

Chai~Lights



March 2014

29 Adar I - 29 Adar II 5774

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2014

29 Adar I - 29 Adar II

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yardena 7 p.m. lecture	3	4	5 Men's Club Game Night 7:30	6	7 Shabbat Across America Sy Gelbard & Gloria Avner Steve & Barbara Smith Steve & Carol Steinbock	8
9 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Purim Bazaar 11	10	11	12	13 Ta'anit (Fast of) Esther	14 Richard Knowles & Yardena Kamely	15 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00 Caesar Beware!
16 Purim At KJCC 10:30 a.m.	17	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21 Men's Club David & Patti Gross	22
23 Spamalot 30 Women's Seder	24 31	25	26	27	28 Medina Roy & Jane Friedman 6:30 Service Joel & Linda Pollack Marc & Ellen Bloom	29

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



Just prior to writing my column for this month, I was sworn in along with the sitting board members for the second of the traditional two-year terms. Also sworn in were new Directors Linda Kaplan and Sy Gelbard and Dave Mont in the position of Financial Secretary.

One's mind turns at these landmark occasions to consider what has been accomplished.

In my first president's column for Chai-Lights, I said my greatest emphasis in leadership would be in two areas: 1) The education of our children; and 2) Making all our programs rewarding and fun.

With the help of all of you, we have done well. The Religious School is running smoothly and the KJCC dinners and events are full of fellowship and good cheer. I thank you for the honor of being chosen president, although the job has been harder than I thought. It is difficult enough to maintain the basic services of our synagogue, let alone advance our services and activities. Steve Hartz and I have not yet figured out how to use computer technology to multiply the effect of our Religious School teachers and get the results of a five-day-a-week school in a mere two hours on Sunday. (But we're working on it!) Richard Knowles has been working feverishly as House Committee chairman to keep our old

building serviceable.

The fun and fellowship is present, with the help of Barbara Knowles of Sisterhood and Erica Garrett, Joyce Peckman, Medina Roy and all the Sisterhood and Board members. We have had some great Shabbat dinners and luncheons. We have had inspiring, spiritual Havdalah services, great Bar Mitzvahs and Rabbi Agler's monthly Shabbat Torah services. We had a wonderful *Shabbaton* weekend with a visiting Cantor. By the time you read this, we will already have enjoyed our February 21st Sisterhood Shabbat dinner for advertisers. On March 7th we will be having another dinner to celebrate, along with thousands of other shuls, "Shabbat Across America and Canada."

I am satisfied, but not complacent. We need more income to cover our increasing services and a reserve fund for our aging building. To this end, we will be staging a concert with Dave Feder and musical friends the evening of Wednesday, April 9th. Sisterhood is sponsoring a fundraising raffle of "Dream Vacations." (See promos elsewhere in this issue.)

I want to thank all the members for their support, and may we go together "from strength to strength."

B'Shalom, Bernie

Nosh

Welcome to New Members

KJCC is delighted to be able to welcome a veritable gang of three new members this month. (Well, actually two new members and one batshuvah.) Mah jongg brought us Nelson and Roberta Chester, of Islamorada and Geneva, Illinois. We also welcome Andrew and Randi Grant of Islamorada and Cooper City, and applaud the return of Rachel Rubin of Key Largo, a long-time student of Yardena's. We happily offer all of you the richness that is KJCC and trust that you will all make your own unique contributions to that richness.

Torah Learning Services With Rabbi Agler

Plan now for your spring spiritual replenishment. New growth is everywhere. Our fruit trees are flourishing, and the Sunday School container gardens are overflowing with tomatoes and peppers. We, too, can be growing, in Torah knowledge. Here are the dates for Rabbi Agler's last Shabbat morning services of this season. If you've attended one previously and enjoyed the warm, informal, stimulating discussion, you know you won't want to miss any of them. The March service will take place on Saturday, March 15th. (What a good thing to do on the Ides of March. If only Caesar had been in shul instead of wandering around the Roman Senate.) The following month's services will be on April 12th and May 17th. All services begin at 10:00 a.m. – *Gloria*

Oneg Sponsors for March

March 7th - Steve and Barbara Smith in honor of Thomas Smith's birthday. Steve and Carol Steinbock to celebrate Steve's birthday.

March 21st - Dave and Patti Gross in honor of their anniversary.

March 28th - Linda and Joel Pollack to mark Joel's birthday. Marc and Ellen Bloom for Madison Rose's baby naming.

Scholarship Deadline is April 1

Scholarship Committee chairman David Gitin asks that we send out a final reminder: all applications for KJCC college scholarships need to be in the hands of the committee by April 1st..

Shabbat Across America and Canada

Sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP), this is a celebration that has exploded in popularity the last few years. KJCC is a registered participant in this event, where millions of Jews enjoy Shabbat dinner together. Invite any you know to experience the joy of erev Shabbat with us on March 7th. It will be a meaty night, both the food and the significance. For details, please see the ad on page 7.

Tree of Life Leaves

In Honor Of
Bernard Solas
September 1931 - July 2013
by
Elaine Solas

In Honor of
My Grandson
Ethan J. Rose
Born January 4, 2014
F. Rose

In Honor of
Lila Line
Love,
John and Arlene

March Birthdays

1st.....	Melvin L. Jacobson
1st.....	Sasha Dutton
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
11th.....	Bryan Schur
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Ira Stein
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Randi Grant
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Marsha Harris
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Andrew Grant
17th.....	Daniel E. Friedman
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	James Nobil Jr.
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
24th.....	Doug Graham
25th.....	Joe Gould
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
26th.....	Anna Verity Greenbaum
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
28th.....	Roger Vorcheimer
29th.....	Joel Pollack
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Jane S. Friedman
31st.....	Sari Elizabeth Goldstein

March Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....55
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....18
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs.....49
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey.....6
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....17
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever.....46

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Henry Rubin
 by
Carol Laskin & Foster Davidson

Yahrzeit Plaque BELOVED PARENTS HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Manya Gelbard

Feb. 29, 2012

Moritz Gelbard

June 13, 2010

Love,
Sy, Ruth, Sandy

A Memorial Service for Jim Nobil

Dear Family and Friends,

We will hold a memorial service for our dear Jim on Sunday, March 9th, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, 333 SW 4th Avenue. Please mark this date on your calendars. All are welcome. If you wish to speak about Jim during the service, please let me know.

Love,
 Lynn and the family

You're invited to the Baby Naming for Madison Rose on March 28th

Parents Rachael and Chris plus grandparents Marc and Ellen Bloom cordially invite KJCC to attend the mitzvah of Madison Rose receiving her Jewish name, Maayan Shoshana, on March 28th, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. A celebratory oneg will follow services.



BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Bernard Solas
September 1931 - July 2013
by
Elaine Solas

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Clayton Rakov
Father of Neal Rakov
by
Muriel and George Swartz

The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
John and Arlene Line
on the death of John's mother
Lila Line

Get Ready For the Big Dave Feder Concert

Dave Feder and musical friends will be live in concert at KJCC on April 9th. Please make your plans now, as this will be open to the public. For more info, please see the ad on page 26.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

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

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the 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 Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

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

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

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

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

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

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

**SHABBAT ACROSS
AMERICA**



FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH ~ FLEISHIG

**(CHICKEN, BEEF, OR LAMB; ANY VEGETABLE DISH THAT HAS NO
MILK, CHEESE OR ANY DAIRY PRODUCT IN IT.)**

8:00 PM

SERVICES

**ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014, JEWS ALL ACROSS
THE U.S. AND CANADA WILL COME TOGETHER TO
CELEBRATE SHABBAT. JOIN US!**

Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503,
iweddu@bellsouth.net, to reserve your spot
and coordinate your covered dish.



DONATION: MEMBERS \$18

NONMEMBERS \$25

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE

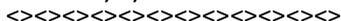


In Memoriam March 2014

In Memory Of

Harvey Roazen

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Robert Kohlenbrener

By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Maurice Field

By Carol Field



In Memory Of

Selma Greenspan

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

David Harvey

By Mitchell Harvey



In Memory Of

Leo Grossman

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Luba Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Robert Berman

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Louis Abraham Weinstein

By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

Harry Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Lillian Melnick

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Harry Phillips

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Rachamim Levy

By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

Marian Rose Klimpl

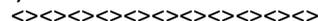
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Dorothy Stanlake

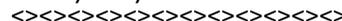
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Hilda Dorf

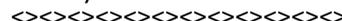
By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

Maxine Kaplan

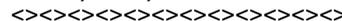
By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Arlene R. Brenner

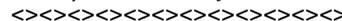
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Eleanor Sonn

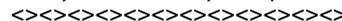
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Monroe (Monty) Kaplan

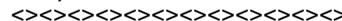
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Samual Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



GET OUTTA TOWN

A fundraiser for the Keys Jewish Community Center

Tickets \$100 each

Only 100 tickets will be sold.

Where else can you fly to an exciting weekend destination for \$100?

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

New York Long Weekend

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

Sonoma, CA VIP Wine Experience

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

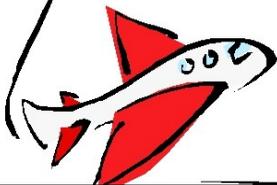
New Orleans Jazz & Dining Package

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

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

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

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



Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



I hope everyone who attended the Annual Meeting felt the warmth and heartfelt thanks from KJCC President Bernie Ginsberg for all everyone does to make our little shul such a big success. The food afterwards was plentiful and was presented beautifully by one of our former Sisterhood presidents, Nettie Seder. Kudos and thanks to Nettie and Carla (our friend who works so hard in the kitchen), my husband Richard, who ran around to different stores, and all those who helped from start to finish with this brunch.

I want to encourage everyone who hasn't bought a ticket for the "Get Outta Town" Sisterhood fundraising raffle to do so. It will be Sisterhood's major fundraiser of the year. All tickets are \$100.00, and we're only selling 100 tickets. So everyone will have a great chance to win and choose between three spectacular trips:

1) A New York Weekend, which will include three nights at the Hilton New York, dinner at one of three top restaurants and a Broadway experience for two.

2) A Sonoma, California VIP Wine Experience, which includes lodging at the Fairmont Sonoma Inn & Spa with limousine service to a privately hosted tour of the Jacuzzi Family Winery.

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

All packages are for two and include air travel and lodging. Travel times and itineraries are flexible. The winner will be drawn April 15, 2014 at KJCC's Second Seder. You don't need to be present to win. Tickets will be available at KJCC before and after Friday services or by contacting me directly, at iweddu@bellsouth.net.

Here are the major events planned for the rest of the season: on Friday, March 7th, KJCC

will be hosting a "Shabbat Across America" dinner at 6:30 p.m. This is a coordinated international event, for Jews all across the U.S. and Canada to come together to celebrate Shabbat. Please join us. Contact me at iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your place and coordinate the dish you'll be contributing. It's to be a *fleishig* dinner. Donation is \$18.00 for members (no charge for children 12 and under) and \$25.00 for all non-members.

On Sunday, March 9, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. we will have our Passover/Purim Bazaar, once again featuring The Chosen Gift Shop, who will bring in lots of Passover and Purim items. This should be an exciting day of shopping.

On Sunday March 16, at 10:30 a.m., the KJCC Sunday School students and teachers will present a Purim play, we will all read The *Megillah*, and then Sisterhood will provide a Potluck Brunch. Tzedakah donations will be accepted.

We have a group of tickets for the Sunday, March 23 performance at Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables of Monty Python's "Spamalot." The show starts at 3 p.m.; tickets are \$45.00. For information, tickets and carpooling, contact Susan Ellner, (914) 907-3993.

On Wednesday, April 9, from 8–10 p.m., KJCC's own, internationally renowned Dave Feder and musical friends will perform live at KJCC, to formally dedicate the new sound system (that Dave recommended). Donation is \$25.00 per person, and tickets will be sold to the general public. Please contact me to reserve your seats.

The final major event of the season will be KJCC's Annual Family Passover Second Seder and Dinner, again to be held at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Please see the ad on page 26 for all the details.

Together, let's make March "A Great Month"!!

Contributions to KJCC

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

<i>Bookplates</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Schur, Lee	Lee's birthday
Benovitz, Dr. Burton	Madge Klein Benovitz		
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	Henry Rubin	<i>Tree of Life</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Swartz, George & Muriel	Clayton Rakov	Rose, Frank	Ethan Rose
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>Tree of Life</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Nelson, Darling J.		Line, Jon & Arlene	Lila Line
Rapp, Marilyn	Russ Wayne Rolnick		
Rose, Frank	Ethan Rose	<i>Yahrzeits</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Stein, Richard		Coltman, Barney	Eve Greenstein
		Emkey, Gerri	Bob Kinney
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Friedman, Ingrid	Max & Flora Rosenthal
Hartz, Steve & Jan	Marianne Cimkowski	Isenberg, Patricia	Fannie Phillips
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Lila Line	Krissel, Michael	Joseph Krissel
		Marmar, David & Pamela	Samuel Marmar
<i>Meditation Garden</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Nathan Gulkis, Bea Gulkis,
Peckman, Joyce	Marianne Cimkowski		Joan Kaminsky
		Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy	Morris Feinberg,
<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>		Samuel Wolfe
Bofshever, Joel & Toby	Joyce Peckman	Zwerdling, Sherry	Jerry Oshinsky
Ellner, Susan			
Greenberg, Mike & Bonnie		<i>Yahrzeit Plaques</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Harris, Steve & Marsha		Gelbard, Sy	Moniek & Manya Gelbard
Knowles, Richard & Barbara			
Peckman, Joyce			

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

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers."

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

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

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Judaism - Religion, Nationality, or Culture?

In the Jewish calendar, when the month of Adar comes it is time to celebrate Purim. The story of Mordechai and Esther is told in the Book of Esther, *Megillat Ester*, which is included in the TaNaKh, the Hebrew Bible. The story takes place in ancient Persia (5th century B.C.E.). We celebrate Purim with feasting and rejoicing, because it is a happy event we are commemorating, the saving of all the Jews in Persia and their territories from being killed.

Why was the Book of Esther included in the Hebrew Bible, but the Book of the Maccabees was not? Why do we commemorate the destruction of the Temple (*Tisha B'Av*), but do not celebrate the construction of the Second Temple? The construction was the work of Ezra and Nehemiah, after the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem from the Babylonian Exile. Cyrus the Great (576 BC-530 BC), founder of the Persian Empire, conquered Babylonia about two generations after Babylonia had conquered and decimated Judea. Cyrus and his successors encouraged the Jews to return to Israel and restore their culture. (King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon had conquered Judea in 586 B.C.E. and destroyed the First Temple. In 539 B.C.E. Judea became part of the Persian Empire.)

Historians and Jewish scholars say that Cyrus' Edict of Restoration actually influenced the forming of the Jewish religion. The combined Biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell of the successive missions to Jerusalem of Ezra and Nehemiah - one an able administrator, the other a learned priest and scribe - and their efforts to restore the worship of the God of Israel and re-establish a purified Jew-

ish community. The Persian Emperor's decree was that those who return to their homeland (not just Jews, but all conquered people) must live under ancestral law. Which caused the returnees to ask: what IS our ancestral law? They didn't know, or did not remember. It was Ezra (the priest) who took religious leadership and looked for the Torah, the Five Books of Moses, remembering that the Torah told of laws and traditions to be carried out by the Jewish people.

Ezra and Nehemiah decided to introduce the Pentateuch. The news was spread that on the Jewish New Year's Day (Rosh Hashanah), the Five Books of Moses, written by Moses, would be read aloud to all the people. On that eventful day Jews from all over the empire came to Jerusalem. Because people had already begun to forget Hebrew, interpreters were there to explain in Aramaic all difficult passages. Aramaic, a language spoken by the Middle Eastern melting pot of Semitic peoples, had become the everyday language of the Jews. The idea of having interpreters proved popular and became a permanent institution in Jewish life. Because it was decreed that no part of the Bible could remain unclear, a school known as *Midrash* (meaning "exposition") developed. These expositors of the Bible became highly respected members of every Jewish community, and later founded the *yeshivas*. So that the people would not forget the Law of Moses, Ezra and Nehemiah also decreed that the Pentateuch had to be read in every synagogue throughout each year on the Sabbath day and twice during the week.

Ezra's mission, according to the Book of

Nehemiah (Chapter 8) was to apply "the Law of Moses" in Jerusalem, which he does by reading a "book of the Law of Moses" (a "scroll" in Hebrew) in a marathon public session. The question is, what was this law-book? Some scholars have suggested it was some form of Deuteronomy; others have proposed that it was the "Priestly Writing," which probably dates from the Persian period; a third suggestion, and most popular, is that it was a form of the Torah, as it was clearly associated with Moses and contained both elements from Deuteronomy and Priestly Writings. There is also a fourth view, that Ezra's law-book is lost to us and cannot be recovered. If true, this last would be the saddest, because a vital link to our past would be lost.

Eight hundred years after the death of Moses, the Jewishness of the Jew had been established as a result of reforms, the doctrines of the Prophets, and the innovations of Ezra and Nehemiah. Judaism was being formed during the time of Ezra; all law in today's Judaism goes back to this period of return from exile, where the question was: what laws are we Jews going to observe? Which holidays, traditions, commemorations, fasts and celebrations will we observe and practice?

In her book "How Judaism Became a Religion," Leora Batnitzky writes that there were times when a Jew's life was totally defined by Jewish law, which was religious, political, and cultural in nature. Modernity, she explains, adds modern questions of definitions of Jewishness. "Is Judaism a religion? Is Jewishness a matter of culture? Are the Jews a nation?" In former times, prior to modernity, the question of how to define Jewishness never arose, because Jews lived in a wholly Jewish world. In a Jewish community all members were Jews, they lived by Jewish law, prayed according to Jewish ritual, and had political autonomy. Each community enjoyed this wholeness, and together they formed an even larger whole, "*klal Yisrael*", 'the collective people of Israel,' they saw themselves as one united people.

For Batnitzky, modernity is the age of fracture; beginning with the French Revolution,

wholeness and unity began to come apart. It is fascinating to read in her book about the different communities, how they confronted these modern questions about Judaism and searched for ways to express and practice Jewishness. She writes about the German Jewish philosophy and Reform Judaism; the experience of Eastern European Jews with Hasidism on the one hand, and Yiddish literature and secular culture on the other; about Zionism in its various forms, religious, cultural, and political Zionism (a national liberation movement), as an attempt to adjust Judaism to modernity. ♦

Ezra the Scribe



Ezra, who led the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel after the Babylonian exile (423 - 353 BCE), oversaw the building of the Second Temple, canonized the 24 books of the Hebrew Bible and, as head of the "Great Assembly," the *Sanhedrin*, legislated a series of laws and practices (including formalized prayer) which left a strong imprint on Judaism to this very day, passed away on the 9th of Tevet of the Jewish year 3448 (313 BCE), 1,000 years after the "Giving of the Torah" on Mount Sinai. The passing of Ezra marked the end of the "Era of Prophecy."

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



One Word, Six Million Times

“And Every Single One Was Someone,” a book by Phil Chernofsky, does not have much of a plot. Instead, the 1,250-page book consists of a single word: *Jew*, written in small type and printed six million times (4,800 times on each page.) According to the author, the book, which weighs 7.3 pounds, is meant to be a “conversation-starter and thought-provoker.” “That’s how the Nazis viewed their victims,” Chernofsky said. “These are not individuals, these are not people, these are just a mass we have to exterminate.” The idea for the book is not entirely original. Over ten years ago, eighth grade students in Whitwell, a rural town in Tennessee, collected six million paper clips meant to show the anonymity of the victims and the scale of the destruction. Their project was chronicled in the 2004 documentary, “Paper Clips.” (By the way..... Rose Marie Gordon, daughter of KJCC Vice President Susan Gordon, is now teaching at Whitwell Middle School). Some Holocaust educators consider the book to be a gimmick; the book’s supporters do not deny its gimmickry, but feel it makes a powerful statement. The idea began in the late 1970s when Chernofsky taught at the Yeshiva of Central Queens in New York City. One year, he was in charge of the school’s bulletin board for Holocaust Remembrance Day. He gave his students blank papers and had them write the word *Jew* as many times as possible in 30 minutes. When the time had elapsed they counted 40,000 words – “nothing,” noted Chernofsky. For twenty years, Chernofsky has been the editor of *Torah Tidbits*, a weekly booklet produced by the Orthodox Union (OU) containing a variety of commentaries and explanations of the Torah portion. (Not surprisingly, he always lists the number of sentences in the week’s Torah portion.) (www.nytimes.com, 1-25-14)

A Tribute to Other Victims

A monument to victims persecuted by the Nazis because of their sexual orientation was dedicated in Tel Aviv in early January, the first of its kind in Israel. The memorial is located in *Gan Meir* near the municipal community center established in 2008 for the gay community. Eran Lev, an activist in the gay community and a former city councilman said, “It’s important to me that people understand that persecution of gay people was not the usual story of the Holocaust... This is a different story... but still an important one.” The Gestapo had a special unit dedicated to homosexuals, keeping secret files on about 10,000 individuals. The exact number of gay victims of Nazi persecution is not known, but it is believed that 15,000 were sent to concentration camps and more than half were murdered. Medical experiments were carried out at Buchenwald attempting to “cure” homosexuality. (*The Forward*, 1-14-14)

Jewish History for Tour Guides

The municipal tourist office in Toledo, Spain, is in the process of providing its fifty city tour guides with advanced classes in Jewish history. Toledo’s local Sephardic Museum will teach the course. Prior to the Spanish Inquisition of the late 1400s, which oversaw mass expulsions of Jews, Toledo boasted five Talmudic schools and ten synagogues. In the past few years, tourism officials have been trying to attract Jewish tourists by promoting the nation’s Jewish history. In addition to Toledo, some two dozen Spanish cities are participating in an effort to preserve and promote Jewish cultural history. (*World Jewry Digest*, January/February 2014)

Shimon Peres Sets a New World Record

In early February, Israeli President Shimon Peres delivered the largest-ever online civics class in the world. The lecture originated from Cisco Israel headquarters in the city of Netanya and was viewed by 9,000 Israeli high school students in 215 classrooms across Israel, setting a new world record. The President's lesson lasted 35 minutes and covered the role of citizenship, public service, democracy and the importance of contributing to society. Marco Frigatti, senior vice president of *Guinness World Records*, told the Israeli president that he now is the holder of *two* world records: at the age of 91, Peres is also the oldest formal head of state in the world. Peres, speaking to Jewish, Arab, Bedouin and Christian students, encouraged them to take their studies seriously. "Don't stop learning, don't stop dreaming," he said. (www.guinnessworldrecords.com, February 2014)

"Lost Jews" to Make Aliyah

The Israeli government is arranging the relocation of 899 *Bnei Menashe* from India to Israel by the end of 2014. The *Bnei Menashe* claim descent from one of the ten lost tribes of ancient Israel, who were sent into exile by the Assyrian Empire more than 2700 years ago. The Knesset recently agreed, by unanimous vote, that these "Lost Jews," will have the right of return. Some 300 of the *Bnei Menashe* already arrived in Israel in 2013. Their relocation was assisted by *Shavei Israel*, an organization devoted to helping assimilate Jews newly arriving to Israel. (*World Jewry Digest*, January/February 2014)

A New Program for French Jews

The Israeli government has launched a program hoping French Jews will immigrate to Israel. The initiative, "France First," makes this the first time in Israel's history that the Jewish state is making a direct, concerted effort to bring Jews to Israel from a western nation. The program includes a significant increase in public relations campaigns targeting Jews in France and the incorporation of specific procedures that will expedite their

absorption into Israeli society. The government is also expected to provide housing and employment opportunities, hoping that the new arrivals will stay permanently. "France First" was prompted by the recent wave of French Jews leaving for the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and other countries due to the deteriorating economic situation in France and a noticeable spike in anti-Semitism.

Recently, a massive anti-Semitic rally was held in Paris, "the likes of which haven't been seen in Europe since the 1930s," according to a report by the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*. About twenty thousand people screaming anti-Semitic slogans attended the rally. (www.algemeiner.com, 1-31-14)

For Book Lovers

The National Jewish Book Council has announced the winners of the 2013 National Jewish Book Awards. Now in its 63rd year, the award is given in 17 categories, among them fiction, history, poetry and scholarship. Here is a sampling of the awards:

- "Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation," by Yossi Klein Halevi.
- "FDR and the Jews," by Richard Breitman and Allan J. Lichtman.
- "My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel," by Ari Shavit.
- "Between Friends," by Amos Oz.

The prizes will be awarded March 5th. For a complete list of winners, go to www.jewishbookcouncil.org/2013-national-jewish-book-award-winners. (*The Forward* 1-15-14)

Six Jews Win Nobel Science Prizes

Of the twelve individuals awarded Nobel Prizes in 2013, six were Jews - including two Holocaust survivors. François Englert, a Belgian Jewish scientist, won for physics. He shares the prize with Peter Higgs (of the Higgs Boson particle). They are credited with "the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles." Arie Warshel, Michael Levitt and Martin Karplus won the prize for chemistry. The three-man team was recognized for their

findings in the development of “multi-scale models of complex chemical systems.” The Nobel Prize in medicine went to another three-man team, two Americans, James Rothman and Randy Schekman and German-born researcher Thomas Suedhof. They won for their discoveries of “machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in our cells.” Englert and Karplus are the two Holocaust survivors.

(*World Jewry Digest, January/February 2014 and www.nobelprize.org, 2-4-14*)

In Memoriam

- Mike Flanagan, a former British soldier who deserted and smuggled two Cromwell tanks to the *Haganah* in 1948, supplying Israeli troops with their first armored vehicles, died recently at the age of 85. Flanagan will be honored by the IDF for his contribution to the nascent Jewish state’s efforts during the War of Independence. Flanagan fought in the British army during World War II and participated in the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945. After the war, he was stationed in British Mandate Palestine as a technician in the armed forces. In June of 1948, Flanagan, along with his friend and tank commander Harry McDonald, broke into a military base near the Haifa airport, stole two tanks and drove them to Tel Aviv where *Haganah* operatives were waiting. The two men joined the Israeli troops fighting in the *Mahal* volunteer unit during the War of Independence. During his service, Flanagan met fellow soldier Ruth Levy, converted to Judaism and the two married. Flanagan lived in Israel with his wife until her death, later relocating to Canada. Flanagan was buried in the Sha’ar HaAmakim cemetery in northern Israel alongside his wife and son.

(*www.timesofisrael.com, 2-2-14*)

- Sam Berns, a Jewish teen from Foxborough, Massachusetts and subject of the HBO documentary film “Life According to Sam,” died in January after a lifelong battle with progeria, a rare genetic disorder. He was 17. Progeria causes rapid aging and children diagnosed with the disease typically don’t live past the age of 14. Rabbi Harold Kushner,

author of the book “When Bad Things Happen to Good People,” lost his son Aaron to the same disease. Coping with his grief is what prompted him to write the bestseller. The documentary film was on the short list for an Oscar nomination and was voted Best Documentary at the 2013 Boston Jewish Film Festival. Sam’s parents, both physicians, established the Progeria Research Foundation in 1999 after their son was diagnosed with the disorder. The research team has been able to isolate the gene that causes the condition and has developed a drug treatment prolonging the lives of children with the disorder.

(*www.jta.org, 1-12-14*)

Did You Know...

- In December, billionaire Warren Buffett donated \$10 million to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The gift was announced by Israeli businessman Eitan Wertheimer during a dinner to celebrate the hospital’s 75th anniversary. Wertheimer and Buffett have been friends since Buffett purchased 80 percent of *Iscar*, a Wertheimer family company, in 2006. This past May, Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway purchased the remaining 20 percent of the company. Wertheimer is former chairman of the board of Rambam Hospital’s Medical School and Research Institute. (*www.globes.co.il, 12-27-13*)

- Former CNN host Larry King (for many years a radio DJ and talk-show host in Miami) and Israel’s Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa have agreed to work together to promote Israeli high-tech. They are establishing the Israel Silicon Valley Chambers of Commerce for the purpose of strengthening ties between Israel and Silicon Valley and to help start-ups. King is financing the project with a \$600,000 investment through a holding company. (*www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-28-14*)

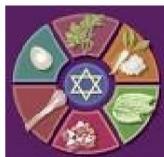
- Gal Gadot, Israeli-born model, IDF veteran, actress and former Miss Israel, has been cast to play super-hero “Wonder Woman” in the upcoming film *Batman vs. Superman*, a sequel to *Man of Steel*. Gadot, 28, has acted in the *Fast & Furious* films and on the television show *Entourage*. (*www.tabletmag.com, 12-4-13*) ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center
PASSOVER/PURIM BAZAAR!



Join us for a very special day of shopping,
friends, food, raffles
& refreshments!

SUNDAY, March 9, 2014
11:00am to 2:00 pm
at the KJCC
MM 93.5



You may have shopped at The Chosen in Miami over the years.

The owners are bringing their on-line store merchandise
to the KJCC. Check them out online -

THE CHOSEN GIFT

<http://www.thechosengift.net>

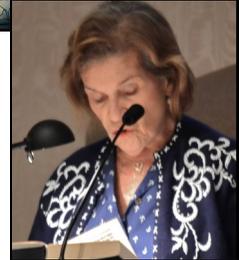
We are hosting an exclusive one-day sale at the KJCC
in order to bring you many beautiful
Passover and Purim items
and exciting gifts from
THE CHOSEN GIFT

(A portion of all proceeds will benefit the KJCC Sisterhood.)

We will also have a Raffle for Holiday Merchandise!

(All raffle proceeds go to the KJCC sisterhood)

Photo Gallery



On January 24, Sisterhood, as a group, led Friday night services. A full sixteen participated, with Erica Lieberman Garrett at the "rabbi's" lectern and calling each in turn to the bema.



They ended with a challenge for Men's Club to follow their lead. *En garde.*

PURIM

**The whole Megillah--
The real Megillah--
The KJCC Megillah--
Sunday, March 16, 2014**

**- Wear a costume -
Bring a dish!**

**10:30 Megillah reading
Primarily in English, round robin style.**

**Our Sunday School students and
assorted brave grown-ups will be
presenting a play for our enjoyment.**

11:30 Brunch - Potluck

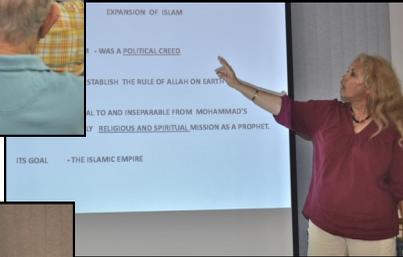
**Contact Nettie Seder, (305) 852-7283,
ngseder@yahoo.com, to coordinate your dish.**

Tzedakah donations will be accepted.



The top three photos were taken during Yardena's 2014 lecture series on the three Abrahamic religions and Jewish life in the Islamic empire, which began in late 7th century C.E. and at one point encompassed almost all of the middle east and northern

Africa and also stretched into some of eastern Europe and, of course, most of Spain.



It took us a while to get the photo (yes, that's a Christmas tree in the background), but since so many of our members are involved with the Coast Guard Auxiliary (including Prez Bernie), we thought you'd enjoy seeing Lee Schur and David Gross at this year's Changing of the Watch ceremony. The photo below was taken at the February 6th edition of this year's Upper Keys Concert Series. Many of the volunteers and management are KJCC members.



Two-thirds of the Texas contingent of KJCC, Lauren Sax and Joan Boruszak, during the January snowstorm that beset much of the south, including the Dallas area. Shayna, Stuart and Lauren's cockapoo, had never seen snow before but loved it.



Keys Jewish Community Center

11th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday

March 30, 2014

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 11th
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai
+ \$11.00 for 11 years =
\$29.00

Join us in celebration as we
continue our efforts of
Tikkun Olam - repair the
world.

Limited seating - Please RSVP by
March 16th.

Contact -

Erica (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com



Another Full Weekend at KJCC

by Gloria Avner

Here we are, just six weeks into the New Year, and another rich, full weekend of activity has filled our synagogue with learning, laughter, meaningful ritual, and inspiration. It began on Friday night, February 7th with the return of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and his ten Hillel college students from Tampa (his Scubi Jews club). They came prepared to participate in our prayers and activities while performing their major *mitzvah* work, *Tikkun Ha-Yam*. (The term is a little riff on *Tikkun Olam* that Rabbi Ed invented, which means Repairing the Sea).

Joyce led her usual thoughtfully prepared service and made room for Rabbi Ed to present us with a special *d'var Torah*, particularly interesting because he posited that the special skins used in construction of the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle, the sacred enclosure that held the first Torah and that was carried by the wandering Israelites for all forty of their years in the desert, may in actuality have come from...dolphins. (He quoted a Midrash that teaches that the dolphins had helped escort the Israelites through the perils of the Reed Sea as they fled the Egyptians. When God returned the water to normal as the Egyptians entered in pursuit, the dolphins had been hurled by the turmoil onto land, where they died. To honor their service and spirituality, the Midrash says that their skins were made part of the first



Holy Ark.)

After the service, with its blessings, came the blessing of two Oneg birthdays, Erica Leiberman-Garrett's and Linda Pincus's.

(These girls

know how to pose.) Their joy shines through. And the cake was appreciated.

All day Saturday, Rabbi Ed's students went diving, working in the

KJCC member Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, spending the weekend at KJCC with his Suncoast Hillel Scubi Jews diving club (his appellation, by the way) to do reef repair work, joined in the service by providing a fascinating take on an otherwise-hard-to-enliven Torah portion. He then led Kiddush and HaMotzi. (No shofar blowing, though, at which he is the unchallenged master.)

coral nurseries to help heal our Upper Keys coral reef. Our KJCC David Kamely Classroom served happily as the students' campground, sleeping bags and backpacks strewn everywhere. That evening, the homey aroma of students cooking matzoh balls in the kitchen greeted us as the rest of us gathered for another ritual experience, *Havdalah*, the short, sweet service that celebrates the ending of the Sabbath and return to the secular world. We gathered outside in the beautiful gazebo built for us by Alan and Candy, overlooking our wonderful Meditation Garden. Rabbi Ed gave another stimulating talk, this time about why Adam, who named the animals, did not get to name the fish. (The short version: because land was mankind's domain; the sea belonged solely to God.) We blessed the wine, inhaled the aroma of the spices, looked at our hands by light of the braided wick candle, and doused the flame in wine. For a moment the scent of the Garden of Eden lingered in the air. Then our voices joined in *Eliahu HaNavi*, just in case this might be the night for *Moshiach* to arrive as we learned more interesting tidbits from Rabbi Ed. (We may have no rabbi at KJCC, but we have two rabbis as members, and both



Rabbi Ed and Rabbi Rich Agler deepen us whenever they're here.)

Did the activity and learning stop with the end of Shabbat? No! Sunday morning brought a board meeting, school children rehearsing a play for Purim, the annual meeting of the KJCC membership, plus election and installa-

tion of our 2014 Board of Directors. (Congratulate our newest Board Members next time you see Linda Kaplan and Sy Gelbard). Carol Steinbock did a wonderful job as always swearing in our leaders, committing them to

Six of Rabbi Ed's Hillel students join Prez Bernie for the HaMotzi after services. At left, the Oneg was a celebration of the birthdays of Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Linda Pincus. There was no shortage of cake.

hard, thoughtful work for the good of our congregation. We sealed the deal with a lox and bagel brunch prepared by Sisterhood under the leadership of Barbara Knowles and Erica Lieberman-Garrett.

When everyone was satisfied, and the kitchen and social hall were clean and ready for the next event, chairs were set up in the schoolroom for

Yardena Kamely's latest in her series of lectures about the three Abrahamic traditions. Of course that was after the adult class in beginning Hebrew taught by Yardena.

Our youthful contingent of Hillel friends from Tampa had left the kitchen and schoolroom spotless. We are eager for their next visit. They have become a valued, adopted part of our KJCC *Mishpocha*. Learning on every level for every age group had gone on all weekend at our "little" unaffiliated island *shul*.



The weekend's final event was Havdalah, led by Rabbi Ed outside in KJCC's beautiful Garden gazebo. Olivia, one of the students, held the entwined candle aloft just before it was doused in the plate of wine.

Traditional fulfilling and aesthetically pleasing rituals had been performed. We'd worshipped under the stars and in every part of our building. (The little to-



mato and pepper seedlings, by the way, planted by our students on Tu BiShvat, with Steve Steinbock's generous help, are growing so fast they are starting to look like characters in the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk.)

It was a very good, very blessed, weekend. The photos tell the tale. We are grateful. ◇



Above, Bernie and Gloria stand with both of KJCC's wonderful rabbi members, Ed Rosenthal and Rich Agler. At left, Bernie and Rabbi Ed mug with the assembled group of Hillel Scubi Jews. The students camped out in KJCC's classroom, but left it a cleaner place than when they arrived.



**Concert Presented by
The Keys Jewish
Community Center**

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: KJCC, MM 93.5 Oceanside

For tickets and information contact

Sam at

(305) 852-8741

@sev165bellsouth.net

Apres Theater Refreshments



Artwork by Gloria Avner

**General Admission \$25
Special Sponsorships Available
w/Preferred Seating**

Four Hundred Miles to Freedom

A movie, plus a description of one man's painful journey.

by Lee Schur

On Wednesday, January 29th, four of us – KJCC president Bernie Ginsberg, Holocaust Committee Chair Yardena Kamely, Susan Ellner, and I – traveled to Miami's Koubek Center to see a documentary film titled "400 Miles to Freedom." It's a film about the brutal kidnapping of co-director Avishai Mekonen, who was then ten years old. He and his Beta Israel family had escaped violence and dictatorship in Ethiopia and were living in a Sudanese refugee camp, from where he was violently taken and, along with other children, drugged by child traffickers to help erase their sense of memory or priorities. He was rescued several weeks later by an Ethiopian now thought to have been working for Israel's Mossad. He was reunited with his family, and, through Operation Moses, resettled to Israel along with others in the camp.

The Beta Israel had lived as Jews in the northern part of today's Ethiopia for 2,500 years. Though it certainly touches on his kidnapping, the documentary really focuses on the culture shock, and difficulties in assimila-

tion, of a cloistered group of black Jews confronting the complex mixture that is modern Israel.

Mekonen, who was there (see photo), talked about his decision to break his 20-year silence, and how his kidnapping and subsequent experiences in Israel have affected his life. We watched, in the film, his struggles to clarify his identity, his Jewishness, and his Israeli citizenship. One particularly riveting moment was when he interviewed Israel's Chief Ashkenazi rabbi.

In addition to Mekonen – and his wife, co-director Sheri Rothfarb Mekonen, with whom he now lives in New York with their two children – all in attendance met and had a chance to talk with Chaim Shacham, Israel's Consul General to Florida, Cuba and Puerto Rico, and Deputy Consul Revital Malca.

After leaving, we four of KJCC reconvened at Versailles on Calle Ocho, the self-proclaimed "best Cuban restaurant," to continue to discuss the film and its issues over delicious empanadas and café leches. ♦



From left, Susan Ellner, Bernie Ginsberg, Yardena Kamely and Lee Schur pose with co-directors Avishai Mekonen and his wife, Sheri Rothfarb Mekonen.

KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Tuesday, April 15, 2014

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact:

Barbara Knowles 305-772-0503, iweddu@bellsouth.net

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,
Tavernier, FL 33070.

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

PASSOVER

Donations:

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

Non-Members: \$75

Travel Around the World. Meet Fascinating People. Debate the Great Ideas of Jewish History.

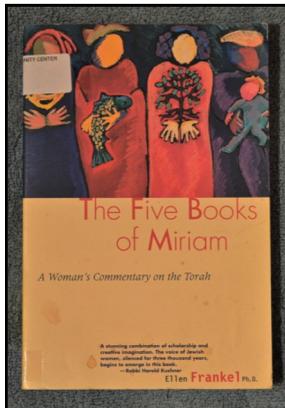
All without ever having to leave KJCC or your easy chair

by Medina Roy

You've won a free trip around the world! Ancient Israel, Prague, a visit with a Pope, contemporary Jerusalem, the Catskills...

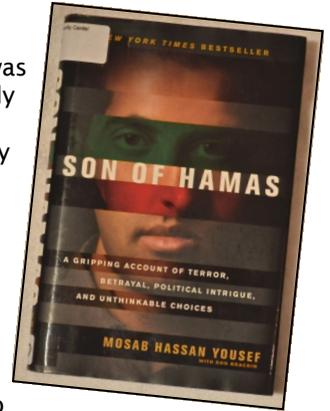
OK.....so now that we've got your attention, it's time to take another look at the KJCC library. Here's an annotated list of some of the titles that have been added over the past several months:

• ***The Five Books of Miriam*, by Ellen Frankel.** By weaving together Jewish folklore, Yiddish fables, *Midrash* and her own imagination, Frankel explores what the Torah means to women. All aspects of a Jewish woman's life: her connection to G-d plus her place in the Jewish community and in the world are presented here. The book adds a rich discussion to the ongoing conversation between Jewish women and Jewish tradition. Donated by Gloria Avner, this book is located in the Judaica Studies section (JUD).



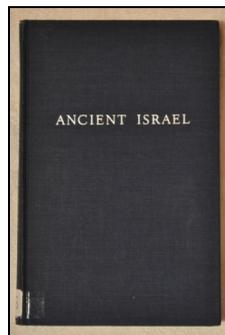
• ***The Jews in the Greek Age*, by Elias J. Bickerman,** is written by one of the greatest authorities on the ancient world. It is a vivid account of the Jewish people from the conquest of Palestine by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.E. to the revolt of the Maccabees. The book traces Jewish social, economic and intellectual life and explores the relation between the Jewish community and the Hellenistic rulers and colonizers of Palestine. This title was donated by Bernie Ginsberg and is located in the History section (HIS).

• ***Son of Hamas*, by Mosab Hassan Yousef.** The author is the oldest son of Sheikh Hassan Yousef, a founding member of Hamas, and has had an inside view of the notorious terrorist group. Assisting his father for years, he was groomed to eventually take power but, instead, he turned away from terror and violence. Mosab reveals information about Hamas and his painful separation from family and homeland, his move to Christianity and belief in the mandate to "love your enemies" as the only solution to Middle East peace. Location: Biography (BIO)

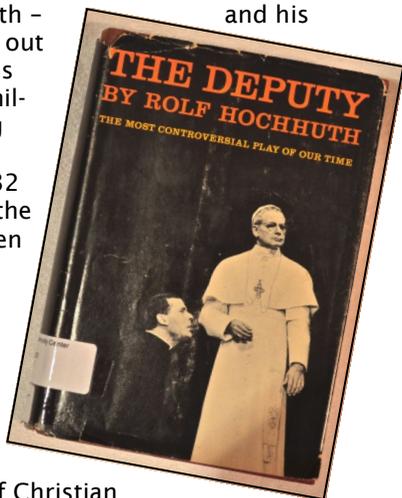


• ***Bete'avon! A Collection of Recipes*, by Hillel Community Day School P.T.A.** This cookbook contains recipes for traditional Jewish dishes of many countries combined with the diversity of distinctly American foods. All recipes are kosher. Location: Cookbooks (COO)

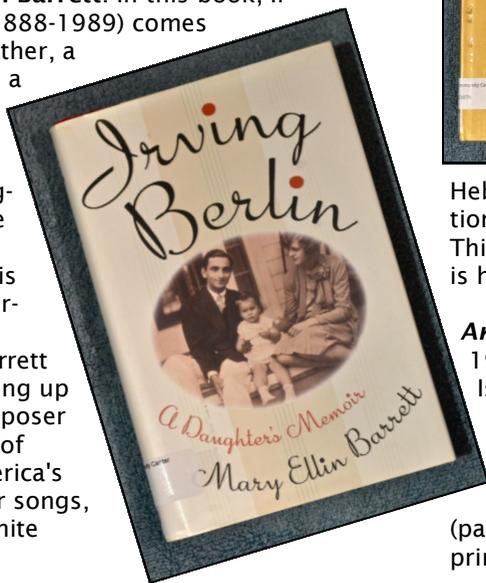
• ***Ancient Israel*, by Harry M. Orlinsky,** is a concisely organized account of the society that produced the Torah. Orlinsky traces the highs and the lows of the Israelites between the years 2000 and 300 B.C.E. The author shows the reader how Jewish religious concepts developed in the context of actual historical situations. This book was donated by Stan Margulies and is housed in the History section (HIS).



• ***The Deputy*, by Rolf Hochhuth**, translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. When this book was first published in 1963, it met with a lot of controversy. The subject matter is Pope Pius XII – the “deputy” of Christ on earth – failure to speak out against the mass murder of six million Jews during World War II. Hochhuth was 32 when he wrote the book (it is written as a play) using actual events that were still fresh in the memories of the audience. The book was said to “touch the raw nerve of Christian conscience,” focusing on the role that supposed moral leaders must play in times of humanitarian crises. Donated by Elaine Solas, this play is located in the Literature section (LIT).

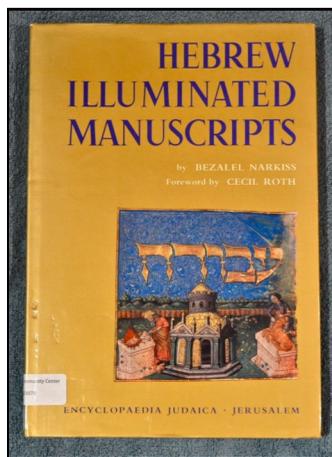


• ***Irving Berlin: A Daughter's Memoir*, by Mary Ellin Barrett**. In this book, Irving Berlin (1888-1989) comes to life as a father, a husband and a friend - as well as one of the most beloved song-writers of the 20th century. The memoir is written by Berlin's oldest daughter. Barrett tells of growing up with the composer (and lyricist) of some of America's most popular songs, including "White Christmas,"



"God Bless America," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "Easter Parade." Barrett details her parents' well-publicized romance and marriage, which scandalized her mother's family. She describes life in a household with a Catholic mother from one of the country's wealthiest families and a Jewish father whose parents were penniless Russian immigrants. She describes a storybook childhood, homes in Los Angeles, the Catskills and New York City and daily contact with the rich and the famous. But there was also a dark side: the death of the Berlins' infant son, "dry spells" when Berlin could not write, and periods of depression for both him and his wife, culminating in his later years as a virtual recluse. Location: Biography (BIO).

• ***Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts*, by Bezalel Narkiss**. This magnificent, oversized



volume by Bezalel Narkiss (1926-2008) contains 60 Hebrew illuminated manuscripts in full color. Each manuscript is introduced and described by Narkiss, an Israeli art historian and an expert in illuminated Medieval Latin and

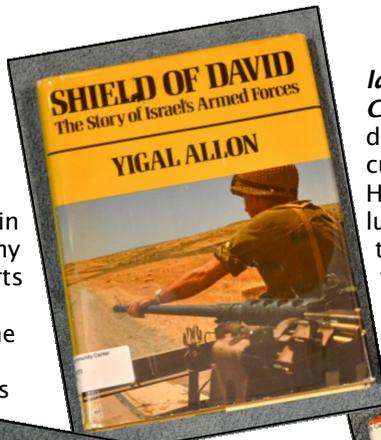
Hebrew manuscripts. Narkiss was the illustrations consultant to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. This book was donated by Stan Margulies and is housed in the Art section (ART).

• ***Shield of David: The Story of Israel's Armed Forces*, by Yigal Allon**. Allon (1918-1980) – born Yigal Paicovitch in pre-state Israel – was an Israeli soldier and politician. He was one of the first commanders of the *Palmach*, an elite branch of the *Haganah*. Allon entered politics in 1955, when he was elected to the Israeli *Knesset* (parliament) and served briefly as acting prime minister in 1969. The book chronicles

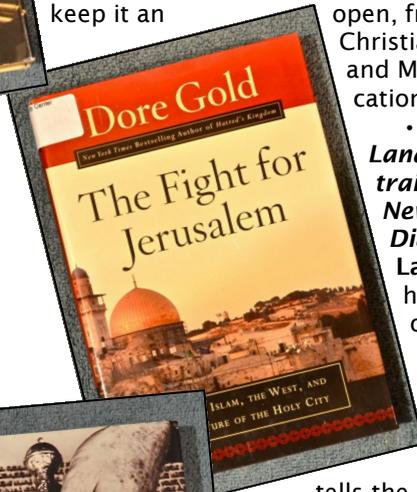
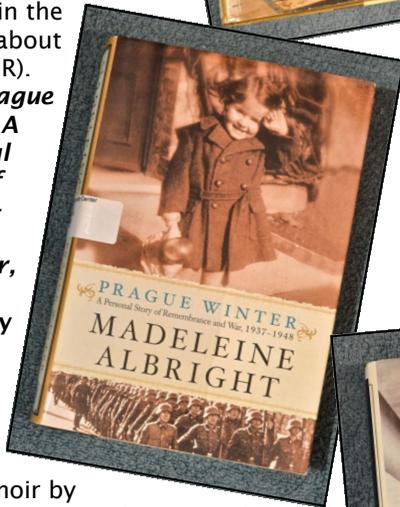
how a small country like Israel, with less than three million Jews (and surrounded by nearly fifty million Arabs), managed to create, in twenty years, an army which military experts even today agree is one of the best in the world. Donated by Yardena Kamely, this book is in the section about Israel (ISR).

• **Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1938**, by Madeleine Albright.

This is a memoir by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright of her formative years in Czechoslovakia. She discusses the tumult of Nazi occupation, World War II, fascism, and the onset of the Cold War. Albright was 59 when she learned from a reporter and other sources that her ancestral heritage was Jewish and that more than two dozen of her relatives had died in the Holocaust. This revelation shook her deeply ingrained sense of identity, and prompted her to seek answers to questions that she had never before thought to ask. That search began with visits to the small towns in Czechoslovakia where her parents had grown up and to the ancient synagogue where the names of Holocaust victims are enshrined. Location: Biography (BIO)



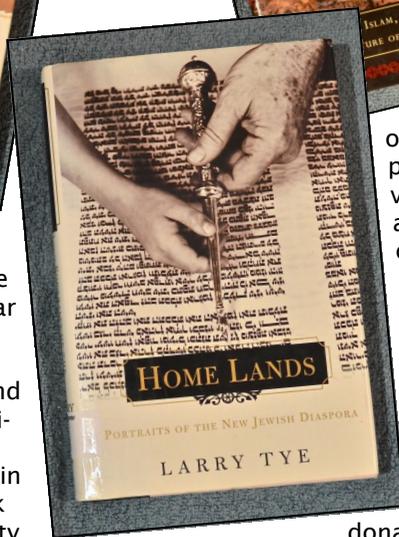
• **The Fight for Jerusalem: Radical Islam, the West, and the Future of the Holy City**, by Dore Gold. Former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Dore Gold discusses the 3,000-year history of Jerusalem. He covers the role of the Holy City in the evolution of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and the modern-day diplomatic battle for its custody. Gold's perspective is that only Israel can preserve Jerusalem's holy places and keep it an



open, free city for Christians, Jews and Muslims. Location: Israel (ISR)

• **Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora**, by Larry Tye. In his travels overseas as a reporter for *The Boston Globe*, Larry Tye

tells the story here of a renewed Jewish diaspora. Tye picked seven diverse Jewish communities around the world. In each one he zeroes in on a single family or congregation whose tale reflects the wider community's history and current situation. What he discovered is what these different communities have in common – Jewish customs and rituals. This book was



donated by Yardena Kamely and is located in the section labeled Jewish World (JW).

• **It is no Dream: The Life of Theodor Herzl**. This DVD was produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The documentary film explores the life and times of the man considered the father of the modern State of Is-

rael. Narrated by Academy Award winner Ben Kingsley, the film examines how Herzl, a journalist, playwright and assimilated Budapest-born Jew, organized and led a worldwide political movement to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This DVD was donated by Stuart and Lauren Sax. It is housed in the Audio-Visual section (AV).

There are several other categories, not reflected in the titles described above, such as children's books (JUV), books for young adults (YA), the Holocaust (HOL), Festivals (FES), *Halacha* (Jewish Law) (LAW), Philosophy (PHI), Spirituality (SPI) and Kabbalah (KAB), to name a few.

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when you're done. It's that simple. And just remember.....you don't have to worry about late fee charges.

So come and check it out. Bet you'll find something that interests you. And by the way, as you can see from some of the books mentioned here, donations are always welcome.

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Standing Up at Sea

A Closer Look at the AmIDA

by Gloria Avner

Picture this. David and I are sitting in the cruise ship *Eurodam's* nearly empty late lunch dining room. Out every window is an endless sunlit expanse of water. Sharing old stories, David mentions his rabbi grandfather. Suddenly two shyly smiling women appear at our table.

"Excuse us, but a friend on board needs to say *Kaddish* for his father. Do you think you could join us at 5:30 in the little piano bar on deck two? If we get a *minyan*, we will have an *erev Shabbat* service." They had overheard the word "rabbi." We say yes. It feels *bashert*.

So we get to this tiniest of venues ahead of time and see a table to the left spread with challah, wine, and a platter full of *gefilteh* fish, across from a large piano with barstools that takes up half the room. People keep pouring in. It is difficult to close the door so we can begin. There are thirty-six of us, and this is the first time in the thirteen-year history of this cruise that permission has been granted and a *minyan* achieved. Even more unexpected, we have a rabbi officiating (the husband of Janis Siegel, lead singer of Manhattan Transfer) and a cantor (father of a young Miami drummer we met and liked on our first day, first concert). I am grateful and thrilled to be celebrating Shabbat in the middle of an ocean on a jazz cruise. Everyone knows the songs, belts out the prayers, almost all of them the same melodies we use in our own little *shul*. I can't help thinking/picturing (ok, I am a little *ferklemp*) that we, my Keys home congregation and my ship

board community, are observing together, linked despite distance by our voices and intent.

Finally, we are asked to rise. It is time for the silent prayer, the *Amidah*. (Please put the accent on the *last* syllable so we pronounce

correctly the Hebrew word for "standing," the position in which we pray.) Each week our KJCC service leader refers to this series of silent prayers (also referred to as *Sh'moneh Esrei*, the "eighteen" blessings, especially by Bernie, our preserver of all things Ashkenazi) as the "core" of the service. Do we know why these prayers are so revered and important? The story of how the *Amidah* prayer came into being

as essential Jewish worship is a good one, a journey worth exploring.

We begin over 2,500 years ago with the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 586 B.C.E. Our leaders of the time, the Men of the Great Assembly, an ancient group of prophets and scholars, guided us through the exile in Babylonia and Persia and the return to Israel. Without a central place to call our own, many of the *mitzvahs* (the last syllable is stressed here as well) prescribed by the Torah – like the three pilgrimages to the Temple to offer animal and seasonal produce sacrifices – could no longer be fulfilled. With the days of Diaspora waiting in the wings, our wise men knew we needed a new form of observance – something crucial, significant, personal yet shareable that could be performed wherever Jews gathered, both to teach and maintain the Jewish way of life. They codified the most important of prayers, including



Kaddish-man thanks David for joining the impromptu shipboard minyan.

stage directions and choreography. “The words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart” became the new sacrifice acceptable to G-d: sincere prayer.

At first the prayers were not rigidly structured. Sincerity of personal prayer was the order of the day (and is still an option), but, bit by bit, a structure evolved, a teaching tool as well as an organized credo of Jewish religion and values.

The prayers of *Amidah* (often called *HaTefillah*, or The Prayer, with a capital T) are organized into three sections, and model for us how one should pray for anything. From praise to petition to thanksgiving, the sections include everything one could possibly pray about, personally and communally, including the prayer for rain which is said continually from *Shemini Atzeret* to Pesach, the one season of rain in the dry holy land.

First we acknowledge the goodness and generosity of our creator. Then we ask for what is lacking. Finally, we express our gratitude. There are enough life lessons here to give us all the guidance we need. After all, *Tefillah* is one of the three pillars on which Judaism stands, along with *Torah* and deeds of loving kindness. And why did (and do) we need this guidance? We have been dispersed for millennia, scattered by the wind like far-flung seeds. How would Jews in Babylonia – and later in Persia, Russia, France, Spain, Malaysia, China, Iraq, Poland, Morocco, Yemen and India – retain and keep track of their heritage without a core of prayer that contained behavior guidelines and ritual practices?

Here are some answers, too, if you have ever wondered about the bowing and the steps backwards and forward. The first section, called the *Avot* (and *Imahot*), acknowledges our ancestors (fathers and mothers). We praise God for “remembering their good actions, and by implication, ask God to hear our prayer favorably” because of our predecessors’ merit. The blessing begins and ends with a “formal bow at the knees and hips,

symbolically demonstrating our subservience to God.” The choreography comes in again at the beginning and end of the prayers. One takes three steps back and three steps forward when beginning the *Amidah*, showing respect when approaching God, as one would approach and take leave of a mortal king. When ending the *Amidah*, the three steps back and forward are taken again, respectfully departing before returning from the divine to the world of the mundane. (Cantor Neil Schwartz from Canada taught me that the bowing to left and right was to acknowledge rows of angels, who also listen to petitions.)

The Men of the Great Assembly knew that fluency of language would be lost.

The languages of many nations would be spoken, so Ezra (who along with Nehemiah led the return of Jews from Babylon to Judea) and his court couched the prayers in simple language and created an order that would be repeated several times each day and remembered. When the people returned to build the Second Temple, they brought the *Amidah* and its prayers with them. It made Jewish prayer possible in every community by every

individual, no matter where he or she was.

And where were we – thirty-six individuals, David and I and the rest of the shipboard minyan, crammed into a weeny piano bar, in the middle of a large ocean, standing on no nameable nation’s shores? Whatever our location, we were a *mishpocha* in the moment, a community sharing language, culture and values, asking for our needs to be fulfilled, personal and communal, especially for peace, and saying respectful thank-you’s. Linked vertically through time and historically through space, we Jews are a united tribe, and a lot of the credit goes to those who created the *Amidah*.

A *D’var Torah* followed, not directly about the week’s *parshah* but a meditation on freedom and its lack, on the high seas. What must it have been like to have escaped from Germany, be enthusiastic about the possibilities of new life in Cuba or America, and then to be refused entry and turned back toward Europe?

*The Amidah
is one of the
three pillars
on which
Judaism
stands.*

Did the voyagers on the S.S. St. Louis in 1939 have a Shabbat Service, too? How fervent were their *Amidah* prayers, and what must their bitter disappointment have been, knowing they would ultimately be sent to their deaths, refused safe harbor in the name of politics?

Not all petition works, but we end with gratitude because gratitude is still of value.

We sang this evening on the jazz cruise. We prayed, and remembered the lost. A very grateful man got to say *Kaddish* for his fa-

ther. A heartfelt *L'chaim*, a little *challah*, handshakes all around, and off we went, to dinner and our next concert, uplifted, knowing that our tribe is everywhere, standing up regularly for principles, beliefs, and to say the *Amidah*. ♦

Note: to delve deeper, and in more detail, into the Amidah and its Kabbalistic aspects, there are several good articles, one at myjewishlearning.com, the other at morashasyllabus.com.

Keys Jewish Community Center



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Time: 3:00 pm

**Place:
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One Jazzy Artist

Those of you who know David Gitin know he used to hang out in Greenwich Village during the 50s and 60s, earning a life-long love of jazz. (He did a radio show in California for years.) So he and Gloria go on this jazz cruise in January.



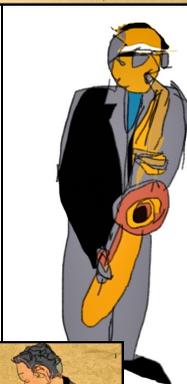
Smulyan; male singer is Kurt Elling; on flugel-horn is Randy Brecker; the guitar man is John Pizzarelli, son of famed Bucky.



All art on this page created by Gloria Avner.



Gloria takes her iPad, and starts to doodle during the performances. What resulted was so fabulous we thought they should be shared. The standing bass player is based on David Finck; bongo player is Sanchez; piano top is legendary Hyman; pianist dreads is Geraldton; trumpeter is Sandoval; on big tone sax is little



Poncho guy at Dick with Clay-Arturo bari-Gary



"Shechinah" Among and Within Us

by Gloria Avner

Yes, we know that Pesach isn't until April, and that Purim comes first. But this year's Women's Seder is March 30th, and Gloria's giving you a little thought-food here to prepare for its mystical side. Some tidbits about Purim follow on the next page.

Women's Seder time approaches, and my thoughts turn both to creativity – our play with clay – and divinity. Perhaps they are the same, the feminine aspect of divinity and the feminine spirit's place in Judaism.

A month ago, a Friday evening's parsha spoke about the great care and amount of precious materials used by the homeless Jews to build the *Mishkan*, or Tabernacle, in the desert, creating an awe-inspiring place for *Shechinah* to dwell. How striking that the word for tabernacle (*Mishkan*) and the word for *Shechinah*, share the same root letters.

When we were herdsmen and farmers, living close to the land, *Shechinah* had always been seen as the source of all things in nature. In traditional Jewish writings, *Shechinah* is defined as the "female aspect of God" or the "presence" of the infinite God in the world. She shares in the exile of the Jewish people. Construction of the *Mishkan* was made necessary by exile. We needed a place to house "creator spirit" while we wandered in the desert. *Shechinah* wandered with us. She is introduced in the early rabbinical commentaries as the "immanence" or "indwelling" of the living God, whose role as the animating life force of the earth is to balance the transcendent deity. She does not appear by name in the five books of Moses, the Torah. Still, scholars of the Old Testament refer to her while interpreting the text. When Moses meets the burning bush, he is told to remove

his shoes and prepare himself to receive the *Shechinah*. According to the rabbis, the choice of the simple thorn bush as the vehicle for the revelation emphasizes the *Shechinah's* presence; nothing in nature can exist without her.

Talmudists emphasize her association with humanity. They see her as suffering when human beings erred: "Acts of bloodshed, incest, perversion of justice and falsification of measures cause her to depart." They tell us: "Whoever is humble will ultimately cause the *Shechinah* to dwell upon Earth. Whoever is haughty brings about the defilement of the Earth and the departure of the *Shechinah*." In their view, actions harmful to other human beings or the Earth cause the *Shechinah* to flee, and she rises upward to the Seven Heavens. On the other side of the scale are the positive actions of humanity, which attract her presence downward to the earth.

Shechinah also comes to earth when people need her comforting presence. She hovers, rabbis tell us, at the bed of all who are ill, and is seen by the dying as they exit the world into the great light. According to tradition, the *Shechinah* comes to the good and true at death, giving them the opportunity to go straight up the center of the heavenly ladder in a moment of pure consciousness, into the merger with the Divine.

We don't know if the *Shechinah* spoke to our matriarchs or other women. Women did not write. But women did sing. And women drummed and danced. Not least among them was Miriam, as she led the ecstatic call and response at the shore of the just-parted sea, "*Shirat HaYam*."

The Talmud reports that the *Shechinah* is what caused prophets to prophesy and King David to compose his psalms. Creativity and inspiration. Appreciation and joy.

I am writing these final paragraphs on Valentine's Day, hardly a Jewish holiday. I

mention it only because the *Shechinah* is intimately connected with expressions of human love, particularly romantic and marital bliss. It is she who blesses a happy couple; the glow of lovers is considered to be the reflection of her presence. Making love on Shabbat is said to be a *mitzvah*, blessed by *Shechinah*. Once again we come back to creativity and to joy, the joy associated with a *mitzvah*.

Early Jewish mystics emphasized the splendor of the *Shechinah*, often envisioning her as God's glory. In their conception, she is the jewel or precious stone represented by the Torah, as the crowned bride of God we welcome on Shabbat. She is the luminous presence of the Divine, the great light who shines on all creatures.

I believe she is also the light within us, made manifest by our creativity and joy in observing *mitzvot*. As we at KJCC get our hands "dirty" while creating clay teacups, or hammer boards for a garden pergola, or plant flowering bushes alongside our meditation garden, it occurs to me that we, as a congregation, male and female, young and old, are creating our own *Mishkan*, a place of joy and creativity where *Shechinah* will feel welcome and treasured. ◇

Purim: Teachings and Arcana

You all know the basics, the cast of characters, and the rituals. If nothing else, Purim is the ultimate "they tried to kill us...we survived...let's eat!" story. But as with everything else in Judaism, scrupulous study of the text by our rabbis has yielded a rich literature, many layers of understanding, and some difference of opinion. We dug into the commentary to give you a representative sample:

Eulogies and fasting are prohibited on Purim, and in a leap year they are prohibited in the first month of Adar as well. A mourner likewise does not mourn publicly on Purim. He does not sit on the ground nor remove his shoes, but observes the private aspects of mourning, as is the case on Shabbat.

The most preferred manner of fulfilling the *mitzvah* is to read the *Megillah* publicly, and in the synagogue. Even if one could form a *minyán* elsewhere, he should go to the synagogue, since, "in a multitude there is majesty," and that way the miracle is made known more widely.

The Purim Feast is especially significant in that it elevates the soul as it provides pleasure to the body. The Zohar states that on Purim one may accomplish through bodily pleasure what he can accomplish on Yom Kippur through bodily affliction.

A person cannot free himself, through his gifts to the poor on Purim, from the general obligation of *tzedakah* (charity) that the Torah places upon him. Even a poor person is obligated to fulfill this *mitzvah* at least once a year, aside from what he gives to the poor on Purim.

The four mitzvot for celebrating Purim:

1. We hear the story of Esther as recounted in the Bible;
2. We have a festive meal with more wine than usual;
3. We deliver two different kinds of food to friends and neighbors;
4. We give gifts to the poor.

In the *Mishnah* there was a difference of opinion as to how much of the *Megillah* one must read in order to discharge one's duty. According to Rabbi Judah, a portion sufficed; Rabbi Meir demanded the reading of the entire scroll, and his view was accepted in the Talmud.

As early as the fifth century, and especially in the Gaonic period (9th and 10th centuries), it was a custom to burn Haman in effigy on Purim. In Italy the Jewish children would arrange themselves in rows and pelt one another with nuts; while the adults rode through the streets with fir-branches in their hands, shouted, or blew trumpets around a doll representing Haman, which was finally burned at the stake, with due solemnity. ◇

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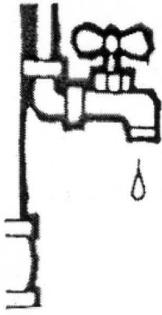
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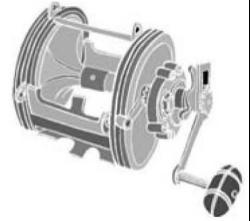
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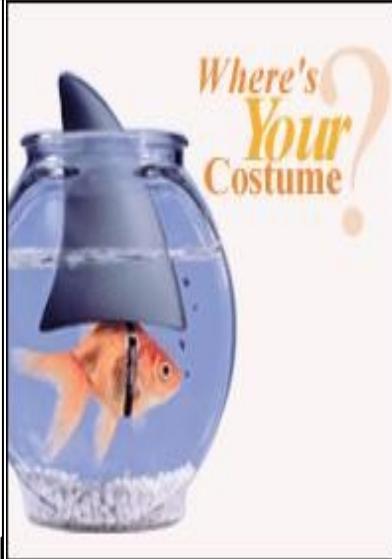
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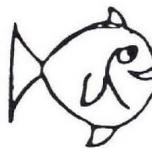
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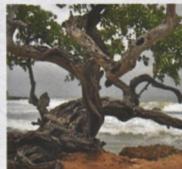
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