

Chai~Lights



December 2016

1 Kislev - 2 Tevet 5777

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

December 2016

1 Kislev - 2 Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock <i>Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis, Steve Hartz</i>	3
4 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9 Joyce Peckman & Gloria Avner <i>Jim Williams, Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	10 Rabbi Agler Service 10 a.m.
11 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Sam Weis</i>	17
18	19	20	21 Homeless Service noon Settler's Park	22	23 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely <i>Beth Hayden</i>	24 Chanukah First Night Candles
25 First Day of Chanukah	26	27	28	29	30 Beth Hayden <i>Chanukah Dinner 5:30 Linda Pollack</i>	31

2016 - 2017 KJCC Officers and Board

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33070@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Sam Vinicur



There are times when I wish I owned a crystal ball. I don't mean some perfectly formed glass *objet* that sits on a shelf and occasionally delights my eye with its useless though miraculous roundness. (And collects dust, which I suppose has its own date with destiny and has to go somewhere.) I'm talking about one that really works. You know, like the one Margaret Hamilton had where she could watch Dorothy and Toto walking toward her along the Yellow Brick Road. And upon which she rubbed her impossibly bony fingers while cackling, with equal parts malevolence and conviction, "I'll get you, my pretty!" (Not to flack or play witch's advocate for the wrong side here, but you'll remember that when Dorothy's house came down in Munchkinland it did, after all, land squarely upon and quite thoroughly kill her sister. A little empathy here, people.)

Who among us wouldn't love to know what's to happen before it does? The benefits seem endless. (Lottery numbers. Used cars. First dates.) On the other hand, philosophers and thinkers (killjoys and reality-mongers all) have long warned against attempting to know the future. Foreknowledge would utterly spoil the pleasures of unraveling complex book or movie plots. Imagine how

blasé and dulled we'd all become if no day ever offered a surprise. Then there's the single emotion – hope – that undergirds both religion and romance, major staples of human existence. The motivating (and civilizing) power of hope would disappear for those who already know for certain what happens next.

Okay (sigh), a functioning crystal ball isn't such a great idea. But high season is about to begin at KJCC. I need no magic powers to predict that you're going to love what we have planned. There will be lots of films. One will dramatize the famed 13th century Judaism/Christianity disputation in Spain led by Nachmanides. (He won, so he was allowed to live. No pressure.) Rabbi Agler has agreed to lead a post-film discussion. The main event of the season, our big fundraiser, will be a live music concert, but this time it's a two-fer. We'll once again be presenting the amazing Dave Feder. But another renowned KJCC member will join Dave on stage: Sam Weis is an internationally acclaimed 12-string guitarist, singer and composer. We'll present guest speakers and other special events. And our annual dinner celebrating our advertisers. And outings, some educational, some strictly social, via our Activities Committee.

The wonder of KJCC is about to be on full display. Buckle up.
Chai-Lights December 2016 3

Nosh

Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Agler

On December 10th, nearly the darkest day of the year, we will join with Rabbi Richard Agler, our KJCC Resident Scholar, for a morning of enlightenment. If you have been to any of his other services, from High Holidays to Bar Mitzvah to previous Saturday morning Torah learning services, you know what a worthwhile way this is to spend a Shabbat morning. You also know that he starts precisely at 10:00 a.m. Come early. You will be engaged by Rabbi Agler's warm, informal teaching style and won't want to miss a moment. There will be a *kiddush* afterwards.

Mourning Keys Homeless on Dec. 21st

It has become a KJCC tradition, begun years ago by Carol and Steve Steinbock, to join in honoring the homeless who have died each year in the Florida Keys. Rev. Pam Feeser has once again asked KJCC to participate in this National Memorial Day for the Homeless. Fittingly, the ceremony takes place on the darkest day of the year – the Winter Solstice, and in a park near the ocean where homeless people congregate. Come to Settler's Park in Tavernier, Oceanside, MM 91.8, adjacent to the Sunshine Market. The service starts at noon. We may help by reading names, lighting candles, saying prayers and/or blessing each person who has left us. They had sad stories and many were veterans. We will be their family mourners and say *kaddish* for them.

Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RONALD HORN, 1932–2016,
KJCC FOUNDER
DEVOTED TO FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND FAITH.
FOREVER LOVED AND MISSED.

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Oneg Sponsors for December 2016

December 2nd - Laurie Blum and Gary Margolis in honor of their anniversary. Also Steve Hartz to celebrate wife Jan's birthday.

December 9th - Jim Williams; Barbara and Richard Knowles in remembrance of lost loved ones: may their memories be a blessing.

December 16th - Sam Weis to honor Renee's birthday.

December 23rd - Zap's birthday

December 30th - Channukah Dinner sponsored by Linda Pollack.

Coming: "18 Strings and Attitude!"

Get ready for a unique combination concert at KJCC. David Feder, our favorite Hillbilly Flamenco artist, who transcends the explicable and makes crowds happy, will be playing 6 of those strings with lots of that attitude. Sam Weis, new-ish KJCC member and soon-to-be co-president of Sisterhood, is a nationally known, well-respected 12-string guitar artist. Uncategorizable, fluid and complex, she performs compelling original soundscapes and songs you'll want to hear sung again. Yes, that makes a total of 18 strings. Both performers share great patter and stories. It will be a peak experience evening.

Circle Wednesday, February 22nd, on your calendars now; you will be the first to know when tickets go on sale (\$25). Our artists not only have professional chops; they have legions of serious fans. Before we open ticket sales to the public, we will give our members an exclusive heads-up for limited ticket sales. Contact Linda Kaplan, event chairperson, for information on becoming an "Angel" with two levels of opportunity for concert sponsorship.

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF LES REITMAN,
WHO OPENED OUR EYES
ABOUT THE KEYS.
GOD BLESS.

By Marshall Kaplan & Family

December Birthdays

1st	Paul Hudson
2nd	Joseph Burke Grossman
2nd	Marshall A. Field
3rd	Rick McNew
3rd	Jackie LePree
3rd	Ashley Berk
3rd	Cammie Berk
4th	Judith Klein
4th	Jodi Yeager
4th	Jan Hartz
5th	Geri Smith
5th	Joseph Beth
5th	Stuart Sax
6th	Leslie Boruszak
6th	Haley Borisoff
7th	Franklin Rose
7th	Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum
7th	Rhett William Casey
9th	George Swartz
10th	Susan Greenbaum
11th	Sara Rose Friedman
11th	Renee Salant
12th	Laurie Blum
13th	Sarah Boruszak
13th	Robin Margulies Juenger
16th	Samuel Klimpl
16th	Diana Lal
17th	Ariel Fishman
17th	Lilian Forbes
17th	Bruce Forman
17th	Jeffrey Schocket
18th	Emelyn Anne Juenger
19th	Terry Willner-Tainow
19th	Lorena Kaufman
19th	Jonah Gross
20th	Jennifer VanArtsdalen
20th	Alan Schulberg
21st	Roberta McNew
21st	Micah Silverman
22nd	Lisa Miller
22nd	Stuart Smith
22nd	Laura Molly Friedman
23rd	Sydney Pomenti
25th	Lori Kay

26th	Steven Smith
27th	Steve Kasinof
28th	Elaine Schulberg
28th	Kayla Silverman
28th	Emily Sherman
28th	Ira Krieger
28th	Michael Klimpl
29th	Joan Stark
30th	Ellen Bloom
31st	Michele Riley
31st	Bob Pratt

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR FRIEND
TAKEN TOO SOON
CAROL STEINBOCK

By Elena Diaz-Miranda

December Anniversaries

	Years
5th	Gunther & Shirley Karger.....62
7th	Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum.....6
8th	Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs.....63
10th	Linda & Bruce Pincus.....27
11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner.....51
11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....11
14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen.....35
18th	Larry & Deborah Weiss33
27th	Dave Mont & Georgia Landau.....5

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
PATTY SILVER,
BELOVED WIFE OF
JEFFREY SCHOCKET

by Muriel & George Swartz

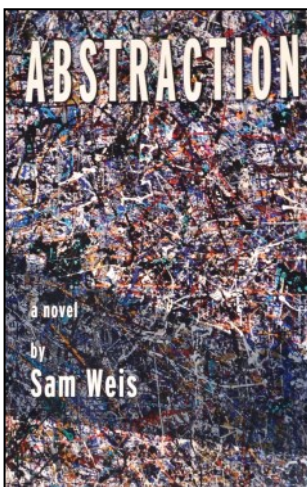
"Abstraction," a novel by Sam Weis

Imagine a piece of art and a style of painting so inexplicably powerful, it could change a viewer's personality, so true it could flip every long-held attitude as quickly as turning a switch. What if it could change the world and morph fear and loathing into cooperative contentment? It's a unique premise, and the two quirky but serious artists who are the main characters in this first novel are astounded by the phenomenon themselves. Who knew the dangerous forces such unexpected inventiveness could unleash?

Chock full of twists and turns, brimming with well-developed characters, the novel mixes wacky laugh-out-loud extremists with a cast ranging from scary to warm. The Pacific Northwest coastal setting is described so well the place almost becomes a character. The story takes off at a brisk clip when the paintings are first shown (unintentionally) to people on the street outside a gallery and never slows down. Serious danger is spiked with humor when an out-of-control tour bus in the shape of a duck careens down a hill during a parade at which a painting is about to be wielded almost as a weapon.

Meet these characters and follow the breathless pace yourself. A copy of "Abstraction" has been donated to our library. Check it out and have a good time on your journey, guided perfectly by the imagination of a writer who is not only a wonderful storyteller but is also a master artist herself. (See Sam Weis' series of paintings in the hallway leading to KJCC's sanctuary, part of our "B'reishit" member artist exhibit.)

—Gloria



Early "Eye on the Arts" Idea

If you are reluctant to drive off the rock for your high quality cultural entertainment fix, there is no better strategy than buying a season ticket for the six concerts presented by the Florida Keys Concert Association (FLKCA) this winter. The concerts will be presented on Tuesday evenings in January and February at the Island Community Church, MM 83.3 bayside in Islamorada. Seats are comfortable, sightlines are good, acoustics work well and almost all of the volunteers that make this annual event happen are members of KJCC. Our Joyce Peckman is president of the entire organization this year. A season ticket costs \$110.00 for all six concerts. The opening performance, on January 16th, will be by the world-famous Canadian Brass (\$40 for a single ticket). For a full schedule and to buy tickets online, check floridakeysconcerts.com or talk to Joyce.

Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
NATHAN AND LINDA DUBOWSKY

By Lyn & Gary Sherman

KJCC's Chanukah Dinner/Celebration

This year's Chanukah party, replete with a creative variety of *latkes*, other home-made delicious dishes, and the usual applesauce and sour cream fixings, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday evening, December 30th. It will be more sparkly and brighter than ever. Lucky us. There will be no charge to members for this *mishpocha*-based potluck, thanks to the generosity of Linda Pollack, who has sponsored this event as far back as we can remember. Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett to RSVP and co-ordinate the dish you will be bringing (hippiejap@hotmail.com). Jules Seder is back among us and may be persuaded to lead us in traditional holiday songs. And since this night will mark the eve of New Year's Eve, let's bring on the sparkling bubbly a wee bit early this year and have a champagne toast to the secular New Year. L'Chaim!

Onward to a bright, safe, and harmonious 2017.

New Chai-Lights Editor Needed

We hope you've enjoyed seeing and reading Chai-Lights these past years, its information about KJCC, Jewish history, the Jewish cultural experience and photo reports about the many events and special people of KJCC throughout both the high season and all year. Would you like to be the one managing and chronicling all that in the future? Deep experience isn't necessary, but caring and creative energy are. Please let us know if you're the one.

Meditation Garden Brick

FOR MARYON GOULD,
WHO LOVED MAH JONGG
AS WE LOVED HER.

The Mahj Girls 2016

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Beth Hayden at 305-773-0067 or email her at Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net.

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

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

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

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

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

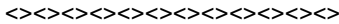
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam December 2016

In Memory Of

Alex Avner

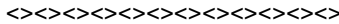
By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

Rose Beth

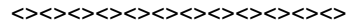
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

J.D. Stanlake

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Daniel Birnbaum

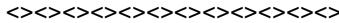
By Norbert Birnbaum



In Memory Of

Joseph M. Bloom

By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Teddy Sharenow

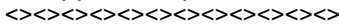
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Betty Abramson

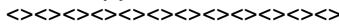
By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

Burton V. Boruszak

By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Julius Kohlenbrener

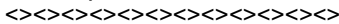
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

George Paul Tomor

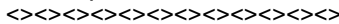
By Barbara A. Caley



In Memory Of

Leatrice Tomor

By Barbara A. Caley



In Memory Of

Harriette T. Cline

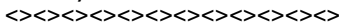
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

Eva Levine

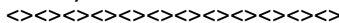
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

Morris Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

David M. Orans

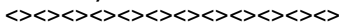
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

Sidney P. Finklestein

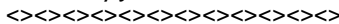
By Max Finklestein



In Memory Of

Harry Friedman

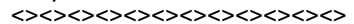
By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

Harry Wolfe

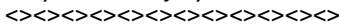
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

Stephan Ban

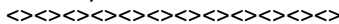
By Franklin & Judy Greenman



In Memory Of

Sylvia Sarah Grossman

By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

Fannie Zacks

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

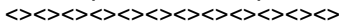


In Memoriam December 2016

In Memory Of

Dinah Levy

By Yardena Kameley



In Memory Of

Kurt Kluger

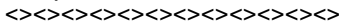
By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

Sue Reiff

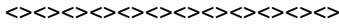
By Rick & Roberta McNew



In Memory Of

Ruth Greenwald

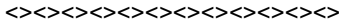
By Paul & Susan Roberts



In Memory Of

Sylvia L. Singer

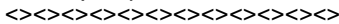
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Steve Cimkowski

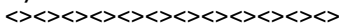
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

Rose Beth

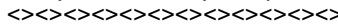
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

David M. Kaplan

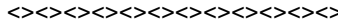
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Gary Kreitman

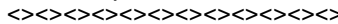
By Marcia Kreitman & John Hawver



In Memory Of

Claire Lempel

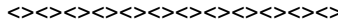
By Linda Pincus



In Memory Of

Raymond Martell

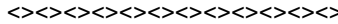
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

Murray Blinder

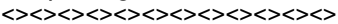
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

Bernard Swartz

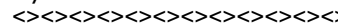
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

J.D. Stanlake

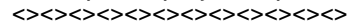
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

William Kay

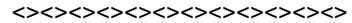
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

Charles Margolis

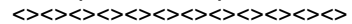
By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum



In Memory Of

Clayton Allan Rakov

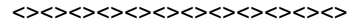
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In Memory Of

Rhonie Lee Klipper

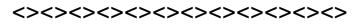
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Peter F. Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Joseph M. Bloom

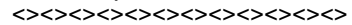
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Alex Avner

By Gloria Avner



KJCC Gift Shop

*It's the Time to Shop-
FREE Chanukah candles with a
\$20 minimum purchase!!*

Remember us for Chanukah



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

For information, contact:

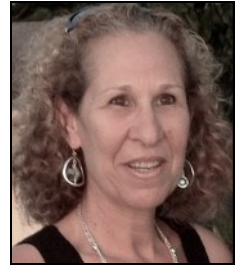
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

Sydney! Faye-Davis (305) 613-3010

GIFTS

Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



I love this time of year. We have recovered from the High Holidays, the snowbirds are returning to the Keys, and the spirit of our collective holiday season is in the air. November was fun. We gathered for our monthly Sisterhood meeting, reviewed our holiday season so far, discussed new ideas for the upcoming year, and rejoiced in a job well done by all.

We counted 12 events in October that Sisterhood was involved in, where we nourished (literally) our stomachs, as well as our souls. From a *haymish* Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner to the Yom Kippur break-fast, we provided dinners, lunches, a chocolate oneg extravaganza, two bayside havdalas, onegs in the succah and the Ruth Richardson social hall, food for a shiva and a bar mitzvah; we covered all the bases. We gathered, we connected, we fressed, and we supported each other. That is what Sisterhood is all about.

My term as Sisterhood president will be over at the end of this month. My future involvement with the Sisterhood will be as co-vice president with our current vice president, Susan Gordon. Beth Hayden will continue as our treasurer, and Oneg chairperson. Please contact Beth at Haden.Eizabeth@Comcast.net for your special *simchas* and occasions. Your participation is what keeps our weekly Onegs so special and meaningful. Geri Smith will continue as our recording secretary, and we have added the position of corresponding secretary, for which we are actively seeking a volunteer at this time. Please contact me if you are interested in this position.

I am so pleased to announce that our future Sisterhood presidents will be the dynamic team of Renee Salant and Sam Weis. They have recently joined our KJCC Sisterhood and shul and have jumped right in with their incredible energy and generous spirits. I could not feel any more confident in the future leadership of Sisterhood and I am thrilled to

be continuing to work with this incredible team of women.

We thank everyone who has supported Sisterhood with their generosity of time, energy, donations, and sponsorships. Our weekly onegs, monthly dinners, and special events like the Shabbos Project will continue because of your commitments and help.

The blessing and eating of challah is one of the mainstays of the celebration of Shabbat. Getting together and making challah for Shabbat is a huge mitzvah and a lot of fun. This year for the second time, we joined thousands of people in the worldwide "Challah Bake" as we gathered together to prepare our challah dough, braid and design our challahs, and enjoy spending time together with our 'happy hour'.

Bringing our challahs back and presenting them on the table during our Shabbos Project Shabbat dinner reminded me of "show and tell", or in this case, "show and eat!" Yummy! Our delicious meat dinner, with our challahs, was a wonderful way to relax, and regroup after a hectic month.

So now, in the beginning of December, the earth is still revolving and we are all continuing on. With December we have Chanukah. Love it! So mark your calendars for our annual "latkefest" on Friday December 30th, at 6 pm. Thanks to the generosity of Linda Pollock, there is no charge for this scrumptious potluck dinner. Please let me know if you plan on attending. RSVP to hippiejap@hotmail.com.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday and look forward to seeing you all at the Chanukah party. Bring your menorah and join your KJCC mishpocha in bringing more light and blessings into your life. ◇

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Memorial for the Homeless

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

12 p.m.

OLD SETTLER'S PARK

MM 92 OCEANSIDE

**We will be joining our friends from
around the Keys to mark this annual
observance honoring the homeless who
died in the Keys during 2016.**

All are welcome.

For information contact Gloria Avner
geetavner@gmail.com; (305) 619-0216

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

Bookplates

Swartz, George & Muriel

In Memory of

Patty Silver

Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Robert
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Samuel Tallent
Kenny Temkin
Diana Wolfe

General Fund

Begam, Delores
Beinfest, Bennett & Deborah
Ginsberg, Bernard
Mattison, Brad & Susan
Milstein, Marilyn
Shaw, Jonathan & Jill

In Honor of

Please pray for us.

In honor of Sharon Trost's
60th birthday

Stein, Richard

Meditation Garden

Diaz-Miranda, Elena

In Memory of

brick – dear friend
Carol Steinbock

Sisterhood General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Emkey, Gerri
Horn, Susan
Margolis, Gary & Laurie Blum
Margulies, Stan & Jenny
Pearl, Scott & Mary Ann
Peckman, Joyce
Savar, Sheree
Steinbock, Steve
Tainow, Terry
Tobin, Andrew
Weis, Sam & Salant, Renee

Shiva – Patty Silver

Shiva – Patty Silver

Sisterhood Onegs

Hartz, Steve & Jan
Weis, Sam

In Honor of

Jan's birthday
Renee's birthday

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan
Isenberg, Patricia
Kluger, Nancy
Steinbock, Stephen

Harold Goldstein
Helene Tulsy
Fanny Kluger, Kurt Kluger,
Neel Christensen, Eliza Christensen
Carol Steinbock

Yizkor Book 2016

Agler, Rabbi Richard and Mindy
Avner, Gloria
Benowitz, Jerrold & Roos-Mary
Berk-Moshe, Zoe
Berman, Sylvia
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Bofshever, Joel and Toby
Bolton, William and Donna
Boruszak, Joan
Brodie, Thomas & Renee
Calev, Barbara
Chasteen, Mrs. Dale
Cline, Meredith
Coltman, Barney
Conklin, Wes & Rita
Davidson, Foster
Emkey, Frank & Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur
Friedman, Jane
Goldfinger, David and Toby
Goodman, Dr. Jamie and Laura
Gordon, Susan
Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson
Grant, Andrew & Randi
Greenbaum, Marilyn
Greenman, Frank & Judy
Gross, David and Patti
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Harvey, Mitchell
Hayden, Elizabeth
Horn, Dorothy
Horn, Susan
Isenberg, Patricia
Itkin, Arthur
Kamely, Yardena
Kaminstein, Beth

(2016 Yizkor Book, cont.):

Kaplan, Marshall & Myra
Klimpl, Michael
Kreitman, Marcia
Krispel, Michael
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica
Margolis, Gary & Blum, Laurie
Marmar, David and Pamela
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Linda
Rakov, Neal and Cathy
Riley, Michele
Rose, Frank
Roy, Medina
Sachs, Joseph and Susan
Schulberg, Alan and Elaine
Schur, Lee

Shabathai, Joseph and Katherine
Shapiro, Libby
Sheinker, Miltra
Silverman, Morton & Gene
Singer, Mary Lee
Smith, Steven and Barbara
Smith, Stuart and Geri
Solas, Elaine
Starr, Adam & Judy
Steinbock, Stephen
Swartz, George & Muriel
Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Dr. Robert
Willner, Arthur Lee and Johanna
Willner, Sherrie
Wohl, Joan P
Wolfe, Larry and Dorothy

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

Yahrzeit Plaques: KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque 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



But Can I Get a Kosher Pastrami on Rye?

The United Nations will begin serving kosher food in its cafeterias. Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the U.N., made the request to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, pointing out that many U.N. employees and diplomats from around the world keep kosher. Cafeterias at the U.N. already offer vegetarian, vegan and *halal* selections. (*Halal* means "permissible" and is used to refer to anything – not just food – that is allowed under Islamic law.) Also of note, this year, for the first time, no official meetings took place on Yom Kippur at the U.N.'s New York headquarters and Jewish employees were allowed to miss work without using vacation hours. (www.jta.org, 10-31-16)

A Breakthrough in a Cure for AIDS

Israeli scientists have discovered a breakthrough drug which causes HIV-infected cells to self-destruct without harming the body's healthy cells. The drug was developed at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is currently being tested at the *Kaplan Medical Center* in Rehovot, a city just south of Tel Aviv. In testing, the drug was inserted into test tubes containing the blood of ten AIDS patients. The HIV virus count in the blood samples decreased by as much as 97 percent in just eight days. The active ingredient in the drug is a peptide that was developed by Abraham Loyter and Assaf Friedler at the Hebrew University. The peptide creates several copies of the virus's DNA to enter the infected cell, instead of just one copy, causing the cell to destroy itself. "We are destroying the cells, so there is no chance that the virus will awaken one day; because there are no cells, there will be no cells that contain the virus," Professor Loyter explained. HIV is currently treated with a cocktail of drugs that slow the progression of the disease but the virus is never entirely gone. (www.timesofisrael.com, 11-1-16)

A New, Significant Discovery

The *Israeli Antiquities Authority* (IAA) recently revealed a document written on papyrus containing the earliest known source to mention the word *Jerusalem* outside of the Bible. Two lines of ancient Hebrew script have undergone a paleographic examination of the letters and a C14 analysis was completed. The results indicate that the artifact dates from the seventh century BCE, the time of the First Temple. The word *Jerusalem* is clearly visible and most of the letters are legible. The document was stolen from one of the Judean Desert caves by a group of antiquities robbers and was recaptured in an operation by the IAA's Unit for the Prevention of Antiquities Robbery. This artifact is a rare and original shipping document indicating the payment of taxes or transfer of goods to storehouses in Jerusalem, the capital city of the kingdom of Judah at that time. The document shows that it was a shipment of wine and it came from the settlement of Na'arat. (Na'arat is referred to as representing the border between *Ephraim* and *Benjamin* in *Joshua 16:7*.) Dr. Eitan Klein, deputy director of the IAA's Unit for the Prevention of Antiquities Robbery, said: "The document represents extremely rare evidence of the existence of an organized administration in the Kingdom of *Judah*. It underscores the centrality of Jerusalem as the economic capital of the kingdom in the second half of the seventh century BCE. According to the Bible, the kings *Menashe*, *Amon*, or *Josiah* ruled in Jerusalem during this time; however, it is not possible to know for certain which of the kings of Jerusalem was the recipient of the shipment of wine." Israeli biblical scholar Shmuel Ahituv confirmed the scientific importance of the document, stating that to date no other docu-

ments written on papyrus and dating to the First Temple period have been discovered in Israel, except one from Wadi Murabba'at. (This is where some of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Jewish fighters hid out in the caves of Wadi Murabba'at during the Bar Kochba revolt, leaving behind documents that include some letters signed by Shimon Bar Kochba himself. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 10-26-16)

“A Basic Tenet of Justice”

In an unprecedented ruling, Israel's state-sanctioned rabbinical authorities have dramatically extended their reach by punishing a man for his son's actions. The rabbinical court system seized the passport of an American businessman and his wife, refusing to allow them to leave Israel, claiming that the father has helped his son live a life of luxury in the United States, refusing to grant his wife a *get* (religious divorce) and leaving her languishing in Israel. (The estranged wife suffered a stroke and became partially paralyzed shortly before requesting the divorce.) For ten years, the man has ignored his wife's request for a divorce as well as a court ruling for alimony. In Israel, the rabbinate presides over marriage and divorce for its Jewish citizens. There are no civil marriages. (Christians and Muslims marry according to their own religious customs.) A Jewish woman needs the approval of her husband to end a marriage, thus granting men enormous power in divorce. Women not granted a *get* are often forced to relinquish child custody rights or alimony payments to convince husbands to give consent, leaving thousands of women – known as *agunot* (“chained women”) – in legal limbo and unable to move on with their lives. For many years now, the rabbinical courts have been able to impose sanctions against husbands who refuse to grant a *get*. They have frozen bank accounts, but never before have they punished a husband's parent. The father in this case is a wealthy member of New York's Hasidic community who runs a real estate company. The rabbinical court argued that by providing his son with a job and stipend, the father is responsible for the

son's defiance. (His lawyers are appealing to the Supreme Court.) “One of the most basic tenets of justice is that a person carries his own sins and is not punished for the sins of others,” read a statement from the man's lawyers. “The father has no control over his son.” Under Israeli law, the court does have the jurisdiction to take the measures it has taken. The New York-based *Organization for the Resolution of Agunot*, which works to help solve Jewish divorce disputes, indicated that the husband – who has a girlfriend – splits his time between a home in Brooklyn and a luxury residence near Miami, both owned by his parents. (www.ap.org, 11-7-16)

Update

In the November issue of *Chai-Lights* we reported that Larry Sanders, elder brother of former Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, was running for the House of Commons seat vacated by former British Prime Minister David Cameron. Sanders failed to be elected to the British Parliament. He came in 4th out of 14 hopefuls. (www.haaretz.com, 10-23-16)

In Memoriam

★ Leonard Cohen, legendary poet, novelist and folk-rock singer-songwriter widely regarded as “a master of language” and one of only an elite few of music's most revered and prolific visionaries, died in early November. He was 82. Cohen's name was often mentioned as deserving of the *Nobel Prize for Literature* that was recently awarded to Bob Dylan. Born in Montreal, Cohen had a strong Jewish home life. (Even though he spent five years at a California Zen retreat where he was ordained a Buddhist monk, he claimed that he never stopped thinking of himself as a Jew.) Cohen was the grandson of two distinguished Canadian rabbinic scholars, one of whom wrote a thesaurus of the Talmud; the other was instrumental in the founding of Montreal's modern Jewish community. Cohen's songs have been performed and recorded by scores of singers. His first hit song, *Suzanne*, was made famous by folk singer Judy Collins and his most famous song, *Hallel-*

Iujah, an allusion to the Psalms and stories from the Jewish prophets, is said to have been recorded hundreds of times by a variety of artists. The song was featured in the film *Shrek*. Many saw Cohen as “the bard of gloom and doom.” His recordings have even been called “music to slit your wrists to.” (Throughout his life, Cohen did suffer from depression.) His lyrics were infused with Biblical imagery and Jewish liturgy. Many of his songs adapted well known Jewish prayers: his song *Who By Fire* is an adaptation of *Unetaneh Tokef*, the High Holy Day prayer about the *Day of Judgment* describing the various ways people will live or die, succeed or suffer over the coming year. This past September, Cohen released his last album, *You Want it Darker*, said to be his most Jewish album. In it, he talks about preparing for death using translated phrases from the *Kaddish*. (www.nytimes.com, 11-11-16)

★ Phil Chess, co-founder of groundbreaking *Blues Record Company*, died at the end of October. He was 95. Chess, born Fiszal Czyz in Czestochowa, Poland, immigrated to Chicago with his family in 1928. He and his brother Leonard started *Chess Records* in Chicago in 1950. They would go on to sign Blues and R&B artists Muddy Waters, Etta James, Bo Diddley, Howlin’ Wolf, Buddy Guy and Chuck Berry. *Chess Records* has been credited with making Chicago the epicenter of early blues rock and laying the groundwork for rock music of the late 1960s and ‘70s. The Chess brothers (Leonard died in 1969 at age 52) were inducted into the *Blues Hall of Fame* in 1995, and Phil Chess won the *Recording Academy’s Trustees Award* in 2013. (www.tabletmag.com, 10-20-16)

Did You Know....

★ Kobi Ifrach, a 20-year-old Israeli, was named Mr. Universe in the junior division, the first Israeli to win the junior title. Ifrach is from Zichron Yaakov, a town near Haifa. The competition took place at the end of October in Birmingham, England. Ifrach has won numerous titles in Israel. (www.jta.org, 11-1-16)

★ Republican Eric Greitens, a former Navy SEAL whose seven military awards include the

Bronze Star, has become the first Jewish governor of Missouri. Greitens, 42, is a former Rhodes Scholar and the founder of *The Mission Continues*, a nonprofit that helps veterans integrate back into their communities through volunteer work. (www.forward.com, 11-11-16)

★ In the 2016 *Readers’ Choice Awards* survey, readers of *Conde Nast Traveler* cast more than 100,000 votes for their favorite cities in the world outside of the United States. Readers of the luxury travel magazine voted both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv among the 40 “best cities in the world.” Jerusalem came in at number 28 and was praised for its “cutting-edge art scene” and growing number of notable restaurants. Tel Aviv, which the magazine called “one of the world’s most vibrant, diverse cities,” ranked number 17, with praise of its nightlife, beaches and museums along with the world’s largest concentration of International or Bauhaus-style buildings: more than 4,000 of them comprise Tel Aviv’s *White City*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (The buildings were constructed by German-Jewish immigrants in the 1920s and 30s.) According to *Traveler* readers, the world’s top city in 2016 was Tokyo. (www.cntraveler.com, 10-17-16)

★ Vice President Joe Biden and actor Kirk Douglas were honored by the *World Jewish Congress* (WJC) recently for their contributions to the well-being of Israel and the Jewish people. Upon receiving the WJC’s *Theodor Herzl Award*, Biden said, “We have to speak out every time anti-Semitism rears its ugly head...regardless of where it is, regardless of when. Indifference is silence and silence is consent.” He condemned both the anti-Israel *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* (BDS) movement and the recent UNESCO resolution denying the Jewish link to holy sites in Jerusalem. Legendary actor, producer, director and philanthropist Kirk Douglas received the WJC’s inaugural *Teddy Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture*. (The award is named after the late Israeli most famous as long-time mayor of Jerusalem.) Douglas’ son Michael accepted the award for his almost 100-year-old father. ◇

Photo Gallery



As you saw last month, we decorated our Sukkah on Sunday, October 16th. The following Friday, as we do each year, we celebrated Sukkot in our outdoor Sukkah after services. Everyone got a chance to shake the lulav and sniff the etrog. It's amazing how many people we can get in there.



The following evening, Saturday, October 22nd, all of KJCC was once again invited to the bayside home of Mindy and Rabbi Rich Agler for dinner (provided by Sisterhood) and Havdalah in their personal sukkah. Rabbi Agler led the service, of course, and as always taught us new things about the Biblically mandated holiday of Sukkot. Photos are on both this page and the next.





Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

Monday, September 24th offered a double celebration at KJCC. The Jewish calendar said that Shemini Atzeret, the final day of Sukkot (which includes the year's second of four formal Yizkor services), was to occur on the 24th. And that Simchat Torah, the joyous celebration of the end of the annual cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of the next, was to take place the next day, on Tuesday the 25th. We decided to give the calendar a little nudge and combine them on the same night. As you'll see on this and four succeeding pages, it turned out to be a very good idea.



New member Shirley Karger, left, and Mindy Agler lit the candles for the Yom Tov, above. Bernie led both services, center. It wasn't long before the dancing and singing began.



Simchat Torah (cont)...





All those on one side of the sanctuary were called up together to stand under the tallit and receive a blessing. It sounds a little corny, yes, but everyone there was moved by it. They did know something about us, those ancient rabbis...

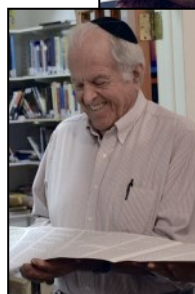
Simchat Torah, (cont.):



As he always does, Rabbi Agler helped us with the proper rituals of re-winding each Torah back to where the next reading cycle begins...B'reishit. There's a special prayer for the final reading (above) and another for the first (at right). Did you know that the very last word that appears in the Torah is Yisrael?

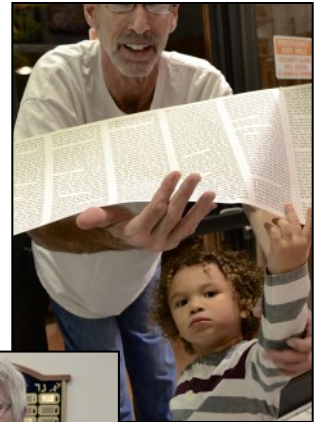


Simchat Torah (cont.):



Formalities over, it was time for the event many had come specifically to be part of...Rabbi Agler's famous seven-minute (yes, we time him) simultaneous translation of the entire Torah, B'reishit through Deuteronomy. (Unrolled, even our student Torah extends from the bemah way out into the hall.) Smiles and laughter ensued. His time? 6:41.





To leave everyone with the sweetest possible taste in their mouth, Sisterhood arranged what they called their chocolate extravaganza oneg for afterwards. There actually was liquid chocolate burbling out of a fountain, as shown above. At the end of the oneg the fountain was very empty.

Led by Sisterhood, KJCC on Thursday, November 10th joined the entire Jewish world in celebrating Shabbat through the Shabbos Project. The first step, that evening, was to fashion the ingredients of

dough to then bake at home for the next night's dinner.





It was a little messy, but with some (almost) clear instructions and a lot of help from Jane Friedman, everyone fashioned their challah dough into classically braided loaves or even other shapes, such as menorahs.



Photos from the next night's pre-Shabbat dinner, on Friday, November 11th. Most brought their freshly baked challah loaves to share.





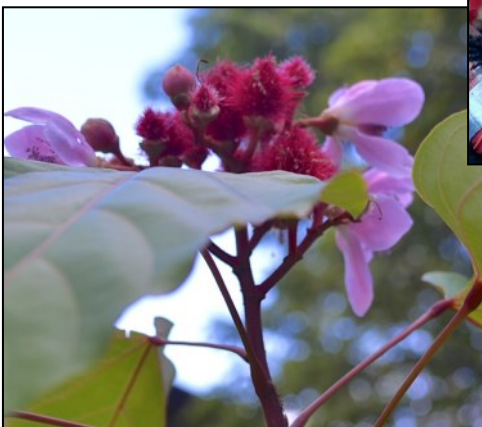
Top left, lifelong Chicagoan Lee Schur shows off her brand new "World Champion Cubs" tee shirt. Congrats, Chicago. You had a long wait (108 years.)

Top right, Joyce Peckman spent much of early November visiting son Keith and family in New Jersey. Her grandson is of a set of fraternal twins.



New members Gunther and Shirley Karger rode in the Veterans Day Parade in Homestead.

At right, Stuart Sax sent us this photo of he and Lauren hosting a visit from Sandy and Nancy Yankow. Why is it news for four KJCC members to get together? Well, the Saxes live outside Dallas, Texas and the Yankows live in New Mexico.



The photo at left is of a tree in the KJCC Garden that Medina Roy planted in honor of her mom Bianka. Perhaps not too sure of the season, the tree has burst into brilliant red bloom. (It's red, honest. Go on our web site to see, where all the photos are in color.)

Islamorada's First Pop-Up Art Show



Had you been a screenwriter just before World War II, you would have loved being assigned scripts for the multi-talented dynamo who was then the biggest star in Hollywood. You'd know that the central point of the whole flick would be the moment when the megastar, Mickey Rooney, would turn to his cohort of friends, always including Judy Garland, and say: "hey, kids...let's put on a show!"

Sam Weis and Renee Salant had lived in Seattle for many years before moving to the Keys. Sam was a fixture of



the music scene there, but she'd also studied art for years and was an accomplished painter as well. She'd seen a lot of what they called "pop-up" art shows there, an exhibit that would get pulled together in a whirlwind and then be dismantled in a week

or two. They were something new and exciting and had taken the northwest art scene by storm. (They were also helping perform the wonderful service of selling paintings.) So Sam decided to do a pop-up show in Islamorada, to coincide with one of the monthly Art Walks. She found the place, contacted fellow KJCC artists John Hawver, Marcia Kreitman, Beth Kaminstein and Gloria Avner, and a show was born. The photos on this page and the next were taken at the opening.





At top, the two-room Pop-Up Gallery fronting the Old Highway in Islamorada. Marcia, Gloria and John stand before their paintings. At bottom, the whole crew assembled together before two of Sam's paintings (l-r): John, Gloria, Sam, Marcia and Beth.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

**SISTERHOOD
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

ONEG \$60

SHABBAT DINNER \$300

**YOUR ONEG OR DINNER SPONSORSHIP WILL BE
ACKNOWLEDGED IN CHAI-LIGHTS AND KJCC
EMAILS AND ANNOUNCED FROM THE BEMA.**

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return, yahrzeit or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee, tea, soft drinks and baked goods. Sponsors may also bring any special dish(es) of choice to share.

Contact: Beth Hayden

hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net 305-773-0067

December

519 B.C.E. – Supported by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the foundations for the Second Temple are laid during the second year of the reign of Persian ruler Darius The Great. It will take four years to complete the project.

220 C.E. – Rabbi Judah Hanasi (Judah the Patriarch) dies. Born in Eretz Israel in 138 (three years after the last rebellion against Rome, the one led by Bar Kochba), Judah's greatest claim to fame is as the compiler of the Mishna, the compilation of Oral Law, which will serve as the basis for both the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds. It served, and still serves, as a code for regulation of all Jewish life. Some of his more famous sayings include: "Be as punctilious in observing a light as a weighty commandment, for you do not know their relative reward." And the favorite of all who teach: "I have learned much from teachers, more from my colleagues, but most from pupils."

321 C.E. – A letter from Emperor Constantine the Great regarding special taxes provides the first evidence of Jews living along the Rhine in central Europe.

771 – Charlemagne becomes sole Frankish king upon the death of his brother, King Carloman. Contrary to typical historical patterns, the consolidation of political power in the hands of one monarch actually helps the kingdom's Jews. Charlemagne is favorably disposed to his Jewish subjects, even to the point of defying edicts of powerful prelates.

1197 – During the Third Crusade, the wife and daughters of Rabbi Eleazar ben Judah ben Kalonymous of Worms are murdered and he is gravely wounded. A Kabbalist, Halachic scholar and religious poet, Rabbi Eleazar describes in *Sefer HaHokhmah* (The Book of

Wisdom) the loneliness he feels after the death of his family and also his teacher, Judah He-Hasid. He ultimately leaves behind a body of writing that still influences Kabbalists almost eight hundred years later.

1254 – Pope Innocent IV dies. During his papacy, Innocent denounces Blood Libels against the Jews as "unfounded." In 1247, Innocent issues a declaration on behalf of Jews stating that the Talmud is an absolute necessity for the Jews, if Judaism is to continue to exist as a separate religion; and that burnings of the Talmud are to cease. This is not a position taken by many medieval Popes.

1655 – Oliver Cromwell convenes a gathering of English notables at Whitehall to decide if the Jews should be readmitted to England. Cromwell is a strong proponent of readmission, as are most of Cromwell's military and government leaders. Opposition comes from merchants and the mainline Christian clergy. The council is stalemated, and eventually disbanded. But conferees do agree that there is no legal reason not to re-admit the Jews since they had been expelled by royal decree and not by an act of Parliament.

1787 – Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It abolishes all religious tests for public office in 1792.

1847 – Solomon Schechter is born in Rumania to a Chabad Chassidic family. His Chassidic upbringing does not satisfy him, and in 1879 he goes to study at the *Hochschule fur die Wissenschaft des Judentums* at the University of Berlin. He quickly rises to prominence as a rabbinic scholar and spokesman for Jewish traditionalism, gaining international fame as a scholar when he discovers and brings back to London more than 100,000 pages of rare manuscripts from the Cairo Geniza. In 1913 he is

instrumental in founding the United Synagogue of America, the umbrella organization of all Conservative congregations. Though a staunch traditionalist, Schechter admits that there can be change in modern Judaism. He is supposedly quoted as saying, "Gentlemen, in order to be a success in the American rabbinate, you must be able to talk baseball."

1861 – An edition of the *Louisville-Nashville Courier* gives the following details concerning the burning of a bridge at Whippoorwill on the Memphis Branch Railroad: "A detachment of fifty or sixty federal soldiers under the command of a Dutch Jew peddler named Netter fired a volley of over one hundred rounds from Sharp's revolving rifles" at the Confederates guarding the bridge. "Netter" is probably Gabriel Netter, a French-born Jew (not Dutch) living in Kentucky, who within a year would rise to the rank of Lt. Colonel before being killed in fighting near Owensboro.

1864 – A meeting is held in Philadelphia, which results in the establishment of the first Jewish theological seminary in America. The seminary is established under the joint auspices of the Hebrew Education Society and the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, and is named Maimonides College. The school begins operations in 1867. It ceases operations in 1873 due to lack of support and funds.

1875 – Father Bernhard Lichtenberg, anti-fascist German priest and outspoken defender of the Jews of Germany, is born. After *Kristallnacht*, Lichtenberg is the only prominent Church figure to raise his voice publicly and fearlessly against Nazi brutality. "We know what happened yesterday, we do not know what lies in store for us tomorrow. But we have experienced what has happened today: Outside burns the temple. This is also a place of worship." He is arrested in 1941, but continues to speak out. In 1943, Lichtenberg asks to accompany the Jews being sent to the Ghetto at Lodz, Poland. The Church refuses, but the Gestapo orders him sent to Dachau. Not yet seventy, Lichtenberg dies while await-

ing shipment to the concentration camp.

1889 – Poet Robert Browning dies. Browning's poem "Rabbi ben Ezra" is based on the life Abraham ibn Ezra, a leading figure in the Golden Age in Spain and second only in fame to Rashi as a Torah commentator. The poem begins with the famous line "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be..."

1891 – Rachel Sasoon Beer, granddaughter of David Sasoon and daughter of Sasoon David Sasoon, is named editor of *The Observer* in London, making her the first female editor of a national newspaper. During her tenure *The Observer* achieves one of its greatest exclusives: the admission by Count Esterhazy that he had forged the letters used to condemn innocent Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus to Devil's Island. The ensuing international outcry leads to the release and pardon of Dreyfus and court-martial of Esterhazy.

1917 – British troops under General Allenby fight their way into Jerusalem, defeating the Ottoman Turks and freeing the ancient Jewish homeland from hundreds of years of Ottoman rule. The whole city turns out to greet the General, as do the Chief Sephardic and Ashkenazi Rabbis. The Jaffa Gate is opened after years of disuse to enable Allenby to enter on foot, but also to enable him to enter the city without having to use a gap in the wall created for Kaiser William in 1898.

1917 – Corporal Louis Isaac Salek, a Gallipoli veteran from New Zealand, hoists and flies the first Jewish flag to fly over Jerusalem since the city's fall to the Romans almost two thousand years ago. The flag is made by an Egyptian-Jewish department store owner named Moreno Cicurel with the assistance of a tailor from Alexandria named Eliezer Slutzkin. Salek's flag design is blue and white – the top half blue, the bottom half white – with a Magen David in the center. Salek plants Moreno's flag atop the Tower of David – the Citadel – where it flies for 20 minutes before being removed by the British. ◇

A SIMAN TOV, A MAZEL TOV...

Bar Mitzvahs have always been cause for great celebration. Friends and relatives “kleib nachas.” (That’s Yiddish for taking pride – see also related concepts “ferklempf” and “qvelling.”) In this particular era, when KJCC B’nei Mitzvot are few and far between, the celebration of this rite of passage well performed is even more significant; it is evidence of our little shul’s commitment to all facets of Jewish life and symbolic of our people’s continuity into the future.

Cole Meurig Silverman’s family came to our synagogue from all parts of the globe. (Literally.) He did them proud. And he did us proud, his extended KJCC *mish-pocha*. Look at the smiling, shiny-eyed faces in the photos. Over the past few years, we have watched Cole morph from an adorable, well-spoken kid to a responsible, gracious and graceful, handsome young man with compassion for others. He has also shown the ability to put Jewish values and commitment into action. Cole’s “mitzvah” project was to raise funds for cancer research, so people like his aunts and



grandmother would not have to endure the pain, grief and loss that this illness brings with it. He learned he could set a goal and take steps to achieve it (he doubled the amount of money he set out to raise). He also learned that something difficult, like chanting Hebrew verses

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before his Bar Mitzvah and in giving his Torah talk and speeches. Few will ever forget what he quipped about the honor of chanting from our Holocaust Torah (which came to us from the same house of worship he



without error directly from the Torah, was achievable, working one small bit at a time, if you practice, practice, practice. It also helps if you have the wise counsel of Rabbi Richard Agler guiding and inspiring you as you prepare for and perform your Bar Mitzvah duties. Rabbi Agler's last words to Cole before the service began were: "Remember, this is God's service."



attends when in London with dad Peter - the Westminster Synagogue): "It seems that wherever I go, this Torah also goes."

Cole's poise and confidence was impressive, both in leading the Friday night service



We like to think he will never forget what he learned through KJCC. We look forward to Cole and his family's return next year at High Holidays, when we will ask



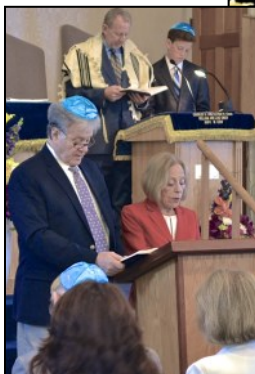
him to take two honors, one Aliyah to chant the blessings before and after the *Haftarah* reading (he did them so well!)



and another to join his fellow *b'nei mitzvot* on the *bimah* for the final blast of the *shofar*, the *Tekiah G'dolah*, signaling the end of Yom Kippur and the Days of Awe. He is already practicing on the shofar gifted to



fully at his KJCC Bar Mitzvah, but especially to mom Jane, who worked tirelessly to support Cole and create a beautiful event. We also congratulate



him by his tutor. We wish another *mazel* to the entire Silverman family, including brother Westley, who also performed beauti-





the loving Dr. Michael Berman, proud grandparents Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld, and all Cole's friends and relatives who joyously showered Cole with candy when his Bar Mitzvah work was done. May you all have more *nachas* to *kleib*.

—Gloria Avner



Our sincere appreciation to Barbara Knowles Photography for the use of their photographs in this retrospective of Cole's KJCC Bar Mitzvah.



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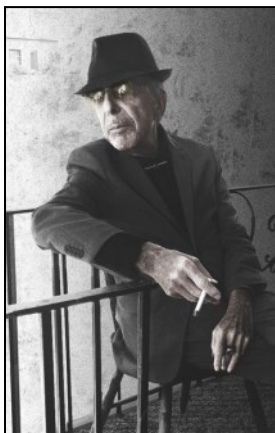
You Got Me Singin'

A loving goodbye to Leonard Cohen

by Gloria Avner

It's not often you get to sit shiva, discuss, praise, and ponder the meaning of a man's life-work, the sadness of his dying, the inspiration of his wrestling with great truths and mourn his passing while the man is still alive. As a congregation, on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, floaty and permeable from hours of fasting, we did just this, thanks to Rabbi Richard Agler.

So much can happen in fifty days – the amount of time it took the Jewish people to escape from slavery in Egypt, trek through the desert and receive the Torah at Mt. Sinai. On September 21st, Leonard Cohen celebrated his 82nd birthday by releasing a new album,



You Want it Darker. The title song was brilliant. And it was disturbing. It felt like he was saying goodbye. On October 2nd, nearly 100 of us welcomed in the New Year, with a *Rosh HaShanah* family feast and with prayer. On October 12th, *Yom Kippur*, the last of our traditional Days of Awe, 40 members of the KJCC

mishpocha, in between morning and evening services, gathered in the classroom to listen to and discuss the deep Jewish roots of Leonard Cohen's newest songs. Those songs seemed filled with pain and disappointment at the condition of the world, and yet there was, as always, great beauty in the expression of that pain. On November 10th, Leonard Cohen, one of the finest Jewish poets who ever lived, left the body. But once again, as so often, he was right: through his songs he shall live forever.

*You got me singin'
Even though the news is bad
You got me singin'
The only song I ever had . . .
You got me singin'
Even though the world is gone
You got me thinkin'
That I'd like to carry on
You got me singin'
Even though the world looks grim
You got me singin'
'The Hallelujah hymn.*

Leonard Cohen left us this prophetic song, the last on his penultimate album, *Popular Problems*, as inspiration, a prescient and precious gift. He left us many gifts, of course, the greatest of which may be that *Hallelujah* hymn he's *singin'*. How do we continue to live in a world that's looking grim, so grim it might be gone? Leonard told us. We carry on. He didn't say it would be easy. And we keep on singing.

Rabbi Agler was inspired by Leonard Cohen to create an alternate version of *Hallelujah*. It gets even more specific and helpful in its advice for living. He created it for a convention of rabbis. He shared it with us that Yom Kippur afternoon, accompanied by David Feder on guitar. What a joyous experience! We all joined in the chorus. In place of the word *Hallelujah*, we sang out "be a *bracha*, be a *bracha*." (A *Bracha*, of course, is a blessing. It is a call to action. Through kindness, and pursuing peace and justice, we can carry on in a darkened world.) I have word that Rabbi Agler will lead another discussion of Leonard Cohen's newest works next Yom Kippur...and meanwhile we must keep on singing. Leonard Cohen, thank you for everything. In your piece, "Hineni, Hineni, I am ready, Lord" your "still small voice" modeled good behavior for us. But we can't help shedding tears. We already miss you, but your memory will be for a blessing. Forever.

(If you want to hear *Hallelujah* sung in perfect Yiddish, search You Tube for Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" - in Yiddish by Daniel Kahn.) ♦

“The Grand Mosque of Paris” and “Free Men”

A Book and Movie Review

About Heroism Under Duress

by Linda Kaplan

Recent additions to the KJCC library include the children’s book “The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews during the Holocaust,” written by Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durlan DeSaiz, and the movie “Free Men,” a fictional story inspired by the events described in the book, co-written and directed by Ismael Ferroukhi.

Jewish Book World Magazine gave “The Grand Mosque of Paris” its top five-star rating and recommended it for children aged 8-11. The fascinating story will interest young adults as well as not-so-young adults. The book is remarkable not just for the narrative but also for the beautiful double-page oil paintings, which convey both hope and the danger and desperation of the Nazi occupation of Paris.

“The Grand Mosque of Paris” tells the story of how Muslims at the Paris Mosque rescued Jews during the Nazi

occupation. The Grand Mosque was built in 1926 when Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia were under French rule and many Muslims had come to Paris from those countries. It included a community center, library, steam baths, gardens, clinic, restaurant, and apartments for those who worked there. The land for the mosque was a gift from the French

government to thank the half-million Muslims who fought for France during WWI.

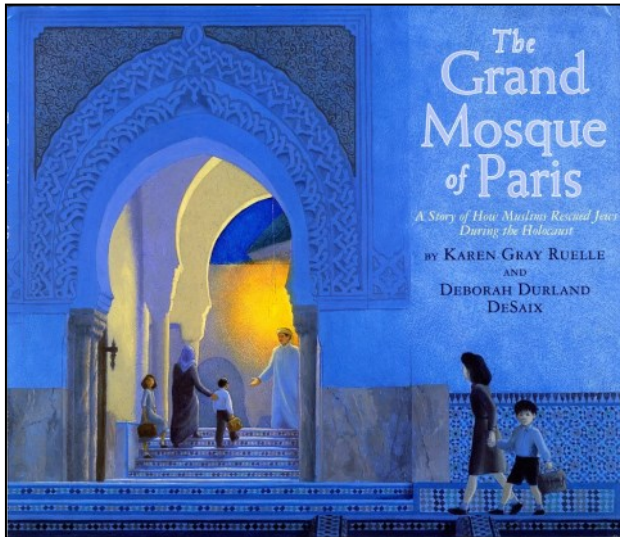
In July of 1942 almost thirteen thousand Jews were arrested in Paris. The book quotes a letter, believed to have been written during the summer of 1942, which was found in the papers of a Tunisian-owned Paris café. It was translated from Kabyle (a language from the Atlas Mountains of Algeria):

“Yesterday at dawn, the Jews of Paris were arrested. The elderly, the women and the children. In exile like ourselves, workers like ourselves. They are our brothers. Their children are like our own children. Anyone who encounters one of his children must give that child shelter and protection for as long as misfortune – or sorrow – lasts. Oh man of my country, your heart is generous.”

The book speculates whether the letter was read out in the café, or circulated among the Kabyle workers of Paris or the board-

ing houses where the men lived, but concludes that this letter seems to be a call to action, and proof of the strong bond between the North African Muslims and Jews.

The book explains that the people of North Africa, Jew and Muslim, lived as neighbors, shared similar cultures, referred to each other as brothers and looked very much alike.



The cover of the children’s book about wartime Jews being rescued, now in the KJCC Library.

This is why Salim, a gay Jewish man from Algeria, was able to safely live in the Mosque and pretend to be Muslim. Some of the people who worked and lived at the Mosque had children, which allowed them to hide North African Jewish children among their own.

Below the sub-basement of the mosque were tunnels, damp rooms (in which the Jewish adults were harbored) and hundreds of miles of dark passageways in which one could easily be lost or, if you knew the corridors, make your way to an escape on the River Seine. Jews who could not pass for North African Muslims were hidden for a few days at the Mosque, until they could escape via a barge to a central wine market on the banks of the Seine. Two of the people who escaped via the barge were Albert Assouline, a Jew, and Yassa Rahal, a Muslim, who were friends from North Africa. After they escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany they managed to get to Paris, and sheltered at the Mosque for a few days until they could be smuggled onto the barge and hidden among the wine barrels for their escape.

Ahmed Somia, a Muslim doctor from Tunisia, worked to protect Jewish children at risk of arrest by fabricating illnesses and sending them to clinics away from Paris. They provided some with false identity papers showing them to be Muslim or Christian. At the Muslim hospital where he worked, he and the other doctors hid Allied parachutists and pilots (whose planes had been shot down by the Nazis) by day, and treated them at night. Some of the patients treated had come to France as spies. After they were treated, they were transported to shelter at the Mosque.

The book includes a glossary and an extensive bibliography. It includes the message: "Save one life, and it is as if you've saved all of humanity" which is both an Islamic *Hadith* (saying of the Prophet Muhammad) and a Jewish Proverb.

The movie "Free Men," which was inspired by the story in "The Grand Mosque of Paris," premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. The film weaves fictional characters into the story alongside real characters. Algerian-born Jewish historian Benjamin Stora acted as an

adviser on "Free Men." Younes, a fictional character, is a young Muslim man from Algeria who sells cigarettes, eggs, and whatever else he can sell on the black market. He is caught by the French Immigration Police, who recruit him to spy on the Mosque. In his efforts to spy for the police, Younes meets the rector of the Mosque, Si Kaddour Benghabrit and Salim Halali (both real people.)

Si Kaddour Benghabrit was considered to be the most influential Muslim in France. Salim was a young Berber Jew from Algeria, a celebrated singer, pretending to be Muslim. After the rector mentors him, Younes begins to assist him and Salim in aiding the escape of the Jews in Paris. Younes becomes interested in Leila, a beautiful Jewish woman living as a Muslim in the Mosque.

Salim had been provided a Certificate of Conversion to show that his grandfather had converted to Islam. When the Nazis began suspecting that the Mosque was providing false Muslim birth certificates and fake conversion certificates to Jews, the rector arranged to have an unmarked tombstone in the Muslim cemetery engraved with Salim's family name. That saved his life when the Nazis picked him up.

The movie was selected as Film Movement's DVD of the month for new, award-winning independent and foreign film. They said, in part, "*Free Men.... does not tell a story we have already heard a million times, but rather brings to light a very little-known chapter of French history – a surprising and powerful story of camaraderie, tolerance and humanity between religions that is as relevant today as it was in Vichy Paris. Moreover, the film does not merely rely on its fascinating background but develops complex characters, builds suspense, pays incredible attention to detail in its set design, costumes and lighting and features stellar performances from some of the biggest names in French cinema today, including the veterans Michael Lonsdale and the young César Award winner Tahar Rahim.*"

Both the book and movie are available in the KJCC library. The film is also available on Amazon Prime. ◇

CHANUKAH ON CHANUKAH

“A light unto the nations”

by Gloria Avner

This year we will really be in the dark as Chanukah begins. When we light the first candle, at sunset on December 21st, it will mark the exact onset of Winter Solstice, shortest day of the year and the longest, darkest night. The world too seems tilted to the dark side as we approach Chanukah this year – with incivility and divisiveness raging among people of different races, religions, held values, and political beliefs all over the world.

What exactly did Isaiah envision when he channeled this assignment from G-d to our forebears and, eventually, to all of us, to be “a light unto the nations?” Ancient rabbis had their view, which we can glean from Torah and Talmudic sources. Some say that the light referred to the nation of Jews alone. Others posit that it is the prophet Isaiah himself who is supposed to be a light unto nations. In a book titled “Judaism, Human Value and the Jewish State,” author Yeshaya Leibowitz speaks passionately for that view and claims that early Zionists had political reasons for altering the intended meaning.

The Torah’s words, however, never change. We learned that, down to the last stroke of the last letter, when we hosted our scribe on Holocaust Torah Rededication Day last March. (Yes, we remember that the word Chanukah itself means “dedication.”) Meaning

and interpretation vary in the eye of the beholder, especially in Judaism, where minds are strong and we are encouraged to argue with G-d. (The precedent was set by Abraham, our earliest forebear.) There are many Jewish leaders and educators who encourage viewing all Biblical exhortations through the lens of modern day challenges, that many things have changed since the days of the First Temple.

Contemporary rabbis definitely have their own take. One particularly well-articulated view came out just before Chanukah last year, in a position paper titled “Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Seeks Chanukah’s Light at a Dark Time.” (The CCAR is the largest organization of Jewish clergy in the world, 2,000 rabbis strong.) It was a prescient article, written a whole year before developments they focused on were thrown into ever-greater relief. They were concerned about racial injustice, unchecked gun violence, the disastrous consequences to our planet if environmental commitments made in Paris at the world’s recent environmental conference were not kept. The rabbis saw violent religious extremists threatening world peace. The threat to women’s reproductive liberty, they said, had never been greater. Their statement, published exactly a year ago, had *kavanah* behind it: heart-felt intent.



The rabbis got very specific. One act they called for was an “opening of hearts and borders to rigorously vetted Syrian refugees.” Yes, their words and concerns sound (and are) political; and we are usually firm about not bringing politics into KJCC. But let’s look at this upcoming celebration and ask ourselves two questions: who actually were the Maccabees? And what was the real miracle? Perhaps it’s not about the oil at all. What if the miracle was that this tiny band of students – *yeshiva bochers*, not warriors – was victorious at all over a civilization as mighty and cultured as the realm left to his generals at the death of Alexander the Great. The “boys” took back the Temple, and however you look at it – as fact, expanded metaphor or myth – the truth is this; the light representing Jewish values was re-lit; and we, Abraham’s descendants, are

supposed to keep it burning, especially so when beset by a dark, dark time. Isn’t light’s deepest purpose that it was given us as an alternative to darkness and the void?

The CCAR Rabbinate looked back at the days in which our earliest religious leaders called for a festival to bring light into darkness, and offered this prayer:

“As we praise our Creator, Who worked wondrous miracles for our people at this season in ancient days, we pray that the Divine Source of blessing may grant light to every dark corner of our troubled world, to our people and to all people, at this and every season.”

Soon we’ll be lighting the candles of our family *chanukiahs* at a KJCC dinner, service

and party on December 30th. (*We once again thank Linda Pollack for her annual sponsorship of this event.*) The light will be dazzling. How significant that the eighth and final Chanukah candle will be lit this year on New Year’s Eve, the cusp of new beginnings! Put your candleholders in windows, in spots where they can easily be seen by the “nations.” (The way it was originally intended to be. The practice was only halted in medieval Europe and other regions when it became dangerous to advertise one’s family as Jewish.) Invite your neighbors in for latkes. Let your light shine beyond our *chanukiahs*,

beyond metaphor, with brightness permeating every act of kindness and effort toward mutual respect.

Isaiah’s words will echo in our ears along with this holiday’s traditional songs: “One for each night, they shed a sweet light to remind us of days long ago.” It is good to remember,

through our songs and the words of the prophet Isaiah, that we are intended to be God’s partners in *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world). It’s often a daunting task, but God never seems to have promised us that doing the work commanded would be easy. Nor did our ancient prophets, who were believed to be bringing God’s authentic voice and wishes to His people. We are meant to bring that sweet and piercing light forward into action, today and all year long. And one of the most accessible and joyous symbols of light we have is the brilliance of the Chanukah candles, defying gravity and this world and reaching with their light toward the heavens.

Chag Sameach and happy, healthy New Year to all. ♦



Scenes from the candle-lighting at last year’s KJCC Chanukah dinner and celebration. The joy and wonder of Maddie and Sean filled the entire room.



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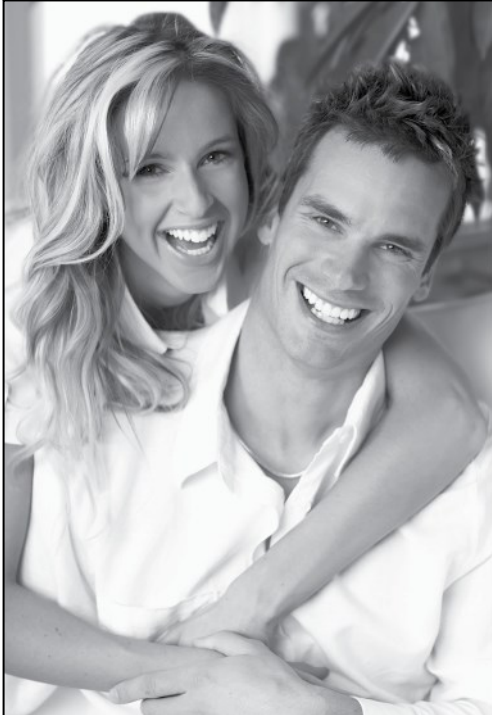


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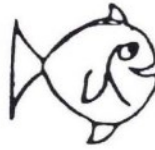
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