

Chai~Lights



March 2013

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2013

19 Adar - 20 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</p>					1 Erica Lieberman-Garrett <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 9:30 a.m. Lecture 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Shabbat Dinner 6:30 p.m. Services 8:00 p.m. Joyce Peckman, Beth Hayden & Gloria Avner <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	9
10 Board Meeting at KJCC 9:00 a.m. Lecture 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Rosh Chodesh Nisan	13	14	15 Sam Vinicur & Gloria Avner <i>Elaine & Bernard Solas</i>	16 Torah Learning Service with Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m.
17 Women's Seder at KJCC 5:00 p.m.	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22 Yardena Kamely, Jane Friedman & Richard Knowles <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	23
24 Interfaith Seder 31	25 Erev Pesach, First Seder	26 KJCC Family Seder 6:30 p.m. Pesach 1st Day	27	28	29 George Swartz 6:30 Service <i>Anonymous</i>	30

2013 - 2014 Officers and Board

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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Tavernier, Florida 33070

chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



It is with the greatest trepidation that I take over as KJCC President from Stuart Sax. It will require my maximum effort just to continue the programs and projects that the former leaders of our synagogue have instituted, even with the help of my dedicated officers, directors and the Sisterhood's officers and members and all of you.

There is nothing our congregation needs but "more." More of our fine educational activities, more of our fellowship, more enjoyment of our wonderful Meditation Garden, more of our delightful dinners and parties (maybe monthly), more Yiddish nights, more Torah services with Rabbi Agler, more outside lectures and trips. More, more, more.

My greatest emphasis in leadership will be in two areas: 1) The education of our children; 2) Making all our programs rewarding and fun.

Educating our children is obviously the only path to Judaism's survival. It must be our primary responsibility, but even that should be fun. (For them and us.) We all learned in psychology 101 that if you want to keep rats running through a maze you must give them a reward. People are not so different! The great rabbis of old were asked: is it ethical to bribe your children with sweets and presents to go to syna-

gogue? The answer was yes, because eventually they will get into the habit of going for the pure pleasure of it. We have to make it pleasurable. We need MORE dinners with our activities and more entertaining plays from the Hebrew School children.

Our congregation has a wisdom gained from long experience: "if you feed them they will come." So let's feed them, and entertain them too. From that will (painlessly) come education and inspiring them.

As Stu often said, everyone at KJCC is on the Membership Committee. If we have an activity that you enjoy, invite a member friend who perhaps hasn't come to our activities recently. If you know a non-member who might come and enjoy and join, invite them too.

With all of your help and prayers for success, we can make it happen. Just as a *chazan* prays before *Mussaf* on Yom Kippur, I ask in advance that you forgive me for my inadequacies, and know that if I make any errors or slights to a congregation member it is without intent.

I look for comfort in the words of the psalmist, who said: Hope in the Lord, make your heart strong and brave and Hope in the Lord.

Your "tziterdick" new president, - Bernie.

Nosh

Yardena's Lecture Series Concludes

Parts three and Four of Yardena's 2013 lectures on the three Abrahamic religion will take place this month as the series concludes. Lectures one and two compared Judaism, Christianity, and Islam by exploring how each monotheistic religion views their respective Abrahamic heritage; how they created their customs and traditions to distinguish themselves from one another; and how their Sacred Texts convey the particular messages of their faith.

Parts three and four will continue the exploration. How do these three religious faiths conceptualize God? Who are the human intermediaries through whom God's messages are transmitted – the prophets and apostles? How are the angels, spiritual entities in the service of God, seen in each of the three religions? What are the beliefs and requirements that qualify one as a member of each faith?

Lecture three will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 3rd. The final lecture will be on Sunday, March 10th. All KJCC members and their guests are welcome to attend at no charge. Light refreshments will be served.

Jane and Richard Join the Tribe

On Friday, March 22nd, we will have a special service, led by Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles celebrating the final part of their conversion ceremony. They have chosen to join themselves to our people's faith. We will welcome them into Jewish life and as Jewish members of our congregation.

At this joyous moment, we renew the covenant between God and the people of Israel, recalling the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Strangers shall join them and shall cleave to the house of Israel." Join us for this celebration, a rare Giyur (Conversion) service at the KJCC.

Yardena Kamely, who taught and guided both as they prepared for their conversions, will be leading the ceremony and co-leading the service.

-Gloria

Three Seders

Three separate and distinct Passover seders will be available to KJCC members in March. The Tenth Annual Women's Seder will be held at KJCC on Sunday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m. Seating is limited, and it fills fast, so if you haven't made your reservation, contact Beth Kaminstein (bethkam@bellsouth.net) or Erica Lieberman-Garrett (hippiejap@hotmail.com) soon. There is a \$28 donation, much of which goes to *Tikkun Olam*. This year's interfaith seder in Marathon, which includes many KJCC members, will take place on Sunday, March 24th. Contact Jessica Hernstadt (miamijess@aol.com) or Judy Greenman (jfgreenman@aol.com) for information. The Annual KJCC Family Seder will take place on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Donation is \$50 for KJCC members and \$75 for non-members; children under twelve are our guests. Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner will co-lead this year, both mindful of the memory of Jim Boruszak, who led for so many years. Contact Barbara Knowles (iweddu@bellsouth.net) or Joan Boruszak (joanborus@gmail.com) for further information. See ad on page 31.

Oneg Sponsors for March 2013

March 1st - Carol and Steve Steinbock in honor of Steve's birthday.
March 8th - Joyce Peckman in memory of Dorothy Ross.
March 15th - Elaine and Bernard Solas-Just Because.
March 22nd - Barbara and Richard Knowles - to honor the conversion of Jane and Richard.
March 29th - Anonymous.

Rabbi Agler's March Service

Rabbi Richard Agler will continue his great ongoing gift to KJCC with another Torah Learning Service on Saturday, March 16th, at 10 a.m. in the KJCC sanctuary. Ask anyone who's been there. It is guaranteed that you will come away with a deepened and fuller understanding of that week's Torah text plus have aspects and nuances of it opened up that you have never considered.

March Birthdays

1st.....	Melvin L. Jacobson
1st.....	Sasha Dutton
2nd.....	Barbara Kantor
3rd.....	Stephanie Gilderman
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
4th.....	Benjamin K. Kwalick
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
11th.....	Alvin J. Gottlieb
11th.....	Bryan Schur
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Ira Stein
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
15th.....	Johanna Willner
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Daniel E. Friedman
18th.....	Eric Grace
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Janet Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
21st.....	Erwin Kantor
21st.....	James Nobil Jr.
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
24th.....	Doug Graham
25th.....	Joe Gould
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
28th.....	Roger Vorcheimer
29th.....	Joel Pollack
30th.....	Anthony A. Gutierrez
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
30th.....	Lee Schur
31st.....	Jane S. Friedman
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein

March Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....54
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....17
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs.....48
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....16
25th	Joseph & Susan Goldberg.....20

Shabbat Dinner on March 8th

On Friday, March 8th at 6:30, KJCC will offer its members the first festive Shabbat dinner in the reign of new president Bernie Ginsberg. Bernie will emcee, which alone is worth the price of admission. (Actually, there is no admission, since Bernie is sponsoring the dinner.) It will be a dairy dinner. We'll be inviting our advertisers again this year to honor them for their support of KJCC. We will loudly thank Stu Sax for his two years of service as KJCC president. We'll also be reaching out to new members, or members who haven't attended many events lately, to join us for an evening that will surely be well attended and full of laughter, good fellowship and great food. So call your KJCC friends who you haven't seen here for a while. Please R.S.V.P. no later than March 1st, so we can plan the seating and menu. Services will follow at 8:00, to be led by Joyce Peckman, with cantorial harmony by Gloria Avner and Beth Hayden.

A Possible Incident

I received a call from the ADL on February 13th that there might have been an anti-Semitic incident at KJCC. This photo shows what I found, a half a ham lying on the sidewalk in front of our sign. It might have been an accident, or a juvenile joke, but we've learned historically that, where anti-Semitism is concerned, we have to risk over-reaction, even if we end up looking silly, to guard against not being vigilant enough. I did file a police report.



-Bernie



The brand-new handmade Megillah cover that we are commissioning to house our Megillat Esther is being given to us by members Barry and Natalie Dorf. It is a gift meant to honor their newly Bat-Mitzvahed granddaughter Emma, whose Bat Mitzvah, more than a rite of one girl's passage, was an extraordinary event. We empathize with the difficulties faced by the family during Hurricane Sandy and applaud their creativity and determination in the face of obstacles. Brava Emma, and Todah Rabah, dear Dorf family. -Gloria

A Uniquely "Cool" Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, on November 3rd, just one week after hurricane Sandy devastated Long Island, our granddaughter Emma was Bat Mitzvahed. She chanted her Haftorah in the middle of the day, in an unheated, unlit temple to a congregation of 80 people wearing gloves, hats and coats with only daylight streaming through the windows.

The original plans were for a Saturday evening service followed by a reception in the temple. Needless to say, we had to develop a plan 'B'. Emma's aunt Risa and uncle Matt were fortunate enough to have heat and power and close enough to the temple for our 'fuel rationed' guests to join in a reception at their home. Instead of the hot meal we were going to have we ended up with the next best 'Jewish' thing - we had lox and bagels!

The party was a smashing success with family and friends sharing this special day in a very special way. We are sure that all will remember the hurricane Sandy Bat Mitzvah of our granddaughter, Emma Dorf. *by Natalie Dorf*

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 Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

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

March Events from Ritual

March will be another month chock full of ritual, celebration, and learning opportunities at the KJCC. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss any of it.

Rabbi Agler will lead another warm, informal and insightful service with discussion on Saturday morning, March 16th. On March 17th, at 5p.m., the women of KJCC will celebrate their 10th Annual Women's Seder. On Friday, March 22nd, Yardena Kamely will lead a special service honoring the conversions of Jane Friedman and Richard Knowles. All are encouraged to come and support them, their commitment, and the work they have done to achieve this landmark. The following Sunday, March 24th, KJCC Religious School will celebrate its own Passover Seder in the morning (and those who can go to Marathon are invited to another Passover Seder, sponsored in part by KJCC members Judy Greenman and Jessica Hernstadt – watch announcements for time and place.). By way of grand Pesach finale, KJCC members and visitors will come together for our own Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Tuesday, March 26th. It will not seem right for Jim Boruszak to be missing from the head table, but outgoing president Stuart Sax will honor Jim by performing "head of the family" duties in his stead, along with me again as co-leader. (See the ad on page 31.)

Weather permitting, we're expecting to have Rabbi Ed Rosenthal back the first or second week of March with his Hillel "Scuba Jew" contingent, and he'll again help us celebrate Havdalah. (They also plan to be here again in April.)

We are blessed to have two learned, generous rabbis in our midst willing to share their time and wisdom with us. We are also privileged to be part of a congregation that supports such a diverse, creative program of Jewish enrichment.

-Gloria

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Jerry Oshinsky, who passed

away on February 8, 2013, one week before his 63rd birthday. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Jerry and his longtime girlfriend Sherry Zwerdling had recently visited Israel, where he placed his prayers in the Western Wall – the Kotel – in Jerusalem. Hopefully those prayers have been answered. His wish in life was to visit the Promised Land, and he did.



It's Your KJCC

Come be a part of it. The next Sisterhood Meeting, (all female members of KJCC are automatically members of Sisterhood and are welcome) will be on March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. at the KJCC. The next Board Meeting will be on March 10th at 9:00 a.m., also held at the KJCC. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. See you there.

Serving Plates Needed

Your Sisterhood is still in need of glass serving dishes and plates coming into this busy food service season. If you have any you would be able to donate for use at the various food oriented get-togethers, please contact Sisterhood or Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Contact Us

You can send comments, story ideas, photos Nosh items and announcements and any other information for Chai-Lights to: Chai-Lights - KJCC P.O. Box 1332 Tavernier FL 33070 or to chailights@keysjewishcenter.com.

Plan Now to Be Part of the Special KJCC Trip to Israel June 11-23, 2013, a Trip To Be Led by the Best Tour Guide Possible — Our Own Rabbi Richard Agler.



Bahai
Gardens on
Mt. Carmel
in Haifa

Yad Vashem
Holocaust
Memorial in
Jerusalem

The Eastern Gate

Dead Sea Scrolls

The Jewish Quarter

A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel a year from now, on June 11-23, 2013.

Current estimates for the trip are a range of \$3,000 to \$3,300 per person, depending on the accommodations package chosen. Because KJCC members might be coming from all parts of the country, air fare is NOT included in any price quotes. The group needs to be a minimum of twenty. The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, keysjewishcenter.com; click on the "Misc." section. If you are interested, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.)

Tour features:

- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
- 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts,
2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- all program and entrance fees;
- tipping and all portage included.

Tour highlights:

- Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port;
- A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century;
- The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine;
- A visit to Yad Vashem.

In Memoriam March 2013

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

Maxine Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Lillian Melnick

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Dorothy Hirsch

By Gerald Hirsch



In Memory Of

Leo Grossman

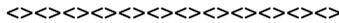
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Robert Berman

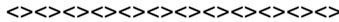
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Louis Abraham Weinstein

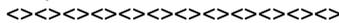
By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

Sarah Rubenstein

By Max & Mildred Finklestein



In Memory Of

Louis Weinstein

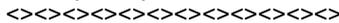
By Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace



In Memory Of

Arlene R. Brenner

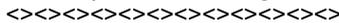
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Harry Phillips

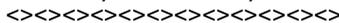
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Rachamim Levy

By Michal Kamely



In Memory Of

Dorothy Stanlake

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Hilda Dorf

By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

Harry Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Selma Greenspan

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Belle Scaller

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

Elaner Sonn

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Monroe (Monty) Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memoriam March 2013

In Memory Of

Luba Tuchman

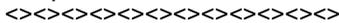
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Samual Lieberman

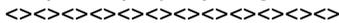
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

Oscar Margulies

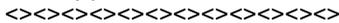
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

Denise Moss

By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Isadore Seder

By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Theresa Steinbock

By Stephen & Carol Steinbock



In Memory Of

Alice Weber

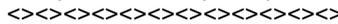
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Max Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Irving Line

By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Louis Weinstein

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

Cissie Rose Lang

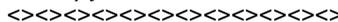
By Skip & Rene Rose



In Memory Of

Ida Seder

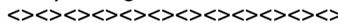
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Abe M. Reider

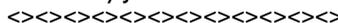
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Deborah Eichler

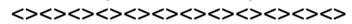
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Marian Rose Klimpl

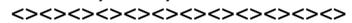
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Lori Mills

By Bunny Lohmann



In Memory Of

Dorothy Ross

By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

Esther Schur

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

George B. Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Anne Temkin

By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

Rachamim Levy

By Michal Kamely



Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



Sisterhood has been pretty busy during the months of January and February, which is not over as of this writing. We did a lot of planning for many months, and the result was our extremely successful Deli and Auction Night. We had high stakes bingo, 50/50 raffle, of course a fabulous live auction (with wonderful items that were donated and available to bid on), and great deli food, including knishes. Oops, I forgot to mention the Schnapps. It was truly a terrific and productive time. Thanks to everyone who donated time, services and everybody in attendance who made it an overall great night.

We are into February as I write this. So far we had a successful Brunch on Sunday, February 10th, after the installation of the 2013-2014 KJCC Officers and Directors. Thank you to everyone, and all of Sisterhood, who helped make it once again a great brunch. We had an abundance of food, including bagels & lox, egg salad, tuna salad, Jane's delicious egg rolls, salads, desserts and more.

At the end of the Board's term, it's usually a bittersweet time, saying "thank you" and so long to our former President and welcoming our new President and Board. But it was not that way at all this year. Stuart, as always, was gracious and humble and happy to be passing all his hard work off to Bernie. Bernie picked up without missing a beat and everything went on as usual. The previous Board did a phenomenal job, and I'm very sure the 2013 board will do the same. I'm looking forward to all the next year has to bring.

The next event coming up will be Purim, on Sunday, February 24th, where we will once again have "The Whole Megillah." The Megillah reading will start at 10:30 a.m. with our Hebrew School students and teachers, mem-

bers and guests all in a round-robin style setting, reading out loud and fulfilling the mitzvah. Hope to see everyone there. Brunch will begin at 11:30.

March will start off with a Potluck dairy dinner on the 8th at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be sponsored by our President Bernie, so there will be no charge for members. All the Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers will also be invited to join us, as we did for a dinner last year. Please contact Joyce Peckman at 451-0665 to help coordinate any dishes you'd like to bring.

March will also feature this year's Women's Seder, on the 17th at 5:00 p.m. Please come celebrate the 10th Annual Women's Seder with us. The cost is a total of \$28.00 (\$18.00 *chai* donation plus \$10.00, \$1.00 for each year.) For information & reservation, contact Erica at 305-853-1003 or hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Finally, KJCC's Annual Family Passover Second Seder is Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Please make your reservation early as this will be opening up to the public after March and we would love to have everyone be able to join us. For information and reservations please contact me, Barbara Knowles, at iweddu@bellsouth.net or Joan Boruszak at joanborus@gmail.com. Please mail your checks to the KJCC Sisterhood at P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL, 33070, since your check "Is Your Reservation." Donations for this event: Members - Adults \$50.00, children 12 and under are our guests. Charge for Non-Members - \$75.00.

March will be busy, and wonderful. Hope to see you often. ◇

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>Book Plates</i> Rose, Skip & Rene	<i>In Memory of</i> Kurt Kluger	<i>Scholarship Fund</i> Congregation	<i>In Honor of</i> Donations at Kaskeset concert - thank you all Bat Mitzvah of Mindy Zucker
<i>General Fund</i> Agler, David Ginsberg, Bernard	<i>In Honor of</i> to sponsor March 8th Shabbat dinner	Sax, Stuart & Lauren	
Gould, Maryon	Stu & Lauren Sax - thank you for Kaskeset concert	<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i> Bernard & Elaine Solas	
Plutzer, Arthur Pollack, Joel & Linda	Pauline Roller Bernie Ginsberg - thank you for all you do	<i>Sunshine Fund</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Wishing Michal Kamely a speedy recovery
Rose, Skip & Rene	Stuart & Lauren Sax		
<i>General Fund</i> Luse, Robert & Carol Plutzer, Arthur Pollack, Joel & Linda Pollack, Joel & Linda	<i>In Memory of</i> Kurt Kluger Al Roller Rita Cline Cynthia Rose Guadagno	<i>Yahrzeits</i> Boruszak, Joan Emkey, Gerri Friedman, Ingrid Graham, Bea Krissel, Michael Kwalick, Teresa Olsen, Gerald & Sheila Steinberg, Richard & Sheila Tallent, Lillian Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy	<i>In Memory of</i> Robert Kohlenbrener Bob Kinney Max & Flora Rosenthal Nicholas & Lilian Goldenberg Joseph Krissel M. Teresa Astray-Caneda Betty Weinstein Sally Sussman Morris Estrin Morris Feinberg, Samuel Wolfe
<i>Meditation Garden</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Wishing Bernie Ginsberg and Barbara Knowles great success Linda Pollack for making Stuart look good for the past 2 years		
<i>Rabbi & Cantor Fund</i> Sax, Stuart & Lauren	<i>In Honor of</i> Mazel Tov to Rich & Mindy Agler on their new home		
<i>Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund</i> Grossman, Herb & Elinor			
<i>Sisterhood Count Your Blessings</i> Ellner, Susan			

Following is a correction to the February Contributions Page

<i>Yahrzeits</i> Boruszak, Joan Cooper, Claire Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin Emkey, Gerri Gould, Maryon Grossman, Stuart Isenberg, Henry & Patricia Taramona, Hermine	<i>In Memory of</i> Emma Kohlenbrener Edward Sandberg Henry Rubin Nathan Weisberg Jeanne Walters Schneider Sylvia Grossman Ernest Isenberg Norma Robinson
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YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Exploring Israel: The Kibbutz *The Story Of Degania*

Telling stories about Israel, I must include the story of the kibbutz. I have very fond memories of one of the first kibbutzim, *Ein-Charod*, in the Yizrael Valley in North Israel. Growing up in Haifa, my nicest vacations were travelling to the kibbutz and spending a couple of weeks there, enjoying nature, agricultural life, and plenty of fresh food...in times when food was scarce in Israel. My parents had formed a very special friendship with a German couple, Ruth and Willy Dagan, who were among the founding pioneers of the kibbutz. Their friendship lasted for more than 60 years and we, their children, are continuing this special friendship; we have a close relationship, formed when we were kids, feeling like close cousins.

The KJCC trip to Israel will take you to one of the best known kibbutzim, Degania. It is a century since a small group of young Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, inspired by Zionist and socialist ideals, founded the

first *kvutza* ("group" in Hebrew), on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, *Kineret*. It was a different form of settlement from the *moshava*. They renamed it *kibbutz* - "community" - when the group grew and counted 70 members. They viewed the *kvutza* as a closely-knit, egalitarian community, based on common ownership of the means of production and consumption, where all, together, made decisions by majority vote and were all responsible for each other.

In 1909 a group of young pioneers, who drained swamps near Hadera, decided to es-



The early settlers living quarters in Kibbutz Degania Alef, which were built in 1912. Named The Pioneers' Courtyard, it has now been turned into a museum.



The first house of Degania.

establish an independent farm owned by its worker-members. Ten men and two women came in 1910 to the land known at the time as Umm Juni. These first settlers came from the nearby *Moshava* (colony/village) of *Kinneret*. Umm Juni was later renamed Degania and became the first communal settlement, *kvutza*, in *Eretz Yisrael*. One of the settlers wrote to Arthur Ruppin (head of the Zionist Organization) to notify him of the decision to change the name of the settlement to Degania. The explanation given was that the name was meant to signify the five grains that were grown in the area. (However, by some accounts, at that time only three grains – wheat, barley and oats – were actually grown by the settlers.)

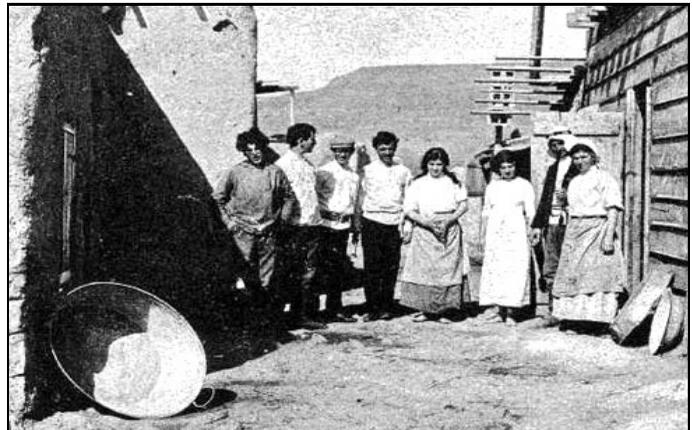
These "founding fathers" had immigrated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (with the Second *Aliyah*), mainly from Russia, and were motivated by the ideals of socialism and Zionism. They believed in a Zionism based on the return to the Land of Israel and the working of its soil, and that this would lead to the creation of a new Jewish identity.

These first settlements regarded themselves as enlarged families and kept membership small. In 1913/14, for example, Degania had only 28 members. They were poor, life was harsh and work centered on agricul-

ture, which required draining swamps, removing rocks from hills and painstakingly transforming the soil into fertile farmland. They also had to cope with extreme heat, malaria and food-related illnesses. In his first years in Israel, working on one of the settlements near Degania, my father contracted malaria, but survived it; he had a very strong constitution, then and always.

Social life at Degania revolved around the dining room, where people would meet, eat and talk. Decisions were made by direct democracy. In discussions, which often continued late into the night, members would decide how to organize the following day's work, apportion guard duties (security and safety were important issues from the beginning), kitchen chores and other tasks, as well as debate problems and make decisions.

As the first settlement based on communal living, Degania *Alef* became known as the "Mother of the Kevutzot." Members of Degania *Alef* insisted on maintaining the scale of the small *kvutza*, as opposed to the bigger collective settlement - the *kibbutz* - and



Life in Degania, 1910.

therefore, in 1920, with the coming of Third Aliyah pioneers, Degania *Bet* was founded. In 1932, part of the land was granted for a third collective settlement - Kibbutz *Afikim*.

Degania (population 550) is still an almost “classical” kibbutz, but it has had to deal with many changes. M. Tzur, an Israeli historian, writes in his book “Not in High Clouds” (the name is taken from a poem by Rachel Bluwstein, “Here on Earth”) about the development of Degania almost year by year. The kibbutz today is not the same as it was in the beginning. The book tells of a hundred years packed with successes as well as failures.

And that many famous people passed through and lived in Degania. A.D. Gordon lived his last years

there. Moshe Dayan was born there, and lived there for his first six years. A sad story links Degania to Rachel

Bluwstein, who lived on the kibbutz and helped take care of children there after World War I. But when the poet, known in Hebrew as “the poet Rachel,” was diagnosed with tuberculosis, she was asked to leave.

Tzur writes that no formal, official decision was handed down by the kibbutz, but Bluwstein later recalled that one of the members had informed her: “We’re healthy and you’re ill - you have no place among us.” Other members, embarrassed, fled to the fields as she departed, in order not to see Rachel suffering. In the following years her connections with Degania continued, but “she didn’t forget the wound of the expulsion.”

There was a time when every child in Israel knew of “Degania’s tank,” the Syrian tank that broke through the kibbutz fence in 1948, was stopped by the kibbutz defenders and went up in flames. But there were less dramatic stories in its rich, productive history, too, such as immigrant absorption, the development of new branches of agriculture and industry, and regional cooperation. Degania’s contributions in the areas of work, agriculture, family, culture, and leadership in general - female leadership in particular - were many.

Degania was unharmed by the economic crisis in the 1980s that hit many other kibbutzim, but its members nonetheless de-

mandated that the kibbutz change its structure.

In 2004, after years of doubt and discussion, the kibbutz approved a statement of principles by which it agreed to privatize Degania and pay its members differential salaries in accordance with market rates, while guaranteeing mutual responsibility among the members.

“But does it have a future?” asks Tzur, one of the leading historians and contemporary thinkers of the kibbutz movement. The young people there say it will depend on kibbutz leadership. Others, echoing the spirit of Degania’s most well known founding father, Yosef Bussel, say emphatically that its story will still move forward. ◇



During the War of Independence, the Syrian army breached the gates of Degania Alef, but was quickly stopped by their defenses. A burnt-out Syrian tank remains on the site as a memorial.

Calendar of Cultural Events for Jerusalem 2013

Jerusalem offers a unique religious and spiritual experience, rich history, and a calendar full of cultural events and festivals to enrich the visiting experience.

12 February - 28 September: *Herod the Great exhibition* at the Israel Museum. The world's first exhibition on the life and legacy of Herod the Great will present 250 archaeological finds from the king's recently discovered tomb at Herodium, from Jericho and other related sites.

20 February - 30 April: *International Ice Festival*. One of the world's largest Ice Festivals arrives in Jerusalem for the second year, featuring ice sculptures, ice skating rink, acrobatic and skating performances on ice, a children's ice city, ice bar and more. Jerusalem Old Station Complex.

23 May - June 8: *The Israel Festival*. A three-week spectacular of art, music, dance and theater with Jerusalem's top cultural venues showcasing works by artists from all over the world, premieres of Israeli works and free street theater performances. Now in its 52nd year!

28-30 May: *Musrara Mix Festival*. This multidisciplinary event, part of a UNESCO network of cultural programs, features artists from Israel and abroad and will take place in the Musrara neighborhood.

5-13 June 2012: *Jerusalem Festival of Light*: A breathtaking display of artistic light creations, designed by leading local and foreign light artists, throughout the Old City's public and restricted areas, as well as at tourism sites.

15 June - 31 August: The *Jerusalem Season of Culture*: an annual summer showcase of the city's contemporary cultural treasures, including dance, music, poetry, philosophy, visual art, new media, and more.

July 2013: *Jerusalem Film Festival*: Ten full days of screenings, honorary guests, panels and festivities. Outdoor screenings take place at the foot of the old city walls in Sultan's Pool.

6-18 August: *International Arts and Crafts Fair, "Khutzot Hayotser"*: For over thirty years, the Khutzot Hayotser Arts and Crafts Fair has brought together over 150 Israeli artists and dozens more from countries all over the world.

20-23 August: *The Festival of Sacred Music*: Israeli and international musicians perform in venues around the city selected for their religious or historical significance, including the Tower of David. A multi-cultural tribute to the people who have glorified Jerusalem for centuries.

September: *Chamber Music Festival*. Held annually at the YMCA, this festival will highlight chamber pieces by Schubert, as well as shows in collaboration with the Israeli Opera.

September: *In The Beginning*: A major international exhibition entitled "In the Beginning" will be opened at the *Bible Lands Museum* featuring a collection examining how the Bible has shaped humanity for over 2,000 years.

10,17,24,31 October: *The Knights Festival*: A journey back in time to the heroes of the Middle Ages, including knights, kings, princesses and troubadours, roaming the Old City alleyways. Free street performances.

17-19 October: *Houses From Within*: Tourists and visitors are invited to explore generally private spaces such as homes and gardens during this one weekend.

December: *Hot Winter, Long Nights: Hamshushalayim*, as it is known in Jerusalem, takes place every long weekend in December (Thursday through Saturday), offering an array of events at cultural institutions in the city with many museums and tourist sites open free of charge, night tours, concerts, special deals in restaurants and more.

General information about events in the city, updated nearer the time, can be found at www.itraveljerusalem.com.

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Bar Mitzvah Boy's Tzedakah

More than 800 people attended Robert Leeds' Beatles-themed Bar Mitzvah, complete with entertainers from Cirque du Soleil. Still, this extravagant Bar Mitzvah will most likely be remembered for something else: on the invitations, Robert requested that his guests, in lieu of gifts, donate money for an ambulance for *Magen David Adom* (MDA), the Israeli-based emergency response agency. Leeds ended up raising enough money for two, one a standard ambulance and the other a mobile intensive care unit. Together they were valued at \$225,000. Arnold Gerson, CEO of *American Friends of Magen David Adom* (AFMDA), presented the young man with the *Maimonides Award*, making him the youngest recipient ever. AFMDA Western Regional Director Yossi Mentz said, "Robert's Bar Mitzvah had both the *bar* and the *mitzvah*. There's no greater *mitzvah* than saving a life." (www.afmda.org, 1-17-13)

Trees for Newtown

More than 2,000 people have donated money to plant a grove of 3,300 trees in Israel in memory of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. The trees will be part of the Beersheva River Park, a 1,700-acre water, environmental and commercial area being constructed by the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The idea for the grove grew from a request made by Veronique Pozner, whose son Noah was the only Jewish victim (and the youngest) of the shooting. She had said that memorial contributions in her son's name could go to the JNF for trees to be planted in Israel. It was later decided to honor all the victims of the massacre, not just Noah. More than \$61,000 was raised. (www.jta.org, 12-31-12)

"Advisor" Alfred Hitchcock

Two new films about the life of Alfred Hitchcock, one of the truly great film directors, have come out recently: "Hitchcock," starring Anthony Hopkins, and the HBO film "The Girl." Notably absent from both films however, is a little-known chapter in his life. Hitchcock lent his directorial skills to the British Army for what eventually became a documentary entitled "Memory of the Camps." The film contains exclusive footage of concentration camps in the days after their liberation by Allied forces. During that time, Hitchcock was living and working in Hollywood and didn't travel to Europe for filming at Dachau, Belsen and Buchenwald. Instead, he instructed the camera crews accompanying the liberating armies to take as many uninterrupted long shots and unbroken panoramas as possible, knowing that these would best capture the horrible truth about what took place at these locations. Hitchcock was credited as "treatment advisor" on the film. Post-production, he traveled to England and helped organize the footage. (*The Forward*, 11-15-12)

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is giving \$350 million to his alma mater, Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University. This gift brings his total lifetime donations to the institution to over \$1 billion, making him the university's largest-ever philanthropic benefactor. Of the new gift, \$250 million will go toward the university's work to take on global challenges such as the preservation of water resources, while the other \$100 million will provide financial aid to undergraduate students. While he was an undergraduate student, Bloomberg paid for his tuition by taking

loans and working as a parking lot attendant. His first gift to Johns Hopkins was \$5 in 1965, a year after he received his bachelor's degree in engineering. Bloomberg's fortune is now estimated by Forbes magazine to be \$25 billion. Now 70, he has said that he will give away his fortune before he dies. Besides education, his donations have targeted public health initiatives, the environment and the arts. He is also funding national campaigns against gun violence.
(www.reuters.com 1-29-13)

Women in the Knesset

A record number of women will serve in the 19th Knesset, Israel's newly elected parliament. With the vote that was cast on January 22nd, the number of seats occupied by females has risen from 22 to 26. This means that women comprise over 23 percent of the Knesset. While this statistic does not come close to representing the proportion of women in Israeli society, it is better than the situation in the United States, where a record number of 98 women were recently elected to Congress. That figure still represents only 18 percent of all those serving on Capitol Hill. One of the women elected to the Knesset is Penina Tamnu-Shata, the first female of Ethiopian origin. Very few Israelis heeded Religious Zionist leader Rabbi Shlomo Aviner's out-of-touch warning that women, for the sake of modesty, should not vote or run for the Knesset. (*The Forward*, 1-23-13)

KJCC's Connection to "Shark Tank"

Local artist and KJCC member Marcia Kreitman has much to *kvell* about. Marcia's two nieces, Susanne Kreitman Taylor and her sister Heather Kreitman McCabe, recently appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank" pitching their invention *Bibbitech*. "Shark Tank" encourages entrepreneurs to pitch their companies to investors while seven million viewers are watching. The young women grew up in Miami, married and became moms. Taylor was inspired to create her bib after a very messy plane ride with her two young sons. The product is an eco-friendly, multi-purpose bib for children and is made in Hialeah. On

her appearance on "Shark Tank," Taylor pitched her "Ultimate Bib," a patented generously-sized stain-resistant and fast-drying child's bib. It can be used as a burp cloth, changing pad, breast-feeding shield, full body bib, place mat, art smock and more. Marcia advises on design. Back in September, *Bibbitech's* sales jumped 40 percent after it appeared on an ABC World News' "Made in America" segment. The product did not get investors from "Shark Tank" but the exposure has exploded their website with business.
(www.miamiherald.com, 1-31-13)

Disturbing Numbers

According to the 2012 report by the *Council for the Welfare of the Child*, 905,000 children in Israel – 35.6 percent – are living below the poverty line, an all-time high. Over the past thirty years, the percentage of poor children has increased from 8.1 percent in 1980 to 35.6 percent in 2011. There was a slight decline in 2010. The report was submitted to Israeli President Shimon Peres, who said that the council's report was an "alarm clock" for the entire country. "The figures in the report are worrisome," Peres said. "We cannot accept a situation whereby the number of poor children has grown fourfold." In 2011, 65.8 percent of Arab children in Israel were living in poverty – almost three times the percentage of poor Jewish children – 24.2 percent. The report indicates that there has been a 60 percent increase in the number of poor children since 1998.
(www.haaretz.com, 12-19-12)

"Schlemielism" in Tel Aviv

Hila Ben Baruch recently parked her car in a legal space near her Tel Aviv apartment, but when she returned to her car the parking space had been repainted for use by the handicapped (while her car was parked in the space) and her car had been towed. She was ordered to pay a fine and the cost of towing in order to reclaim her car. But a surveillance camera across the street recorded the parking spot's transition and she posted it on Facebook. The Tel Aviv municipality returned her vehicle, waived all fees and offered an

apology. "This was indeed a serious error, and schlemielism that is unacceptable..." the city said in a statement. To see the video that captured the city workers painting the space for the handicapped, go to <http://blogs.jta.org/telegraph/article/2013/02/05/3118806/israeli-woman-fights-tel-aviv-municipal-handicap-parking-prank-on-facebook> (www.jta.org, 2-12-13)

In Memoriam

-Pauline Phillips, better known as advice columnist "Dear Abby," died recently. She was 94. Born Pauline Esther Friedman in Iowa, Phillips was the daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants. She wrote under the pseudonym Abigail van Buren and began writing the column in 1956. "Dear Abby" was syndicated in more than 1,200 newspapers and had 95 million readers at its height. Her twin sister, Eppie Lederer (born Esther Pauline Friedman), who died in 2002, wrote a similar column under the name Ann Landers. (www.jta.org, 1-17-13)

-Leon Leyson, the youngest of the 1,100 Jews saved by German industrialist Oskar Schindler, has died at the age of 88. Leyson was thirteen when he went to work at Schindler's factory in Krakow, where he had to stand on a box in order to reach the machinery he operated. Schindler often referred to him as "little Leyson." His parents, his older brother and his sister also survived, but his two younger brothers were killed by the Nazis. In 1949, Leyson immigrated to the United States and later fought in the Vietnam War. Using the skills he learned in Schindler's factory, Leyson taught machine shop and was a guidance counselor at Huntington Park High School in Los Angeles for almost 40 years. Leyson rarely spoke about the Holocaust until the 1993 release of Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List." After that, he traveled throughout the United States telling his story. (www.jpost.com, 1-14-13)

Did You Know...

-Dove Lipman is the first American-born member of Israel's Knesset (*Yesh Atid* party)

since Meir Kahane was elected in 1984. Lipman said he will forfeit his American citizenship to assume the role. (www.jta.org, 1-23-13)

-Marc Trestman, a longtime National Football League assistant, has been hired as the Chicago Bears' head coach. The 57-year-old Minneapolis native will be the only Jewish head coach in the NFL. (www.jta.org, 1-16-13)

-Drew Barrymore, the former child star in Steven Spielberg's movie "E.T.," now has a child of her own, a daughter named Olive. Barrymore, of the famed Barrymore acting dynasty, is married to Jewish art dealer Will Kopelman and is planning to raise her daughter "traditionally Jewish." Barrymore said she hasn't converted to Judaism yet but says about Judaism, "It's a beautiful faith and I'm so honored to be around it. It's so family-oriented and beautiful and I learn so much and the stories are beautiful. It's incredibly enlightening." (www.jta.org, 2-1-13)

-Michael Applebaum, 49, has become the first-ever Jewish mayor of Montreal, Canada, the second-largest French-speaking country in the world. He's also the first non-native French speaker in a century to hold the position. Applebaum will serve as interim mayor for a year. He replaces Gerald Tremblay, who resigned in November in a corruption scandal that linked him to organized crime. He will be stepping down as mayor of Cote des Neiges/Notre Dame de Grace, one of the city's most heavily populated boroughs, and one with a high concentration of Jewish residents. His interim post will last only until municipal elections scheduled for November 2013. Applebaum has stated that he will not seek reelection. (*The Forward*, 11-19-12)

-Three Israeli surfers recently rescued eight children swept out to sea and on the verge of drowning in Hawaii as their parents watched helplessly from shore. The children, ages twelve to fourteen, were being pounded by huge waves. Yair Naftali, one of the Israelis, lives in Honolulu. He said that it took 40 exhausting minutes to rescue all of the children. (www.jpost.com, 2-10-13) ◇

**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
SHABBAT DINNER**



FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH

~DAIRY~

For the second year in a row, we are inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to thank them for their support. We are also extending a special invitation to our newest members. And we are encouraging prospective members to join with us. Additionally, we will be welcoming our new President, Bernie Ginsberg, and thanking Stuart Sax for two years of hard work.

Contact:

Medina (305) 852-3872, hiitsmedee@gmail.com,
to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.
Please reserve by March 1st.

Sponsored Dinner - no charge

Photo Gallery



Rabbi Ed was joined at the February 8th Kiddush by all ages, from our next Bar Mitzvah boy Harry Friedman and Beth, granddaughter of Jules and Nettie Seder to Mindy Agler, Susan Ellner, a lovely Hillel student, Jane Friedman, Stuart and Lauren Sax.



The oneg was also a chance to celebrate birthday girls Erica Lieberman Garrett and Leslie Janowitz.



A special Birthday cake was awaiting Erica and Leslie at the Oneg.

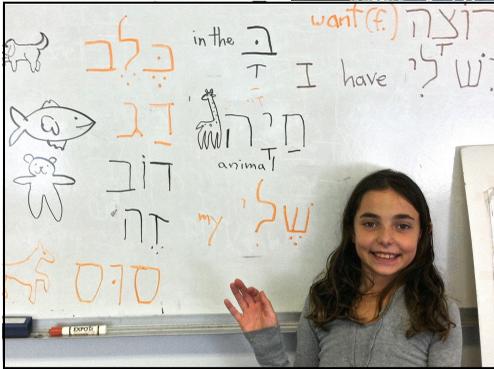
All photos taken by David Gitin.



(Left and below) On February 9th Rabbi Ed Rosenthal talks about the ending of Shabbat before beginning Havdalah Service in the Beth/Stanlake Gazebo. Twenty members, visitors from Sweden, and Reef Repairing "Scuba Jew" Hillel Students from Tampa participate. Rabbi Ed also presided over a discussion of Tikkun HaYam, a phrase coined by Rabbi Ed himself. It is a playful adaptation of Tikkun Olam, adding "Ha Yam", which means "the ocean." So "Tikkun HaYam" means "repairing the ocean."



Photos by David Gitin.



Mikhaela Bitton during Sunday School, standing in front of the beginning of her own Hebrew Dictionary. Way to go, Mikhaela!

Here's one of the many nice offshoots of KJCC onegs. This Saturday dinner at Num Thai on February 16th arose from a casual conversation around the tables in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall the night before. Actually, five more eventually joined in the fun. "How good and how pleasant it is..."



The KJCC Annual Meeting And A Changing of the Guard

Sunday, February 10th, 2013 was a bitter-sweet day for several members of the congregation, especially for me as outgoing president. In my State-of-the-Congregation comments (mandated by our by-laws), I was able to highlight many of the high points of the past two years, including the growth in our membership, the strength of our financial position, and the involvement of so many members serving on the Board and from the congregation. There were a few low points as well, especially the loss of far too many members in just the past year.

Once again, Carol Steinbock did an exemplary job of recognizing the accomplishments of so many and installing the officers and directors of the new Board for 2013. In an admittedly emotional speech, I thanked everyone for making the past two years truly a team effort. As I love to do, I recited some special and favorite song lyrics, for the congregation and even more especially for my wife Lauren. I emphasized the programs that began before my tenure, ones I'd been able to build upon, and were now being passed along to new president Bernie Ginsberg for additional improvement.

The annual meeting culminated with another outstanding potluck brunch organized



Outgoing President Stuart Sax holding the plaque presented to him by a grateful congregation. The plaque reads:
“Thank you for your love and hands on dedication to our spiritual house. Your day-to-day guidance in all matters of the Temple, large and small, your personal presence and wonderful wit have made the last two years special.”

by Barbara Knowles and several members of the KJCC Sisterhood. Everyone left enriched and well fed.

-Stuart Sax

(Moments before writing this note, Stuart had handed over the KJCC gavel to Bernie, and with that joined the illustrious list of active and irreplaceable past presidents of KJCC: Bea Graham, George Swartz, Joel Pollack, Jeff Schocket, Steve Steinbock and Alan Beth.) ◇



The newly installed KJCC officers and directors for 2013, joined by past presidents who are still active members of the Board.



(Left) New Executive Vice President Sam Vinicur, new President Bernie Ginsberg, outgoing President Stuart Sax.

(Below) Directors Gene Silverman and Rene Rose surround Treasurer Linda Pollack.



(Below) Students from KJCC's religious school, led by teachers Yarden Kamely and Gloria Avner, serenaded the new Board with "Mazel tov" after the installation ceremony.



(Below) New President Bernie Ginsberg and outgoing President Stuart Sax hold cakes provided by Sisterhood for the luncheon following the ceremony. (It's a synagogue; there's always food following the ceremony.)



(Left) At the brunch in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, carefully tended to by Sisterhood Vice President Jane Friedman at right.

Deli Nite at KJCC

Great Food, Great Fun, and a Big Success

Don Saturday, January 19, 2013, 80 people gathered and enjoyed a wonderful and very scrumptious Deli Nite. After a *bissel* of schnapps, some mini hot dogs and pretzels, we all enjoyed a traditional deli dinner. Also included were knishes, corned beef, pastrami and turkey sandwiches, kosher dill pickles and all the sides.

Then the real fun began. As we assembled in the sanctuary, an array of items was available for our live auction, including an amazing piece of artwork generously donated and valued at \$9000. There were lots of unique items up for bidding, which included getting your car washed by Joyce Peckman, a Shabbat Dinner for four cooked and delivered by Erica Garrett and Linda Perloff, and one hundred egg rolls made by Jane Friedman.

Stuart Sax led the auction and with the generosity of several of our members, the beautiful artwork was

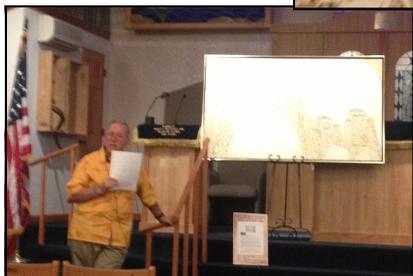


rousting round of Bingo, some apple strudel and chocolate Bobka (extremely yummy), the event was declared a lot of fun and a great success.

Thanks to all of Sisterhood, the hard-working committee, and Marc Bloom as well as all those who supported us in one way or another. You all helped make this event the successful and memorable fundraiser that it was. ♦



The Deli Committee:
Barbara Knowles, Lauren Sax, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Georgia Landau, Roberta McNew and Jane Friedman.



President Stuart acting as auctioneer.

bought as a group and will be kept at the KJCC. It is displayed in the foyer as you enter. After a



Decisions, decisions.

Keys Jewish Community Center
**10th Annual
Women's Seder**

Sunday

March 17, 2013

5:00 PM @ KJCC

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w/Wine**

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A Field Trip To FIU For Jewish Meditation

by Gloria Avner

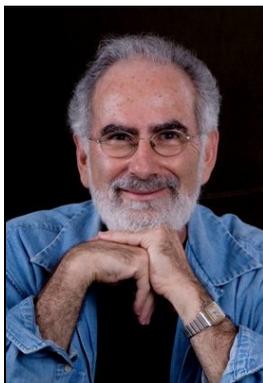
None of us like to drive at night—especially to Miami. But Joyce Peckman offered her van, so a small band of intrigued KJCC learners went off to hear Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz – highly recommended by our own Rabbi Rich Agler – speak on “Jewish Meditation.”

Mitch Chefitz graduated from MIT in the 60s, went to U.C. Berkeley for a time (I was there at the same time, though we never met), joined the Navy, served in Vietnam, became a Reform Rabbi at HUC, and studied at a yeshivah in New York City. He’s written acclaimed books and spent a lifetime riding motorcycles and exploring hidden worlds by scuba diving, practicing risk-taking that would serve him well.

For over 30 years, this man has been a leader in the *Chavurah/Renewal* movement, formations of small groups gathering in members’ homes to celebrate the rituals and spirituality of Judaism – a phenomenon also called “synagogues without walls.”

Now Rabbi Emeritus and “Scholar in Residence” at Temple Israel in Miami, Rabbi Chefitz and his quiet, intense talk kept four KJCC members and a 22-year-old visitor recently returned from a Birthright Program in Israel totally engaged. We became part of the tenth program in FIU’s Spirituality Series as the Rabbi discussed “What is Jewish about Jewish meditation.” *Purposeful* was the descriptive word.

B’reishit. The ancient words from Genesis provide the key: “a wind of God hovers over the face of the waters.” The Rabbi went on to say we have to be still enough to feel that wind, that “*ruach*.” Nascent creation requires only the gentlest wind possible to allow for development of the universe. The pinnacle of all creation is now, he said, in every



The speaker, Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz.

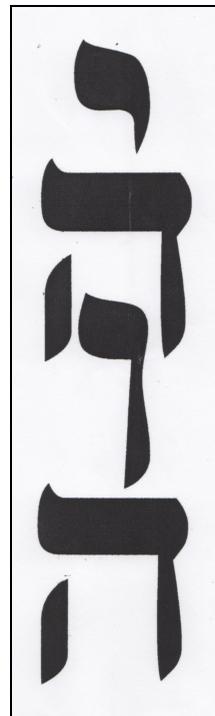
present moment, and we are co-creators with God. We all have the same question. What is my purpose? Where is this wind blowing me? Where do I go from here? Ooops. Right questions. Wrong pronoun. That little individual “I/me” has to disappear. Then we’ll feel the wind and be engaged in this creative partnership. This is post-Rabbinic Judaism.

How do we get quiet enough, still and friction-free enough so that this wind, always blowing, can reach us? Meditation will get us there, says Rabbi Chefitz.

There are breathing exercises, ways to focus, recognition that the spark of life is in everything, animal, vegetable and mineral. We can change our focus from narrow to wide and back again. Other tools are guided repetitive singing of *nigguns* (wordless melodies that can transport us), visualization techniques, and storytelling (ask for the one about the wise village rabbi and the bartender).

We can do as Rabbi Chefitz suggests and take literally the words of Psalm

Adonai, the unpronounceable name of God, as the Kabbalistic mystics see it -- vertically instead of horizontally -- suggesting a human figure, a reminder that we are made in God's image.



16, verse 8 – "I place God before me always." If we set in front of us the letters of the unpronounceable name of God, in a vertical rather than horizontal form, suddenly the letters transform. They become a human figure, the "hay" now a doorway we can walk through, a reminder we are made in God's image.

Introspection (*hitbodidut*), says the Rabbi, requires bravery and risk-taking (not unlike the "koach" needed for riding motorcycles through twisting mountain roads or scuba-diving deep seas). It is best, even necessary, to have a guide.

Nearly all of the great European spiritual masters who knew and could transmit these Kabbalistic teachings were lost in the Holocaust. Mitch Chefitz learned from the wise ones who survived -- Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and the man he referred to as the great "sage of our age," Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, translator of the Talmud.

Hearing Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz talk about the place and practice of Jewish meditation in our tradition was captivating. The experi-

ence of being guided in meditation by him was powerful. We want to share it with our *mishpocha* at KJCC. The Ritual and Education Committees are inviting Rabbi Chefitz to join us for a program. It will be a life-enriching experience. Watch announcements for details. You don't want to miss this one. ◇



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MAZEL TOV MARK LIEBERMAN

by Erica Lieberman-Garrett

On the holiday weekend of December 28th, 2012, after a year of planning, preparations, long hard drives through snow from Toronto – and much practice – a wonderful Shabbat and Saturday Bar Mitzvah service was done.

With seventeen of the Lieberman family from Toronto, including my mother Maxine, my sisters Melanie, Andrea, and Risa, along with their spouses, my nieces and nephews, my brother Tevy, his wife and their two boys, including Mark the Bar Mitzvah boy, they drove the long trip, and arrived at our wonderful KJCC, along with my husband Ron.

Having prepared from a distance, Mark studied his Torah and Haftorah, and read and chanted his portions beautifully and with so much confidence.

I led the Friday night service, incorporating my brother Tevy and his family, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah, and then on Saturday, together with Rabbi Agler, we had our Torah service.

I was so honored to be part of this *simcha*, and to have participated in leading the service with Rabbi Agler.



Preparing from a distance seemed challenging, and yet with some organization and practice, everything went incredibly smoothly. Only at our KJCC could such a feat happen. With the encouragement and love of our



congregation, I was inspired to study and work towards standing on the bimah, singing and chanting, as my nephew Mark made us all proud.

To connect in this way, with the love of our KJCC, my family, and the Torah, all in one weekend, is something I will never forget. May you all, in your lives, feel such joy and *nachas* as I felt that weekend. ♦



Keys Jewish Community Center

Arza World - Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

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DAY ONE: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

DEPARTURE.....Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013

CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013

SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013

ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013

SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

NEW VISION AND OLD.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013

MEMORY AND RENEWAL.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Flight

DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013

DEPARTURE.....Arrival in the USA

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Tu B'Sh'vat at KJCC

Happy Birthday to the Trees

by Gloria Avner

Tu B'Sh'vat, the Birthday of the Trees, has always been one of the KJCC Religious School students' favorite holidays. Parents bring the required fruits, nuts, and crackers so we can partake of the "seven species" of Biblical times. We celebrate all the types of fruit that were God's gift to us in Israel. Bernie Ginsberg, our traditional ritual grandfather (and new KJCC president), sits at the head of our table and shares knowledge and stories. This year our children learned about "gematria," how the Jewish alphabet (a Greek word originally derived, by the way, from Hebrew) functions as numbers as well as letters, and the insights our rabbis found in those numbers. (*Tu B'Sh'vat* means the 16th day of the month of Sh'vat.)

Bernie told us a story about the Jewish Rip Van Winkle, an old man who goes to sleep after planting a carob tree while telling a curious child that the tree would not bear fruit for 70 years. Why, the child asks, would you plant a tree now if it won't bear fruit until long after you're gone?

The man wakes up to see a boy harvesting fruit from the tree. It is the *grandson* of the boy who asked him why he was planting this tree. So there's a lesson here for all of us; we don't plant only thinking of ourselves, but also for those who will come after us.

Tu B'Sh'vat fell this year on Sunday, January 27th on the secular calendar, so our chil-



dren were able to celebrate on the exact date. We celebrated our mystical *Tu B'Sh'vat* Seder around a beautifully set table, honoring each season by drinking and blessing four cups of wine ranging from



the pure white of winter to the pure red of summer and the shades between. We blessed all varieties of *p'ri HaEtz* (fruit of the tree). Then, thanks to a gift from Jane Friedman, we went outside to plant three exotic fruit trees. Natalie Werthamer and the other students took turns wielding shovels. Cole and Westley Silverman wrestled bags of soil and cow manure into submission. Harry watered the plants.

Moira read blessings and we all, including parents and KJCC Board Member Medina Roy, danced and sang "Mayim, Mayim" (water, water) as we wished the newest sapling additions to our KJCC Sunday School orchard a productive future. ◇

Thank you to Richard Knowles for the photos.



KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Tuesday, March 26, 2013

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact:

Barbara Knowles 305-853-5653, iweddu@bellsouth.net
or Joan Boruszak 305-852-0833, joanborus@gmail.com.

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Ten Plagues - Ten Possibilities

By Joyce Peckman

Ask any child to tell you about the Pesach Seder, and you will hear something about the ten plagues. It is such a powerful tale, often told complete with props of red-colored liquid, plastic insects, toy animals and blackout glasses. With each memorized word - *dam, tzfardea, kinim, arov, dever, shchin, barad* (blood, frogs, gnats, insects, cattle disease, boils, hail) - we dip our fingers into our wine glasses to diminish our portion of happiness as we imagine the suffering that took place over three thousand years ago. Our ancient rabbis have dealt with the topic in great depth, made acrostics with the letters, over-laden the tale with Hebrew numerology *gematria* and come to the conclusion that the Egyptians suffered 501 plagues!

When we read much of the Torah, there is no scientific evidence to corroborate the narratives we study. The truths in the Torah are found in metaphor and faith. That is not the case here.

Scientists have compiled evidence of devastating events occurring at the ancient city of Pi-Rameses, which was the capital of Egypt during the rule of Rameses II, a city that flourished and was then abandoned around 3,000 years ago.

Climatologists point to a dramatic climate change during the latter part of Rameses II's reign. Rising temperatures and lower water levels caused the Nile to change from a swiftly moving river to a slow, muddy waterway. Some scientists look at the plagues in that context. The first of Egypt's plagues was the plague of blood. "And the fish that were in the river died and the water became foul and the Egyptians could not drink the water from the river, and the blood was throughout all the land of Egypt." The Egyptians tried to dig wells beside the Nile, in an attempt to reach potable water.

Biologist Dr. Stephen Plugmacher describes a bacterium, *Oscillatoria rubescens*, known to have existed 3,000 years ago, also known as Burgundy Blood Algae, which multiplies rapidly in slow-moving warm waters with high levels of nutrition. As it dies, it stains the water red. It would undoubtedly have been an impressive and awful sight - the waters of the life-sustaining Nile running red.

Drs. Marr and Malloy, two other scientists, blame a freshwater algal bloom called *Pfiesteria*, a single-celled organism that secretes neurotoxins and causes what is known today as a red tide. As that name suggests, some of these algae, which can stun fish and eat away their flesh, contain a red pigment. Along with blood from the dying fish, that could have accounted for the river turning red. In either event, the resulting environmental conditions would have tipped a delicate ecosystem into catastrophic imbalance, which could well have set in motion the next group of plagues.

Arrival of the toxic algae would have forced the frogs to leave the river. Toads of the genus *Bufo* seem to fit the Biblical description convincingly. They are common, hugely prolific, and drawn toward sources of light and heat. As the fish and frogs died, flies would have swarmed around their carcasses, and the insects that they usually eat would have flourished. The next step in the chain reaction would be insect-borne illnesses. The probable worst culprit, said the epidemiologists, was the stable fly: it can produce huge swarms and can give a mean bite, leaving open puncture wounds that expose the victim to the danger of secondary infections. Another insect culprit might be the *Culicoides* midge, which spread known viruses that affect animals but not people, causing African horse sickness and blue tongue, diseases that affect horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep and goats. Interestingly, the *Culicoides* is a very weak flier, so

herds and flocks outside the insect's normal distribution range — such as in the land of Goshen, where the Hebrews lived — may well have escaped the plague we call cattle disease or murrain.

The scientists suggested that a bacterium known as *Pseudomonas mallei* was probably responsible for the sixth plague. It causes a nasty infection that can be spread through the air and by fly bites. Remember the stable fly? This

highly contagious infection affects both animals and humans, causing the lymph nodes to swell and become filled with pus. Thus, the plague of boils.

Meanwhile, another natural disaster was occurring 400

miles away on the Mediterranean island of Santorini (which is now the Greek island of Thira, in the southern Aegean just north of Crete, several hundred miles northwest of the Nile delta). One of the biggest volcanic explosions in human history blew billions of tons of volcanic ash into the atmosphere. On the Volcanic Explosivity Index this historic event is rated a 7. To give you an idea of the size of this eruption, Mount St. Helens is classified a 5 and Krakatoa is a 6 on the scale. Scientists excavating Egyptian ruins have found pumice, and upon analyzing the stone, determined it to be from the Santorini volcano. Volcanic ash could have blocked out the sun, creating a thick darkness, and could have clashed with thunderstorms over Egypt to create dramatic



“the waters of the life-sustaining Nile running red.” Not as impressive in black and white, I know. For a better sense of the river running with blood, check out the online edition of Chai-Lights, which is in color.

hailstorms. Dr. Trevisanato, a Canadian biologist, also pointed out that ash fall causes weather anomalies of the sort that foster the presence of locusts. The sudden heat would cause the dormant locusts to emerge early and en masse. And then there is the *khamsin* — a hot, southerly wind sweeping in from the Sahara to create fierce sandstorms that typically last two to three days. *Khamsins* can bury entire buildings with fine sand and blot

out the sun in a dark, dusty haze. Furthermore, the worst of these storms are known to take place in March — about the time of year when the ninth plague would have occurred.

The tenth and final plague may have begun in the damp and fetid conditions of the sand-covered grain stores, where locust feces contaminated the wet crops that the Egyptians rushed to save from the hail. The resulting mold could have bred a powerful mycotoxin, the ingestion of only a small amount of which causes massive internal bleeding, resulting in sudden death. In the land of Goshen, the Jews, eating only newborn lamb, herbs and unleavened bread — would have been safe from mycotoxin contamination.

The plagues were not metaphor. They were real. Their reality does not negate the role of G-d as ruler of the universe, nor lessen the power of the Angel of Death. I have simply explained the possible tools, for which we now have ample scientific evidence. ◇

“Avadim Hayinu . . . B’nei Chorin!”

Insecurity and Faith on the Road to Freedom

by Gloria Avner

In a matter of days, Jews all over the world will be sitting around a table, singing the words at the heart of the Passover seder. (They’re written in Hebrew in the title above; the translation is “Once we were slaves. Now we are free people.”) To celebrate our freedom, our “peopleness,” in intimate settings – our homes – we invite strangers to share our bounty, our pleasure, and the recollection of our pain. Even the poorest man on Passover is commanded to relish the symbols of freedom, to recline on pillows – a free man as he dines – and to partake of four cups of wine.

More important than the symbols, we are commanded to re-tell the story of our journey to freedom and to feel as if we are inside the story as we tell it. Why is it so important that we pass this story to our children, that we make it as real as we can? Simple truth: This is the ultimate story of us, how we became who we are, “a people” who would soon be ready to accept the Torah, its laws, and partnership with God.

We are encouraged, during the Passover seder, to look at our lives today and see in what ways we are still enslaved. We are being encouraged, in the lessons of the seder, to model our lives after our ancestors and take that same leap, fraught with fear of the unknown that they faced, and have faith that our lives will be the better for the leaping.

There is an understanding that not every Jew heeded God’s word through Moses. Some rabbis say that only twenty percent of the Jewish slaves in Egypt packed up and left. And if the understanding is that as many as 600,000 Jews did leave Egypt, it would mean that nearly as many Jews as were killed in the holocaust may have died in Egypt. Do we say, “Why didn’t they go when they had a chance?” No. We look within and understand the temptation of staying with the known, the

knowledge that you and your children will at least be fed, that you will be familiar with your abuse and abuser, rather than face the unknown perils of a harsh desert.

Could they have known God would provide manna? Only if they had faith and trust. Even among the Jews who fled and followed Moses, there were many, weak of mind and spirit, who time and again would complain, longing for that old secure life under Pharaoh. Such people would willingly revert – even while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving Torah from the God of the Hebrews – to putting faith in a golden calf, the ultimate symbol of all things material.

A 360-year-old poem by Richard Lovelace says: “Stone walls do not a prison make. Nor iron bars a cage.” Forty-five years ago, Jim Morrison wrote: “We are caught in a prison of our own device.” We were enslaved in *Mitzrayim*, a place called Egypt in English but also a word that in Hebrew literally means a narrow, hemmed-in place. In English, when we are in a difficult situation, we say we’re in a “tight spot.” How do we get out of our tight spots? How do we break out of the iron bars we make for ourselves and enable ourselves to work not just for our own freedom, but for the freedom of others, for “tikkun olam,” repair of the world?

Today’s Jews are very blessed. We not only have access to the wisdom of our ancestors and the support of *HaShem*, we have the energy of the Passover season, the *Pesach* moment, to engage for our own redemption. It will support us in inner growth, in our resolve to change old habits, our commitment to let that which does not serve us drop away.

Looking inward more than outward, we take on new challenges, and go beyond our need for the known and the secure. We squirm through those tight places and reach for true freedom. We are grateful to those

who left Egypt. We tell their story dramatically to our children, honor their bravery in the face of the unknown by being brave our-

selves, and resolve to improve ourselves and the world. It is the great and continuing gift to us that comes from the Passover story. ◇

The Four Questions

מָה נִשְׁתַּנָּה הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מִכָּל הַלַּיְלוֹת ?
שֶׁבְכָל-הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין חֵמֶץ וּמַצָּה,
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה כָּלוּ מַצָּה ?
שֶׁבְכָל-הַלַּיְלוֹת אָנוּ אוֹכְלִין שְׂאֵר יֵרָקוֹת,
הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה מְרֹר ?
שֶׁבְכָל הַלַּיְלוֹת אֵין אָנוּ מִטְבִּילִין אֶפְלוּ
פְּעַם אַחַת, הַלַּיְלָה הַזֶּה שְׁתֵּי פְּעָמִים ?

Ma nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin hametz umatzah; halailah hazeh, kuloh matzah.

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin sh'ar y'rakot; halailah hazeh, maror.

Sheb'khol haleilot ein anu matbilin afilu pa'am ehat; halailah hazeh, shtei f'amim.

Sheb'khol haleilot anu okhlin bein yoshvin uvein m'subin; halailah hazeh, kulanu m'subin.

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat leavened products and matzah, and on this night only matzah.

On all other nights we eat all vegetables, and on this night only bitter herbs.

On all other nights, we don't dip our food even once, and on this night we dip twice.

On all other nights we eat sitting or reclining, and on this night we only recline.

"Shechinah" Among and Within Us

by Gloria Avner

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.

Parsha *Vayakhel* speaks of 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.

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*.

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 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. Women did not write. But women did sing. And women drummed and danced. Not least among them was Moses' sister 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.

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 planting trees near our Meditation Garden on *Tu B'Shevat*, 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. ◇

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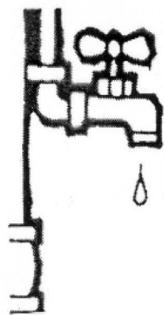
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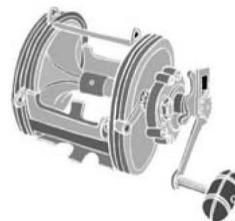
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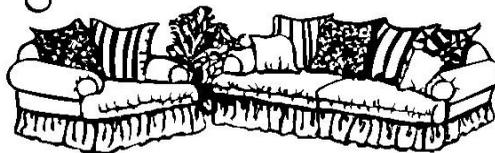


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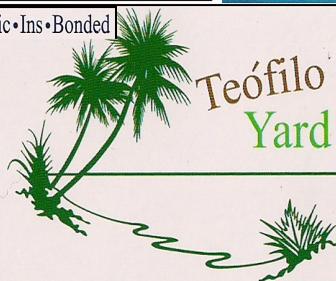
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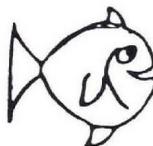
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