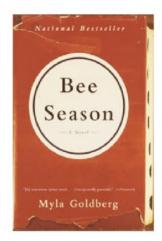
Please bring your suggestions for Jewish themed or authored books. We'll select the next one at the meeting.

> RSVP and more information - Randi Grant rkqcpa@bellsouth.net 954-383-4320

Monday, January 22, 2018 - Noon

Home of Linda Pollack 107 Long Ben Drive **Key Largo** 305-587-7429

Lunch will be served



Eye on the Arts loyce Peckman



ne arts can help heal the soul. We have local groups that regularly play at restaurants, but this column looks for other events, special aginas-on that might entertain or enrich. Many of these events are not publicized before our deadline, so if you know of something in the works, please let me know for this column. You can contact me at Joycepeckman@amail.com or 732-447-5225

The Florida Keys Celtic Festival will be held on January 6 & 7, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Marathon Community Park, MM 49. This is an exciting festival featuring well-known Celtic bands. including the South Florida Police Fife & Drum Corps. There will of course be food and interesting exhibitions. Where else will you find sheepdog herding competitions or the official Florida Haggis Hurling Championship? Go to Floridakeyscelticfestival.com to buy \$5 advance tickets, or purchase for \$10 at the door. Children are free

Key Largo Library Concert Series - Hungry Town - This folk duo will play a free concert in the library community room on Friday, January 12th at 6 p.m. After more than a decade of world-wide touring and three album releases. Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson--otherwise known as the folk duo Hungrytown--have earned a reputation for the quality and authenticity of their songwriting. Hungrytown's music has received extensive radio airplay worldwide and has appeared on several television shows, including Comedy Central's The Daily Show, IFC's Portlandia and Netflix's Lady Dynamite.

The 6th Annual Baygrass Bluegrass Festival will be on January 12-14 at Founders' Park, featuring performers from around the country, including Grammy Award winner Mike Compton and the amazing Billy Strings. It is spon-

sored by Dave Feder's I.C.E.. which uses festival proceeds to provide art. music, and dance scholarships and grants to local students and in-school programs. www.keysice.com

Art Under the Oaks at San Pedro Church Mile Marker 89.5 will be on Saturday, January 13th, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. It's the 35th annual day of fine arts and crafts exhibits, food and local entertainment. Park and take the free shuttle from Coral Shores High School.

Throwback Barbershop Quartet - Monday, Jan. 15th at Marathon HS and Tuesday, Jan. 16th at Island Community Church, MM 83.5, at 7:30 p.m. This energetic, prize-winning quartet comes highly recommended by Jules and Nettie Seder. (Jules is very active in Barbershop.) This is the first performance of the Florida Kevs Concert Association Series, in its 49th season. Individual concert tickets are \$30, or you can purchase the entire series of six concerts for \$110. For information on the series, go to FloridaKeysConcerts.com. or call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665

Morada Way Art Walk - Thursday, January 18th - 6 p.m. at mile marker 81.5 The third Thursday monthly outdoor festival features artists and crafts vendors as well as live music and food by local restaurants.

Keys Community Concert Band - Saturday, January 20th at 4:00 p.m. - At Founders Park, MM 87 bayside.

Take a musical trip through time, with a special appearance by the Riviera Prep School Theatre Dept. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Snacks and pets are optional. Keyscommunityconcertband.org.

FLKCA presents Ji - Monday. January 22nd at San Pablo Church in Marathon and Tuesday, January 23rd at Island Community Church, Islamorada, at 7:30 p.m. Relax and enjoy this magnificent young classical pianist. You may recognize Ji from the 2016 Android commercial, where he performed Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata on two pianos, one that featured the usual 88 pitches, and one tuned so that each key played only middle-C. Contact FloridaKeysConcerts.com for info.

Trio Solisti - Hailed as "the most exciting piano trio in America." Monday, Jan 29th 7:30 p.m. at Marathon's San Pedro Church and Tuesday, Jan. 30th, 7:30 p.m. in Islamorada at Island Community Church, MM 83.5. Purchase tickets at the door or at *FloridaKeysconcerts.com*.

Start strumming - If you have ever wanted to take on a very easy instrument, consider the dulcimer - a folk string instrument that has been popular for centuries. There is a wonderful teacher in the Upper Keys who enjoys taking on beginners, and she is planning to hold classes Wednesdays at 4:30 at the Key Largo library. Absolutely no musical experience is required, and you can ioin the number of other KICC members who are learning to play (and then playing together for fun). For information, contact Georgia Landau at 305-393-9885.

Art Guild of the Purple Isles is open to beginners as well as fabulous experienced artists of all types. Come to the Key Largo library at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. Different teachers will share their skills, and you can interact with the artists, who are happy to facilitate. Text Gloria at 305-619-0216 to find out what materials you will need to bring. You don't

need to be a member to join in the creative fun, but for membership information (it's cheap) or to download an application, you can visit: artquildofthepurpleisles.com

Dave Feder - Plays regularly in person at Morada Bay, Mile Marker 81.6 bayside, on Sundays 2:30-5:40 p.m. and Saturdays 6-9 p.m. ⋄



Planning the 2018 Israel Trip

Those interested in next spring's Israel trip met with Rabbi Agler and the tour company reps to discuss...everything.

Your last chance to reserve a place? January 14th

by Gloria Avner

JCC's Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler, asked the eager group assembled in our sanctuary on the third night of Chanukah to say one word each to describe their thoughts (and feelings) about a proposed trip to Israel. Just one word. They tumbled out of the as-

sembled would-be travelers, many repeated by more than one. Exciting. Transformative. Connection. Home.

Look at Rabbi Agler's face. As he talks to the group about the places we'll visit and the experiences we'll have, his own

enthusiasm and excitement about the transformative process of this journey through Israel could not be more obvious. Leading it is his gift to us. Whether the travelers will be talking to people at the edge of the Gaza strip, visiting a new children's museum, sharing Shabbat with families in Jerusalem, attempting to swim in the Dead Sea, shopping in Jerusalem's souks or praying at the "Wailing" Wall, the Kotel, KICC members on this trip will be doing much more than visiting "places." This is not your parents' tour of Israel.

This will be a journey with context provided by two gifted guides. One, of course, is Rabbi Agler, who lived and studied in Israel as a rab-

binical student decades ago, and who will provide religious, cultural and historical context at every stop. He has since led innumerable trips, some of them synagogue-based, like ours in 2013, when 15 people, eleven of them from KICC, were able to take advantage of what was described by participant Medina



It was Chanukah, and the sun had just gone down, so of course the first order of business was to light the candles, on a channukiah (and candles) provided by Sisterhood's Gift Shop. The tour leader just so happens to be a rabbi, so he knew the prayers.

Roy as "extraordinary." (And we haven't even mentioned food vet). Others, like the recent "March of The Living" trip to Poland and Israel, on which Drs. Bernard Ginsberg and Steve Smith accompanied Rabbi Agler, have been geared towards high school students. (The constant Jewish mandate - teach your children.) Your second guide, Mike Rogoff, highly respected for his deep knowledge of historical, geographical and political complexities in Israel, has decades worth of great stories to tell. He is also a helpful travel companion par excellence. Participants will of course be kept safe at every turn.

Among the KICC members on board for the 2013 KJCC Israel Trip were Dave Mont, intrepid organizer (and distributor of halvah for mid-morning snacks). Georgia Landau. Barney Coltman, Steve and Barbara Smith, Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner, Susan Ellner, Barry and Natalie Dorf, and Medina Roy. Ask any of them questions and faces will light up.

fall issues of 2013 Chai-Lights. Every day was filled with enriching activities.

Travel expands time. One day, spent at four equally important but totally different venues, can feel like four days worth of experience. Don't worry about energy,

though. You can nap on the very comfortable bus between adventures. Water is always at hand. And, oh, the food! All breakfasts (Israeli breakfasts are like no other - a vegetarian's delight) are included in the trip cost (\$5089 for land and air and many extras).

El Al now flies non-stop from Miami to Israel! A block of seats is on hold. The Arza World people worked hard to create a meaningful itinerary with Rabbi Agler. They gave a great presentation, outlining the four areas

the group will be visiting, staying at four-star hotels within walking distance of everything one could want.

Words fail. This will be an experience beyond description for those who seize the opportunity to go. Talk to Scott Pearl: (954) 655-6330 or smpearl@gmail.com. Then send him a check for \$300 (your deposit) by January 14th and a place will be saved for you. The trip needs 15 participants to happen. The journey

> begins on May 2nd. The balance (for land and air as a package, or just land at \$3800) will be due March 2nd. Ask Scott to send vou the itinerary. Go, and be blessed that you have gone. Home. Connected, Excited. Then come back to us. Transformed. &



Please Join Us On the 2018 KJCC Israel Trip

he itinerary is set. We leave on May 2nd, non-stop from Miami to Tel Aviv. Once again the trip is being planned and managed by Arza World, a

pre-eminent player in Israel tours. The inclusive cost per person is just over \$5,000, and includes everything — air fare, four-star hotels, tour buses and most food. You'll be led by two of the greatest tour guides available: Mike Rogoff, who also led the 2013 KJCC trip, and our own Rabbi Richard Agler. Return is on May 14th. And you'll return changed.

But you need to hurry. Reservations and deposits must be in hand by January 14th. Contact Scott Pearl, smpearl@amail.com or

954-655-8330.



The Keys Jewish Community Center Invites you to a Kabbalah Shabbaton*

January 12th & 13th, 2018

Friday evening and Saturday

Experience an Introduction to Kabbalah with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal in three sessions. Come prepared to be amazed at all the things you never learned in Hebrew School.

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal is the Executive Director and Campus Rabbi of the Suncoast Hillels of Florida's west coast. Rabbi Ed brings a lifelong passion for Jewish life and spirituality, Israel, the Jewish People and a special focus on God's unique relationship with the seas.

abbalah is the most misunderstand part of the Jewish tradition. Usually referred to as Jewish "mysticism," Kabbalah was under an ancient prohibition which restricted those who could learn it to only men over the age of forty who were married, fully observant and experts in every other aspect of Judaism and Jewish law. In the year 1540, the prohibition was lifted for the basic principles of Kabbalah. The 20th century has seen an awakening of interest about Kabbalah, not as mysticism but as the spiritual teachings of Judaism.

"The Torah tells us how to practice Judaism...the Kabbalah tells us why," says Rabbi Rosenthal. All members of the KJCC are welcome to attend the Shabbaton. You are also welcome to invite interested friends.

*What is a Shabbaton? A Program of Education and Celebration that usually takes place on Shabbat and sometimes over a whole weekend.

Here's how Rabbi Ed describes the course he's prepared for our KJCC Shabbaton:

"Life, the Universe, and the Nature of Everything"

The weekend schedule and syllabus:

Friday, January 12th -

- 6:00 p.m. Delicious Dairy Dinner
- ~7:30 p.m. Frev Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Ed
- Approx. 9:00 Introduction and overview of the weekend's program beginning after the oneg, led by Rabbi Ed

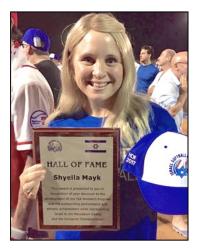
Saturday, January 13th -

- Morning Session "Nothing is as it seems": 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
- 12:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Luncheon
- Afternoon Session "Turn on the Lights": 2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
- 5:00 p.m. Closing / Havdalah Ceremony

(Rabbi Ed has also said that Sunday sessions will be available for those interested in further study.)

RSVP to Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com or 305-394-1702 Full program: KJCC Members: \$36.00, Non-Members: \$50.00

Shyella Mayk, KJCC Hall-of-Famer





On July 16, 2017, KJCC's own Shyella Mayk was inducted into the Israel Softball Hall of Fame for teaching fast-pitch softball to the girls/ women in Israel, transforming the women's league from slow-pitch to fast-pitch, founding the Women's Israeli National Softball Team, and for athletic excellence playing on the team and proudly representing Israel in past European Championships and Maccabiah Games.

'n 1996, as Shyella Mayk's senior season of high school softball in New Jersey was coming to a close, she was interviewed (as the biggest local women's softball star) by

the local newspaper. When asked what some of her longterm goals were, she said she hoped to one day play softball in Israel's Maccabiah Games and pitch for the Israeli national team. She didn't know that, at that point, no women's fast-pitch team in Israel existed. But because of her that soon would change.

After making



alivah to Israel in 2000 on her own, she found the ISA's women's softball league, which was slow-pitch. But she quickly discovered that the women wanted to learn fast-pitch, the burgeoning international game. So she began to run practices for not only her team but all of



the teams. She taught them how to steal bases and bunt, and then organized what she called a "fallball learning season" where she pitched for both teams so all the players could learn the very different game of fast pitching.

By the spring of 2002, the women's league began to play with fast-pitch rules. This paved the way for an Israeli national team. Tryouts

were held and a team selected. Their first forays into international competition were in trips to the new nations (but old cultures, very familiar to many European Israelis) of Croatia and Slovenia. As you can see from the photos. Shyella was the Israeli team's pitcher. captain and leader. She taught them to compete on the world stage and at the highest levels. Since then the Women's

Israeli National Softball team has regularly competed in the European Championships everv other summer, in South America, every

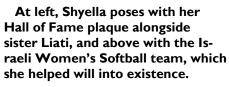


fourth summer in the Israeli Maccabiah Games, and in 2016 for the first time in the Surrey World Championship.

Today Shyella is a Health and P.E. middle school teacher in Livingston, New Jersey. In February she was honored as Health and P.E.

Middle School Teacher of the Year for all of New Jersey. Two hours after the awards banquet she went into labor, together with Israeli husband Amit bringing her second son, Lahav Galil Shuker, into the world. During summer vacation this year, Lahav, just over four months old, accompanied his family to Israel, where brother Negev, three-anda-half, got immersion in Hebrew at a Hod Hasharon pre-school. It was at the end of their summer

Shyella was honored as "New Jersey's Health and P.E. Middle School Teacher of the Year" at an awards banquet in February 2017, with husband Amit and eldest son Negev. Baby brother Lahav would make his entrance into this world mere hours later.



in Israel that Shvella was inducted into the Israeli Softball

Hall of Fame. Her family - mom Nissan, dad Israel, husband Amit, sister Liati and brother-inlaw Doron were all there to witness the honor in person.

(For those with a highly attuned ear to Hebrew, you will have noticed that both sons have

carefully crafted Hebrew names. They are named for types of fire and important Hebrew regions. Negev Shaviv means "spark of the Negev Desert" and Lahav Galil means "flame of the Galilee.")

In her spare time, while still teaching a full course load for middle school. Shyella is an adjunct professor in Exercise Science and Physical Education at

Montclair State University in New Iersey. She is also working on her doctoral dissertation at Teacher's College, Columbia University. (Her sister, Liati Mayk-Hai, is a Yiddish literature and history scholar.) And grandma Bea Graham still goes for her daily walks and devours each month's issue of Chai-Lights. >



Froudly Presents Its

Second Annual KJCC Winter Film Fest

A Lovingly Selected, Eclectic Trove of Cinematic Takes on Life Through a Jewish Lens



All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME — There is no charge
REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards
For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com

CHANUKAH

Shine your Light Unto the Nations

On Our Anti-Assimilation Holiday

by Gloria Avner

ver the course of 18 hours (yes, chai, or life, the Hebrew word equivalent of the number 18, is

A STATE OF A LABOR AND A LABOR

always significant for us), KJCC members and friends experienced not

just a bountiful celebratory dinner but two musical performances, an Erev Shabbat service, a delightful oneg, and a morning Shabbat Torah learning service with Rabbi Agler that unpacked the meaning of the Joseph story and its relation to the Chanukah story in a truly mindexpanding way. And

yes, there was a reprise of that wonderful dinner in the Kiddush following the morning service. We are blessed on many levels.

Eighty people attended the dinner. Personal *chanukiahs* (the nine-branched menorahs used only on Chanukah to represent the miracle of the single cruse of oil lasting eight days instead of one) were lit simultaneously at family tables.

(Pauline was thrilled with hers. It had a Mickey Mouse theme.) With





CHANUKAH...



monica. The mood was set. Then, with return of the lights, the long, lovely table overflowing with latkes, soups, salads, kugels, vegetable dishes, desserts and ever more latkes (with the new addition of homemade ap-

plesauce) became the featured attraction, and

the buzz of happy conversation filled both rooms.

We saw people we hadn't seen in a long time and people we'd never seen before. We welcomed Helen and Larry Goldman, refugees

from Irma's destruction to their home in St. Thomas. Names and stories were exchanged, and when, after a rousing table-pounding rendition of *Birkat*



HaMazon, the Jewish prayer of grace sung after meals, belted out enthusiastically by a few stalwarts, it was time to move into the sanctuary

for the evening's services. Nearly 60 people joined us, graciously led by Barney Coltman.

But first, in keeping with the joyous upbeat-ness of Chanukah, more music filled the house. Our talented Jules Seder played

piano while multi-skilled Susan Gordon played Irish penny whistle, and, with Gloria (yes, me) singing harmony, sang three Chanukah songs, joined in rhythmic clapping by the congregation.

After the service, we assembled once

more to bless wine, say HaMotzi over challah, and continue the conversations, deepening new friendships over coffee and dessert. That's who we are. And it all con-

tinued again the next morning with even more interesting wrinkles.

We not only had our biggest Shabbat morning attendance of the season so far (we are so glad





to have Susan Ellner back among us), but we also had new attendee participation from the Chanukah dinner and service from the night before. Things got richer. Yes, we welcomed the Goldmans from St. Thomas, but we also met Robert Vollmer and his wife, longtime members and fans of the synagogue started and developed by Rabbi Agler many years ago in Boca Raton. The intricacies kept growing. Turns out that Larry. Helen's husband, and Vollmer's wife are first cousins. When Bob

Vollmer refers to Rabbi Agler, with great affection, as "my Rabbi," he is not kidding. At the age of 73, Robert was Bar Mitzvah under the auspices of Rabbi Agler. There is no measuring the warmth or the width of Bob's smile as he shares that fact.

Once the service started, we had a wonderful discussion of the Parshah where Joseph went from being a prisoner to becoming the second-highest-ranking official in Egypt. What a role reversal for the spoiled boy who was tossed into a pit to be sold into slavery by his jealous, more pow-





erful brothers. (As Rabbi Agler noted, life in assimilationist exile was, at least at this point, looking pretty good for Joseph.) Look at the Nosh item

about Rabbi Agler's coming Torah service for a small taste of how complex and enliahtenina this one was and what the connection is. whether intended at the time of writing or not, between loseph's experiences and the true meaning of Chanukah. (Or



go to Rabbi Agler's blog, where he posts his essays.)

We are commanded to be a light unto the nations, just as the oil in the one jar or the candles in your chanukiah are not to be used for reading, or warming, or anything but bearing witness to the truth of One God, revered and celebrated by the Jewish people. Today, just as throughout Jewish history, we are challenged by all kinds of pulls

and attractions. In Maccabean days, the challenge was Greek culture. In Joseph's day, it was Egyptian practice and the primacy not just of the sun god Ra but of all the lesser gods, in control of everything from fertility to the afterlife - if your heart weighed more than a feather, the Jackal-headed god Anubis would consign



The next morning, December 16th, the Shabbat of this year's Chanukah, saw Rabbi Richard Agler's monthly in-season KICC Torah service.

The parshah was the (we thought) familiar story of Joseph rising to rule Egypt. But, as he does so well, Rabbi Agler showed us deeper layers. Try exploring the parallels between the Joseph and Chanukah stories...

you to the underworld, or worse. Today, in an increasingly technological word populated by "millennials" and enhanced-reality ex-

panders of the internet, with world culture and practice changing by the minute, it remains a challenge to be true to our *mitzvot* and still stay relevant to our society while we work for *tikkun olam*. But Chanukah's light still shines on us as well as on the nations we are supposed to illuminate and inspire. In Rabbi Agler's words, Chanukah remains the Anti-Assimilation Holiday, just as in its beginnings nearly 2,200 years ago in the days of the Hasmoneans. (And then came the Romans. Don't get me started.)

Each year, as we light the nightly Chanukah candles, we are reminded of many things. Among them is the teaching to not let our Jewish light hide under a bushel. \diamond

One of the special aspects of Rabbi Agler's Shabbat services is that our precious Holocaust Torah once again becomes a vital, integral part of Jewish life, as it was intended to be when written in Bohemia in the 1880s. A gentle lump rises in the throat when each time, after being read, Rabbi Agler lifts it high in veneration...



"You Can't Not Cry"

One KJCC Couple Tells of Their Love Affair With Special Olympics

by Joyce Peckman and Gloria Avner

The first time we heard that Scott Pearl was involved with the Special Olympics was when he apologized to us for not being able to come to a KJCC Board Meeting to talk about the proposed trip to Israel in 2018. "Sorry. I have to be in Orlando that week for the Special Olympics: Project Opening Eyes." We had to know more.



been 50 years since Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics, the organization that plans athletic events for people with intellectual disabilities, working towards expanding their horizons beyond small environments into activities that boost morale and productivity. We didn't know how much health care had become a vital part of the mission. It turns out that the vision, podiatry and dentistry care the athletes get at these games is often the only care they ever get. Most are eligible for Medicare or Medicaid but caretakers can't get them easily to doctors. and many doctors have difficulty dealing with them. When Dr. Scott Pearl, Optometrist, stepped down from his position as President of the Florida Optometric Board in 2009, he immediately signed on for the Special Olympics' vision program, Opening Eyes.

Scott's optometric residency specialty was pediatrics; it was, therefore, a natural jump for him to get involved in Special Olympics. At first he worked as the Broward coordinator.

But that Saturday and Sunday, the weekend we were having our Board meeting, was a special one for the Pearls - Scott and wife/office manager Mary Anne - exciting, rewarding, and exhausting. Scott was beginning his first

foray as State Coordinator, the man in charge of Florida's Special Olympics Fall Games at Orlando.

So this describes the Pearl weekend: Scott brings 68 professionals, many of them still students, as volunteer staff, and a convoy of trucks loaded with thousands of dollars worth of equipment, for eye exams and making glasses. He brings Mary Anne as Optical Supervisor, in charge of the people who get the athletes the best lenses and designer frames. (The parents who come are as happy and grateful as their children.) The medical headquarters is ESPN at Disney, where the Pearls and all their volunteers take over press boxes and offices at the stadium. They set up stations for each kind of test and for everything needed to make the prescriptions. Mary Anne never stops, and neither does Scott.

Scott's team treated 310 athletes between all of Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. (And Scott apologized to us for not taking time to get photos with the athletes.) On Saturday the athletes came wearing their medals, proud and happy, while the doctors made a big fuss over them.

One of the tough parts of being in charge, for Scott, is that he doesn't get to see the games any more. Scott gets emotional when

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he describes the experience of witnessing the spectacular parade of opening ceremonies. "You can't not cry," he says. But there's nothing sad about it.

Scott would rather be a clinician than an administrator, but no one is there for anything but to help the athletes have a better life. Those athletes range in age from 9 years

old to the late 60s. There is no age limit for intellectual disabilities. Physically. they range from nearly independent to wheelchairbound to severely disabled. "The two hardest professional days of my life are at these games. I would never work this hard for monev."

Apparently, Scott is not the only volunteer who feels that way. He overheard one young man talking to a volunteer who coached baseball. "Hey Coach, I see you here every Friday. How come

you're not in your office making money?" Answer: "Where else can I come and work for free and get loved by 250 people?" It's all about love for Scott and Mary Anne. too. They're a team and they both love the work.

We're sad to have known them for such a short time. Soon they'll be in residence near St. Augustine, where Scott can continue to

> practice (including his cutting-edge work with pediatric myopia) as well as travel in order to participate in Special Olympic events. They're hoped-for next assignment is the National Games, in Seattle. We wish them well. We're grateful for the Tikkun Olam work they do. repairing the world one athlete at a time. Please take pictures in Orlando. Scott and Mary Anne, and send them home to Chai-Lights and your KICC mishpocha. 💠



For many of the Special Olympians, the only time they get professional eye care is when Dr. Scott and Mary Anne Pearl and their devoted colleagues and volunteers open their hearts and provide it.



Special Olympics



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

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

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, keusjewishcenter.com.

- This Month in Jewish History -**IANUARY**

49 B.C.E. - Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon, signaling the start of civil war against fellow triumvirate member Pompey, who had defiled the Temple's Holy of Holies, mocked the lewish religion and shipped thousands of Jewish slaves to Rome. Once Caesar wins the war, he allows the walls of lerusalem to be rebuilt. institutes a taxation system that takes the sabbatical year into consideration and makes it possible for Jews living in the Italian peninsula to form into communities. Romans of the time note the unusual grief displayed by Jews when Caesar is assassinated by Brutus and his cohorts

548 C.E. - The last year the Eastern Church in lerusalem observes the birth of lesus in lanuary. The Western Church had adopted December 25th as lesus' birth date in the late 300s C.E

1180 - Philip Augustus, the new king of France, arrests large numbers of Jews while his father, Louis VII, a sometime protector of the lews, is still alive. All lews found in synagogue on the Sabbath are arrested. Philip agrees to free them, however, for 15,000 silver marks.

1232 - In London, The Domus Conversorum, known in English as the House of the Converts, is founded by order of Henry III - a weak and extravagant grandson of the Lion Himself, Henry II. and son to King John of Robin Hood fame - to provide a home and free maintenance for Jews converting to Christianity.

1301 - Andrew III of Hungary dies, ending the Arpad dynasty in Hungary. As king, Andrew reverses the anti-Jewish practices of his predecessor, insisting that Jews in Posonium (Bratislava) should enjoy all the liberties of citizens. Things go downhill for the Jews of Hungary after Andrew's death. They are expelled from the kingdom in 1349 under the belief (not restricted to Hungary) that Jews are responsible for the Black Death that wipes out a third of Europe.

1600 - The 400 Jews of Verona complete their synagogue after their move into the ghetto. The occasion is actually celebrated as a "Purim" until the 1789 French Revolution, since many feel that the ghetto provides some protection. and since in an unusual move the keys of the ghetto are given to the Jewish leaders.

1606 - The Governor of Puerto Rico reports that one-fifth of the white population of the island is Portuguese. Many of these "white" Portuguese are most likely conversos.

1625 - John Milton, author of "Paradise Lost," is admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge, at the age of 16. During Milton's lifetime, Jews are still officially not allowed to settle in the British Isles. But like many Puritans living in the England of Oliver Cromwell, Milton sees a connection between his brand of Christianity and the Israelites. Until his eyes weaken, he reads the Hebrew Bible on a daily basis and expresses a positive view of Mosaic Law. Milton also serves as a secretary to Oliver Cromwell and, according to one of his biographers, is part of the group who negotiates for the return of the Jews to England.

1706 - Benjamin Franklin - printer, publisher, scientist, author, statesmen and vital American - is born in Boston. Franklin sees the American Revolution as a replaying of the story of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, and suggests that the Great Seal of America depict Moses standing on the shore of the Red Sea, while Pharaoh drowns in his chariot in its midst. When the Jewish community in Philadelphia builds their synagogue, "Mikveh Israel," Franklin contributes to the building fund. On July 4, 1788, too sick and weak to get out of bed, Franklin instructs that the Philadelphia Independence Day parade in Philadelphia include the clergy of





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different Christian denominations, "with the rabbi of the Jews," walking arm in arm.

1788 - Georgia becomes the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. A year later it becomes the third state to ban religious discrimination. The first Jewish families had arrived in Georgia in July of 1733. Two years before the ratification vote, the Jewish community of Savannah feels stable enough to re-organize Congregation Mikve Israel, elect officers and rent a house to be used as a synagogue.

1815 - General Andrew Jackson defeats the British at the Battle of New Orleans. At his side fight two Jews famous for very different reasons: Pirate Jean Lafitte, whose mother's Sephardic family had fled the Inquisition, and Judah Touro, scion of the famed New England Touro family (the Touro Synagogue).

1836 - Mendele Mocher Sforim, "Mendele the bookseller," the pseudonym of Sholem Yakov Abramovich, lewish author and one of the founders of modern Yiddish and Modern Hebrew literature, is born to a poor family in Kopyl, near Minsk. His first article, "Letter on Education", appears in a Hebrew newspaper, Hamagid, in 1857. Initially writing in Hebrew, coining many words in that language, he ultimately switches to Yiddish in order to expand his audience. Like Sholom Aleichem, he uses a pseudonym because of the perception at the time that as a ghetto vernacular, Yiddish is not suited to serious literary work. It is an idea he will do much to dispel.

1852 - Mt. Sinai Hospital is incorporated in New York City by Sampson Simson and eight associates. It is the first Jewish hospital in the United States.

1858 - Eliëzer Ben-Yehuda, the father of modern Hebrew, is born in Lithuania as Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman. His plan to restore Hebrew as a spoken language of Jews in Palestine is three-pronged: "Hebrew in the Home." "Hebrew in the School," and "Words, Words, Words." By the time of his death in 1922, Ben-Yehuda has almost singled-handedly transformed Hebrew into a revitalized and thriving modern language.

1876 - Konrad Adenauer, the first post-war Chancellor of West Germany, is born. Imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II, Adenauer seeks to return Germany to the world community. To make amends to the Jewish community, he offers war reparations to the government of Israel. Under Adenauer, Germany recognizes Israel and provides arms for her defense despite threats from Arab governments.

1887 - The Jewish Theological Seminary Association opens under the leadership of Rabbi Sabato Morais in New York. The idea is to train Rabbis who will help preserve Jewish traditions being eroded by the "reformers" and their Pittsburgh platform. In 1902 Solomon Schechter reorganizes the Seminary and changes the name to JTS, or the Jewish Theological Seminary. It becomes the central foundation for the Conservative Movement, a role it still plays todav.

1895 - Theodor Herzl writes of personally witnessing Capt. Alfred Dreyfus being "drummed out of the army in the courtyard of the [French] Ecole Militaire as huge crowds outside shout 'Death to the lews!'"

1908 - Abraham Goldfaden dies at the age of 67. Born in 1840 in what was then part of the Russian Empire, Golfaden is a driving force in the Yiddish theatre during its golden period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as author, composer (yes, there were musicals), director and producer. One of his early comedies is called Shmendrik, whose title-hero is the proverbial gullible, good-natured schlemiel. The play is so popular that the word Shmendrik becomes part of the Yiddish language and survives today in American slang. Goldfaden is so famous at the time of his death that he rates an obituary in the New York Times referring to him as "the Yiddish Shakespeare." Some 75,000 people attend his funeral procession from the People's Theater in the Bowery to Washington Cemetery in Brooklyn. >

The New Year for the Trees

Happy New Year, dear mishpocha! We are on Jewish New Year celebration number two, the first one having come amid great fanfare in September, the 1st of Tishrei, Rosh HaShanah, while we were still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Irma. This second of our four Jewish New Years is also called the Birthday of the Trees, the day on which the trees' value was set for purposes of just taxation in ancient times. We all lost significant trees to Irma. Some of them fell on top of our houses. We won't hold it against them We will still celebrate

by Gloria Avner

nyone who has ever planted a flower or tree or vegetable from seed knows how magical the moment is when that fragile white neck of a stem pushes up through the earth. It quickly changes from bowed to upright; it defies the laws of gravi-

ty. Growth is its own law of levity, an act of happy rebellion against inertness. Buds want to flower, fruit wants to ripen, seeds want to burst their shells.

Every ancient culture, the people who lived close to the earth, honored trees for all they contributed to the lives of man and animal. The prayer that we read on Shabbat about taking care of the planet (because there are none to repair it after us if we destroy it) rings especially potent in this time of struggle in our day between those who would conserve and those who would merely use up.

Legends about the power of trees cross

cultural boundaries. Druids worshiped in oak groves. The Kalpa tree in India was prayed to for its connection with the divine. Even Alexander the Great went searching for this tree, thinking it would fulfill his wishes. (He was reasonably successful without it.) Judaism, to its credit, has always paid attention to trees. Our ancestors created rules about when and how the fruits could be eaten (not until the tree's fourth year), and prohibited tree destruction even in time of war when in enemy territory. We take the longer view. We've had 5777 years to practice and observe the effects of our actions.

So now, in 5778, let's take some time to celebrate our slow-growing fellow creatures. so like us in structure but so much larger. their trunks analogous to our bodies, their roots our legs, their branches our arms, their fruits our head. Let's thank the trees for all their gifts to us, of oxygen and shade, medicine and food, paper goods and lumber, amber and frankincense. No one has said it better or more simply than Shel Silverstein in his moving story, "The Giving Tree." It is worth re -reading and looking at the simple, lovingly rendered drawings. How unselfishly that tree provided for toddler, boy, young man, adult,

and, finally, the elder!

We won't be celebrating with our customary metaphysical sit -down Tu Bish'vat family seder this year, the ceremony invented by the mystics of Ts'fat in the 16th century. (Tu refers to the

15th day of the month of Sh'vat, adding the numeric values of the Hebrew letters.) We won't be drinking four cups of wine, from white to blush to rosé to red, mimicking the seasons of growth, or blessing and tasting samples of all the fruits that grow on trees in Israel. But we will have a Tu BiSh'vat oneg on the first Erev Shabbat after January 31st, the evening on which Tu Bish'vat begins. Together, on February 2nd, we will chant a joyous Shehechiyanu in gratitude to God for being kept alive to enjoy this special season. After the destruction wrought by Irma and the miracle of our synagogue's relatively unblemished survival, the prayer will seem more meaningful than ever, as will our understanding of the metaphor involving Torah as Tree. "It will be as a tree of life to those who hold tight to it and everyone who upholds it is happy. Its ways are pleasantness and all its paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:17-18) Etz Chaim Hi.



This Tu BiSh'vat we honor the trees taken by hurricane Irma and remember the significance of the native mangroves that serve to protect our islands. At top right we see Coconut Palms sprouting. The center

picture shows young mangroves taking root. soon to be providing protection for our shoreline.

We chant this verse every Shabbat morning Torah service. Our voices soar.

Please take home with you one of the seedlings from the table in the social hall on Tu BiSh'vat oneg night. It is a gift. Plant it, tend it - singing mayim, mayim, mayim as you water





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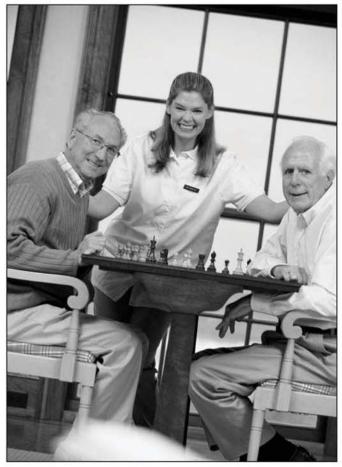
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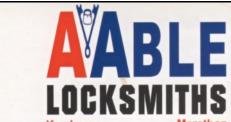
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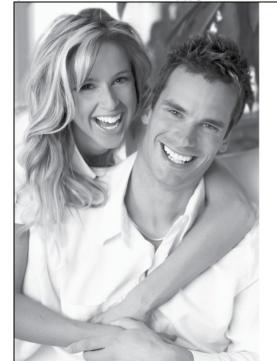


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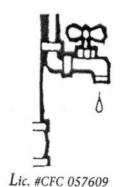


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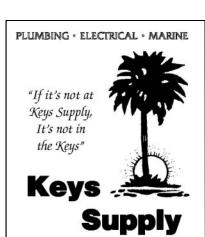


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