

Chai~Lights



April 2017

5 Nisan - 4 Iyar 5777

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

April 2017

5 Nisan - 4 Iyar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m. Women's Seder 5 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7 Steve Hartz & Steve Steinbock <i>Gene & Mort Silverman</i> <i>Geri & Stuart Smith</i>	8 Rabbi Agler Service 10:00 a.m. Film 7 p.m.
9 Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.	10 Erev Pesach KJCC First Seder 6:30	11 1st Day of Pesach 2nd Seder 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Beth Hayden <i>Nettie Seder</i> <i>Toby Bofshever</i>	15
16	17	18 Eighth Day of Pesach	19	20	21 Holocaust Committee (Yizkor service) <i>Sisterhood</i>	22 Film 7 p.m.
23 30 Film 7:00	24 Yom HaShoah	25 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	26	27	28 Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Art Itkin <i>Gene & Mort Silverman</i>	29

2017 - 2018 KJCC Officers and Board

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

President's Message Beth Hayden



I know it will be no shock to hear that once again the KJCC has had a full calendar, with an even busier month to come. February had a dynamic (pun intended) ending with a wonderful concert provided by Dave Feder and Sam Weis. The KJCC was packed and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Thanks to Linda Kaplan and her team, who made this event such a resounding success. We began March with a very well attended Shabbat Across America and Canada dinner followed by a lecture from Tudor Parfitt on The Mystery of the Black Jews of Loango. Medina also kept us entertained with her choice of movies for the First Annual Moms' Memorial Film Fest, which will continue through the month of April. And in March, of course, we celebrated *Purim* (Be happy! It's *Adar!*). The Board meeting was truncated to allow a festive reading of the *Megillah* in celebration of *Purim*. We made cacophonous noise, spun *groggers* and obliterated the name of that guy (you know the one)! A great time was had by all. If you missed it, plan to come next year. It is truly a joyous holiday.

In April our attention turns to more somber events as we prepare for *Pesach* and KJCC's first and second night seders. As Rabbi Lord Jona

than Sacks so aptly remarks: *Ours is a religion of memory.* As we read the scroll of *Esther (Megillat Esther)* and remember the story of *Purim*, so too we read we read the *Haggadah at Pesach* and remember how our ancestors experienced the *Yitziat Mitzrayim (going out from Egypt)*. And what a *haggadah* (the telling) this -- replete with a heroic leader (who is never mentioned by name), a cruel Pharaoh, miracles, plagues, escape from slavery to freedom, parting of the seas, and food falling from the skies. Move over James Cameron -- have we got a plot for you! Of all the holidays we celebrate, Passover, with its wonderful story, its order (*seder*) of celebration and profound symbolism, is one of the most important and meaningful for all Jews. And just think how it will end as we begin the counting of the *Omer* from the second *Seder* through *Shavuot* and the giving of *Torah*. We will tell the story as we are commanded, a story that has been passed from generation to generation, father to son, mother to daughter, and say: *Next year in Jerusalem.* Wishing for all of you a *Pesach kasher um'vorach* (kosher and blessed).

--B'shalom, Beth

Nosh

Women's Seder

With laughter, storytelling, poetry, and musical instruments, the women of KJCC and their friends from throughout the Keys Community will gather for the 14th annual KJCC Women's Seder. Join us on Sunday, April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate women's contributions to our history, present a different perspective on the story of the Exodus, and honor one of our own. The food will be incredible! Cost is a \$32 donation (\$18 *chai* plus a dollar for each year the seder has been in existence. The money raised from admissions is donated to charities that benefit women and children in our Keys community, the KJCC and the world at large, as far away as Africa.) There is limited seating, so contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett now at (305) 393-1162 or hippiejap@hotmail.com and reserve your seat.

Rabbi Agler's Torah Learning Service

Saturday morning, April 8th, will be our next opportunity to experience the phenomenon of a Rabbi Agler Torah Service. This will be a particularly special service. Be at KJCC promptly at 10:00 a.m. to join us as Rabbi Richard Agler, our Resident Scholar, leads the religious service/Torah learning/conversation/exegesis. It is *Shabbat HaGadol*, the Sabbath immediately prior to Pesach. Come with questions, and leave with a refreshed spirit and new insights about our history and religion. A light Kiddush will be served afterwards.

First Night KJCC Haimische Seder

For the third year in a row, KJCC will spread a table for its own first night family-style seder. Call Susan Ellner, co-ordinator extraordinaire, to tell her what you will bring for food or what kind of donation you would like to make. (E-mail ellnercd@aol.com, phone 914-907-3993.) It will be a delightful pot-luck seder in the Social Hall strictly for our mishpocha and their guests. For details see the ad on page 16.

Community Seder

On April 11th, the second night of Passover, at 6:30 p.m., we will again host our Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club, 104 Madeira Road, in Islamorada. The cost is \$54 per adult, and because this is a catered event and space is limited, your check is your reservation. Last minute stragglers, please mail or give your reservation as soon as possible to Renee Salant. If you have out-of-town guests, they are welcome, too, but please let us know ASAP. One of the special features of this seder is the announcement of the winner of this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award, KJCC's highest honor. Please send checks to KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070. (See the ad on page 30.)

Oneq Sponsors for April 2017

April 7th - Gene & Mort Silverman to celebrate their wedding anniversary and Gene's Birthday. Geri & Stuart Smith to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

April 14th - Nettie Seder to celebrate her and Jules' wedding anniversary. Toby Bofshever to celebrate birthday.

April 21st - Sisterhood will sponsor.

April 28th - Gene & Mort Silverman to mark their wedding anniversary.

Israel Independence Day –Yom Ha'atzma'ut

On Sunday, April 30th at 7 p.m. we will celebrate Israel's Independence Day (its actual date is May 2nd) with a special film, *The Prime Ministers*, followed by Israeli salads and snacks. Please see this month's movie ad on page 10.

Have You Enjoyed Our Film Fest?

Please contact our head of Adult Education, Medina Roy (hiitsmedee@gmail.com, phone 305-394-1702) to say whether you'd enjoyed this year's KJCC film festival and whether you'd like it to continue next season. (Or even to keep it going when the snowbirds leave.)

April Birthdays

1st.....	Bennett Beinfest
3rd.....	Harvey Kay
3rd.....	Justin L. Lebofsky
4th.....	Larry Weber
4th.....	Lauren Lane
4th.....	Thomas Brodie
5th.....	Jon Tainow
9th.....	David Feder
9th.....	Gene Silverman
10th.....	Abigail Everson
10th.....	Addison Greene-Barnett
11th.....	William Pomenti
12th.....	Richard Knowles
13th.....	Eve Knowles
13th.....	Samantha Lebofsky
14th.....	Herman Katzenell
15th.....	Toby Bofshever
16th.....	Adam Starr
16th.....	Dave VanArtsdalen
17th.....	Katie Greenman
17th.....	Susan Ellner
18th.....	Carol Roaman
18th.....	Jennifer Garrett
18th.....	Lauren Sax
19th.....	Augie Moss
20th.....	Jonathan Nobil
22nd.....	Robin S. Denker
22nd.....	Susan Temkin
24th.....	Lynn Nobil
24th.....	Susan Gordon
24th.....	Tiffany McNew
25th.....	Shirley Stein
26th.....	Maryann Boruszak
27th.....	Elinor Grossman
28th.....	Joni Sages Dandrea
29th.....	David Goldfinger
29th.....	Linda Pollack
30th.....	Jason Sherman
30th.....	Rachel Barrett

April Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder.....	51
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith.....	52
18th	Rick & Roberta McNew.....	36
25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder.....	21
30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz.....	10
30th	Morton & Gene Silverman.....	62

Field Trip Alert

On April 22, we will watch the film, “Denial,” depicting the legal battle between Professor Deborah Lipstadt and a Holocaust denier, who sued her for libel. On the following day, a group of KJCC members will travel to the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center to meet and listen in person to the woman whose real life story was the basis for the film. Read Medina’s piece about her old neighborhood playmate and friend, who is now an internationally recognized scholar and lecturer on the Holocaust. Let Medina know if you would like to drive or be part of a carpool. The article begins on page 23.

How to Sponsor a Friday Oneg

It’s easy! Contact Sisterhood President Renee Salant at reneesam@mac.com, and send a check for only \$60 to KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier FL 33070. (Be sure to indicate the requested oneg date on your check.) We will provide wine and challah for blessing, and coffee and cookies (and sometimes fruit) for refreshment. You are welcome to bring an additional celebratory cake or special nosh; just coordinate with Jane Friedman (twisterjill1@yahoo.com) or Renee.

Where Should We Send Your Chai-Lights?

Please let us know if, as will many, you’ll be heading north sometime in April. We want to send your next copy of Chai-Lights to the address where you’ll, you know, actually be.

How Does our Garden Grow?

No silver bells, just lots of hard work, joyous digging, planting and watering of healthy seedlings by Jane Friedman and friends, continuing the tradition started by her generous son, Harry Friedman, for his Eagle Scout project. Stop to admire and watch the progress of broccoli, herbs, eggplant, and tomatoes. At harvest time, families in need will come to Burton Memorial Food Bank and reap the benefits. (There may even be a garden salad or two in KJCC's near future. Thank you, Jane and Harry.



Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-304-1810.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Renee Salant at 206-730-8002 or email her at reneesam@mac.com.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 to arrange your donation.

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

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

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

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

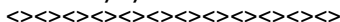
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam April 2017

In Memory Of

Helen Berman

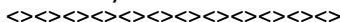
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Clara Bloom

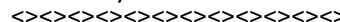
By Marc Bloom



In Memory Of

Nat Feldblum

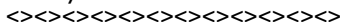
By Marc Bloom



In Memory Of

Jean Blumenfeld

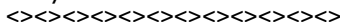
By Marvin A. Blumenfeld



In Memory Of

Audrey Pearlman

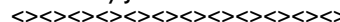
By William & Donna Bolton



In Memory Of

Baruch Epstein

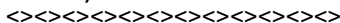
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Joseph T. Cline

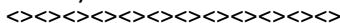
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

Ellen Coltman

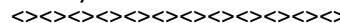
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

Mark Hitzig

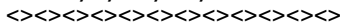
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

Vivian Faye

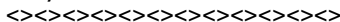
By Sydney! Faye-Davis



In Memory Of

Frances Wolfe

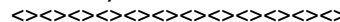
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

Bill Gordon

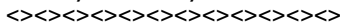
By Susan Gordon



In Memory Of

Marty Graham

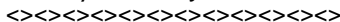
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Stella Hartz

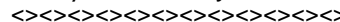
By Steven & Jan Hartz



In Memory Of

Michael Janowitz

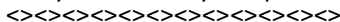
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Gertrude F. Kaplan

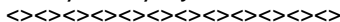
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Nathan Klein

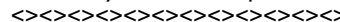
By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

Fred Klimpl

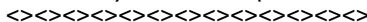
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Marilyn Janet Barr

By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Janet Blum

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum



In Memory Of

George Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

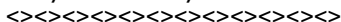


In Memoriam April 2017

In Memory Of

Zelda Pearl

By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl



In Memory Of

Erwin Moss

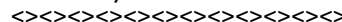
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Dr. Joel Pollack

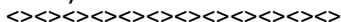
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts



In Memory Of

Louise Folks Baker

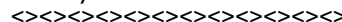
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

Sam Sax

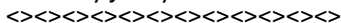
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

Dolores Feldman

By Jeffrey Schocket



In Memory Of

Richard Schulberg

By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

Sally Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai



In Memory Of

Ginger Lewis

By Robert Silk



In Memory Of

Louis S. Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

Morris Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

Claire Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith



In Memory Of

Cantor Alex Chapin

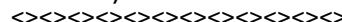
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

Ida Tallent

By Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

By Joan P. Wohl



In Memory Of

Charles Kram

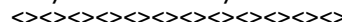
By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

Hilda Mazur

By Sanford & Nancy Yankow



In Memory Of

Irwin Cutler

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

David Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

Zelda Pearl

By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl



Sisterhood

Sam Weis and Renee Salant



Let's talk about change. Some changes are seasonal. Some move slowly, as in geologic time. Some changes come about in a wink of an eye, like slipping on a banana peel. When 2017 began, Renee and I started out as Sisterhood Co-Presidents. It was exciting, but it quickly became evident that any group needs one strong, intelligent, caring, and organized leader. That is Renee. I admit that I gave in to flattery, being quite honored at being asked to participate in such a role. However, the truth is, I completely lack organizational skills and am incapable of linear thinking and planning ahead (I am even writing this column at the last possible moment). Therefore, we have made changes. Renee is the official President of KJCC Sisterhood, and I am the official Renee assistant. I will be writing the Chai-Lights Sisterhood column, with Renee's input. I will also be creating the oneg host card, washing dishes, cleaning up, locking up, putting out the cat and bringing in the dog. Honestly, if you relied on me to arrange an event, there is a strong possibility I would wander off into the mangroves only to remember it about a month too late. The point is, we all pitch in, doing what we can with the particular and peculiar skills that we bring. If you want to be more involved with KJCC Sisterhood, you only have to call Renee. Come to Sisterhood's monthly meeting; bring your ideas and your energy. Additionally, anyone can sponsor an oneg. It is a lovely gesture, a fun way to celebrate, sharing with your KJCC family. We do enjoy each other's company, and we sure do like cake.

April brings us to Pesach. The KJCC Sisterhood hopes you will come to Second Seder, 6:30 pm on April 11th at the Islamorada Fish-ing Club, to celebrate The Exodus together,

before the exodus of the snow-bird variety begins. This is my favorite Seder because I get to enjoy the retelling of the Pesach story and enjoy the company of my KJCC family without worrying whether anyone is eating the covered dish I brought, or thinking about the mountain of dishes awaiting me after four cups of wine. When I was in my 20s I thought the perfect way to observe Pesach would be

to hit the McDonald's drive-thru, order a burger with no bun, and with only the clothes one was wearing, drive to Southwest Utah to begin wandering in the desert: Sudden, emergent, vital, and also, no dishes. The Islamorada Fishing Club is definitely better. We shall celebrate our release from slavery, and perhaps engage in discussion of all the other kinds of enslavement we allow into our lives.

Many thanks to everyone who is hosting an oneg in April: Mort and Gene Silverman, Stuart and Geri

Smith, Nettie Seder, and Toby Bofshever. At this moment April 21st is still available. It can be yours.

Thanks to Renee Salant for stepping up and taking the bull by the horns. (Hey, I grew up on a farm, it's one of those phrases.) Thanks to Erica Lieberman-Garrett for helping light the path. And gratitude to each member of Sisterhood for doing the work of making a vibrant community.

Lastly, congratulations to Laura Wolf for stepping into the role of Sisterhood Treasurer. You've got a strong safety net; we know you will do well.

On behalf of Sisterhood President Renee Salant, this is Sam Weis wishing a good and healthy and joyous month to all. Keep working for justice. ◇

*Come to
Sisterhood's
monthly
meeting;
bring your
ideas and
your energy.*

KJCC's Adult Education Program

Proudly Presents Its

First Annual KJCC Moms Memorial Winter Film Fest

Sponsored in full by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

In loving memory of their moms, Lucy Kaufman and Celeste Bravo Mendez



All films begin at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME – There is no charge

REFRESHMENTS will be served afterwards

For More Information, Contact Medina Roy: hiitsmedee@gmail.com

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



“Just Doing the Right Thing...”

In mid-February, Jared Nied received the Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) *Stand Up New Yorker Award*, which recognizes city residents for “taking immediate action to help those being singled out for bigotry, or initiating efforts to denounce hate.” Nied, 37, was on a Manhattan subway where he noticed swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti in several places. The other commuters seemed uncomfortable and not sure what to do. Nied said aloud, “Hand sanitizer gets rid of Sharpie. We need alcohol.” He took some tissues and proceeded to clean away the graffiti. Several of the commuters joined Nied and all of the offensive symbols were removed. Nied’s actions went viral after one of the commuters described the scene on *Facebook*. Nied, who works as a *sous chef* in New York, was surprised at all the attention he received. “I’m honestly not sure what to say other than that I was just doing the right thing, the thing that needed to be done.”

(www.forward.com, 2-14-17)

“For All Who Want to Enter”

On March 1st, a special meeting of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) approved a resolution to allow individual congregations to decide whether to extend membership to non-Jews. The vote was held over the Internet and the measure passed overwhelmingly, 94 to 8 with one abstention. (Fifteen members did not vote.) “USCJ supports every affiliated *kehillah* (the Hebrew word for “congregation”) in developing its own criteria for membership,” the resolution read. “...We call on all of our *kehillot* to open their doors wide to all who want to enter.” The resolution grew out of a commission set up in March of 2016 to explore ways to engage intermarried couples. The Conservative movement prohibits its leaders from

performing marriages or attending the wedding ceremonies of interfaith couples. (Some Conservative synagogues celebrate intermarriages before they occur and/or welcome the couples afterward, a classically Jewish way to follow the rules without actually following the rules.) Many Conservative leaders have protested the intermarriage prohibition. In recent years, membership in the Conservative Movement has been rapidly declining while more Jews are affiliated with the Orthodox Movement. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-6-17)

75 Years Later...

In a ceremony at the end of February, the headstone of an American soldier killed in World War II was recently replaced with one bearing a Star of David. The replacement ceremony for Staff Sgt. Jack Weiner, a navigator for the 345th Bombardment Group, was held at the *National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific* in Honolulu, Hawaii. Weiner was killed during a bombing mission on August 10, 1945, just days before Japan surrendered. He was the only son of a Jewish immigrant mother from Russia. Weiner enlisted even though he was excused from the draft. He was originally buried at Yokohama Cemetery in Japan, but his remains were moved to the *National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific* in March 1949. An error was made during the transition, and Weiner ended up with a cross on his headstone. First Lt. Rabbi Levy Pekar, who serves at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, heard about the mix-up from one of Weiner’s cousins. After looking into the matter for some time, Pekar found information confirming Sgt. Weiner’s wishes to have the Star of David on his headstone. “...[Sgt. Weiner’s] story affected me on a spiritual level and as my duty as chaplain I knew we had to correct

this mistake,” Pekar said. Over 30 members of the Honolulu Jewish community, both military and civilian, attended the ceremony installing Sgt. Weiner’s new headstone and together recited the *Kaddish* prayer for him. (www.jta.org, 3-6-17)

Get Relief in Just Minutes

If you are the one of four individuals who gets queasy on a boat, a plane or even when riding in a bus or car, a new Israeli device worn around the neck just might be the answer. Developed by Sidis Labs, *MotionCure* could provide relief in minutes. The neck collar uses tingling pulses to relieve the dizziness, nausea and vomiting that occurs when the sense of balance is disturbed by constant motion. Founded in 2014, Sidis Labs came up with the idea for a motion sickness device after Ohad Raz, one of the founders of the lab, completed his military service in the Israeli Navy. *MotionCure* is built on groundbreaking NASA research. The device creates customized pulses that are transmitted to the area of the nerve at the back of the neck. These pulses help to reduce the signals sent from the brain to calm down the stomach. The device, similar to a travel pillow and a neck collar, uses two AAA batteries. *MotionCure* has also been used by people undergoing chemotherapy, the side effects of which often include nausea and vomiting. The device is available on Amazon for \$150 and on the company’s website, sidislabs.com. (*World Jewry Digest*, January 2017)

Someone to Stand Guard? Count on Me.

Following the recent surge of bomb threats against Jewish community centers and the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues, groups of Muslims are offering to help guard Jewish sites. This show of solidarity came after an online fundraising campaign started by two Muslims – and promoted by “Harry Potter” author J.K. Rowling – raised over \$150,000 to repair a vandalized Jewish cemetery outside of St. Louis recently where some 170 gravestones were toppled. In a somewhat similar story, a Muslim man who

started an online fundraising campaign for a Tampa, Florida mosque damaged in an attempted arson attack said that many of his donors were Jewish. “I couldn’t understand why people were donating in what seemed like weird amounts...18 or 72 dollars. Then... after clicking on the names, Avi, Cohen, Goldstein, Rubin, Fisher...Jews donate in multiples of 18 as a form of what is called ‘chai.’ It wishes the recipient long life...The Jewish faith has shown up in force to support our New Tampa Islamic community. I’m floored.” (As of 3-12-17, there have been some 120 bomb threats called in to 80 Jewish institutions in approximately 30 states and one Canadian province.) (www.huffingtonpost.com, 3-1-17)

“The Situation is Serious”

The Sea of Galilee – the *Kinneret* in Hebrew – has reached the lowest water level in the last 100 years. According to Amir Givati of Israel’s Water Authority, the lake has suffered from four consecutive years of rain shortages. The level is 20 centimeters (about eight inches) below the so-called “red line” – what experts consider acceptable. The shortage of rainfall is affecting agriculture, the environment and animal life in the surrounding area. The rest of the country is spared from shortages thanks to five seawater desalination plants – supplying three-quarters of the drinking water consumed by Israeli households – which are built along the Mediterranean coast. Drinking water to homes in northern Israel is normally supplied by the Sea of Galilee. (Which is actually a freshwater lake and the lowest such lake on earth. It sits in the depression of the Jordan River, 656 feet below sea level, covering roughly 62 square miles.) (www.dailymail.co.uk, 3-7-17)

Roadkill Prevention Via Technology

WAZE, the traffic navigation app that was developed in Israel, is popular because, among other things, it saves drivers’ time. The app already has a “roadkill” button, with which users can report dead animals at the side of the road. Now data from that app is

being used by the *Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel* (SPNI) to determine which intersections pose the most danger to animals. WAZE users reported 1,416 roadkill sightings in Israel last year. The data collected will help SPNI create a road atlas for wildlife. Safe crossing signs and zones for animals will be posted. The program was released on March 17th, UN World Wildlife Day. (www.forward.com, 3-13-17)

TAU Ranked #8 in the World

A new study has ranked Tel Aviv University among the top schools that produce billion-dollar start-ups. The study was conducted by the cloud accounting software firm *Sage*. Topping the list, with 51 alumni responsible for founding start-up firms worth more than \$1 billion, was Stanford University. Harvard followed with 37. Ranking 8th in the world, Tel Aviv University had seven and was ahead of Cornell and the University of Southern California, which had six apiece. (www.jta.org, 2-6-17)

In Memoriam

* Joseph A. Wapner, a real-life judge but better known as the judge presiding on the legally binding (for civil cases only) popular TV show "The People's Court," died recently. He was 97. It was on television where Wapner made his mark on the legal profession. The son of Jewish immigrants from Romania and Russia, Wapner was a decorated World War II veteran. He briefly dated Hollywood film actress Lana Turner (before she was famous) while they both attended Hollywood High School. Wapner was the first Jew to be elected presiding judge of Los Angeles's Superior Court system, where he supervised more than 200 colleagues. To those who watched his show every afternoon (including Dustin Hoffman's character in the film "Rain Man"), Wapner was known to listen to reason, to be firm but fair and compassionate in applying the law. (www.tabletmag.com, 2-28-17)

* Rabbi Zecharia Barashi, reportedly the world's oldest Jew and who leaves behind 125 descendants, died of natural causes in

Jerusalem in early March. He was 117. He was born into a rabbinic family in Iraqi Kurdistan, the youngest of ten children (seven of whom died in infancy). Married at eighteen, he, along with his wife and three young children, immigrated to pre-state Israel in 1936. He was among the founders of a national organization of Kurdish Jews and worked as an educator in Jerusalem. He was later recognized as the unofficial leader of Kurdish Jews in Israel. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 3-6-17)

* David Rubinger, the Israeli photographer who took the iconic photo of the Israeli paratroopers standing in front of the *kotel* (Western Wall) just minutes after its capture from Jordan on June 7, 1967 in the Six-Day-War, has died. He was 92. Many of Rubinger's photos chronicled the history of the Jewish state. In 1997, he was awarded the *Israel Prize* – the country's highest honor – for his body of work, the first photographer to receive the award. It's been said that during his career, he shot some 500,000 photos of Israeli people and events. Rubinger was born in Vienna. As a teenager, he was active in *Hashomer Hatzair*, the Zionist socialist youth movement, and in 1939 when he was fifteen he was chosen under a youth quota system to immigrate to what was then British-controlled Palestine, where he joined a kibbutz. Rubinger fought in 1944 with the *Jewish Brigade*, a military division of the British army, which was led by Jewish officers in Europe. He fought in the 1948 *War of Independence*, later joining the Israeli army's maps and photography services unit, which helped provide intelligence. He began his career as a photo-journalist in 1955 and was *Time-Life's* main photographer in Israel for 50 years. He also served as the Knesset's official photographer for 30 years. (www.nytimes.com, 3-2-17)

Did You Know...

* At the end of March, the *World Chess Hall of Fame* in St. Louis, MO, inducted four new members. All four are Jewish. The 2017 inductees were Paula Kalmar-Wolf, Alla Kushnir, Viktor Korchnoi and Edward Lasker. These four now join the Hall's existing 27 members. (www.tabletmag.com, 2-28-17) ◇

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.

General Fund

Schur, Lee
Kaufman, Michael
Horowitz, Seth
Steinbock, Stephen

In Honor Of

birth of Charley
Shabbat Across America
Shabbat Across America
Shabbat Across America

Yahrzeit

Emkey, Gerri & Frank
Emkey, Gerri & Frank
Olson, Gerald
Harris, Stephen
Margolis, Gary/Blum, Laurie

Nathan Weisberg
Robert Kinney
Louis Weinstein
Lee M. Harris
Annie Kleinfeldt
Bernstein

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

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

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

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

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

EYE ON THE ARTS

Joyce Peckman



Spring is here, bringing balmy weather, bright colors, and a gradual end to high season activity. Although many events pop up last minute, here are some I found that you may enjoy.

**Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2,
10 a.m.-5 p.m.: The 26th Annual Florida
Keys Island Fest,**

This is held at Founders' Park, MM 87. There will be live music of every genre, paintings, sculpture and crafts from more than 100 local and national artists. You can also feast your eyes on sand sculptures, antique and vintage cars, trucks and motorcycles. Did I just use the word "feast?" Sunday will feature the Taste of Islamorada, with local restaurants competing and bringing their best for you to purchase. Admission is free.

April 1st and 8th: Cabaret:

Community theatre at its best, at Marathon Community Theatre, 5101 O/S Highway, Marathon. 8 p.m. For information, call 305-743-0994 or buy tickets on the website www.marathontheater.org. Carpool, anyone?

**Wednesday, April 5th, 9:30a.m. - Noon:
Art Guild of the Purple Isles.**

If you want to engage in the creative process and interact with local artists, this might be a good time to check out this dynamic group. Their meeting, at Elk Lodge, MM92.6, is open to the public.

**Saturday, April 8th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.:
Watercolor Society Judged Exhibition,**

This takes place at Marathon Community Theatre, 5101 O/S Highway, Marathon. This

is a highly professional theater group and, get this, the opportunity to see brilliant Keys watercolorists on exhibit with one trip to Marathon. Grab your favorite theater- and art-loving friends. For information contact Julie Joyce 305-731-3046.

**Thursday, April 20, 6-9 p.m: Morada
Way Art Walk.**

There is a lively arts district at MM. 81.6 Oceanside. On the third Thursday, the street is closed off, and national and local artisans set up booths. There is live music and "culinary art." Take a lovely evening stroll; you never know whom you will see there.

**Saturday, April 22nd, 4 p.m.: Young Mu-
sicians Pops in the Park.**

Bring a cushion or chair and perhaps a picnic basket to Founders' Park, MM 87, where you can enjoy the breeze while listening to our talented Keys' kids.

**Sundays in April 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.: Dave
Feder at Morada Bay.**

If you enjoyed our 18 Strings and Attitude concert and decided that you want to hear more of Dave's fabulous guitar, you can catch him at Morada Bay, MM 81.6 bayside in Islamorada. Finish your weekend listening to KJCC's own master guitarist before he leaves on his latest international tour.

If you learn of an upcoming Keys cultural event that might not be on my somewhat limited radar, please let me know by the tenth of the month prior to the event. I will be happy to include it. Thanks.
joycepeckman@gmail.com



MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017

6:30 PM

AT THE

**KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**FIRST NIGHT
MISHPOCHA SEDER -
A HAIMISHE EVENT**

Contact Susan Ellner
ellnercd@aol.com - (914) 907-3993 to
reserve your spot and coordinate your
covered dish.

No charge for this event.

KJCC Religious School News

By *Morah* Reba (Randy) Klein-Gross

This month at the KJCC religious school, we worked on understanding Purim so that when the *Megillah* was read by the congregation, on March 12th, the kids would understand how bad Haman and his plans were for the Jews.

Max painted a watercolor on rice paper of Haman and his friends being hung from the top of Queen Esther's castle. JB drew and painted the King and Queen having a dinner party where Queen Esther isn't eating so the King will ask her why. When asked, she reveals Haman's plan. Oceana, AKA Galia, painted a beautiful watercolor around the word "PURIM."

The kids and parents (both named Randy) created *hamantaschen* masterpieces before Purim to share with the congregation. We hope everyone liked the Nutella, gummy bears, coconut, chocolate and Twix bar *hamantaschen*.

Purim was a hoot with the kids and adults dressed up in costumes. Even four-year-old Ruby, as Queen Esther, paraded in front of the crowd with "Haman," inciting "boos" and *groggers*. For all congregants that were present, thanks for making it special -- and for sharing in the celebration of Oshi's 13th birthday! ♦

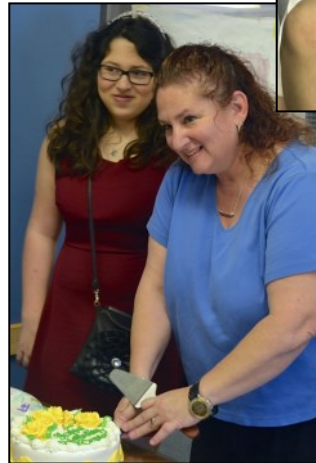
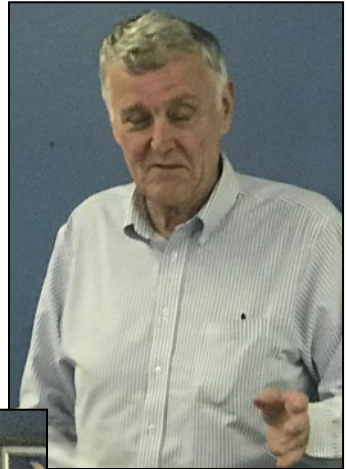


Photo Gallery

Sherry Zwerdling Remembered

Our Social Hall gets used in many ways, mostly to bring us pleasure in the form of onegs, dinners, and simchas. On this day, there was sorrow as well as celebration. KJCC member Sherry Zwerdling was being remembered by her friends. Renee Salant organized this heartfelt gathering; Rabbi Zucker came from Key West to share memories.



Dr. Robert Foley (above) gave a touching talk on his years of friendship with Sherry. So did Diane Saleeby-Gardener, at left.



Rabbi Yaakov Zucker, above, chanted *Eyl Malei HaRachamin* and led the group in saying Kaddish. Sherry's long-time friend Van (right) played a prayerful song on guitar.



Sherry's friends included people of all ages from the greater community as well as KJCC members. Some had never been inside a synagogue before. We were pleased to be able to share our "home" in Sherry's honor and memory.





For those who don't know, KJCC's Susan Gordon has a regular band gig, playing with the Mangrove Swamp Band. They offered a concert for locals on February 18th, and a number of fellow KJCC members went to listen and enjoy. It would appear that Terry Willner-Tainow's grandson also managed to publicly express his inner pirate. Aaargh.



The service on February 24th was led by Sisterhood. A full dozen women participated. They gather for the Shabbat candle-lighting, above, and on the bema after the service.



Two KJCC artists submitted work to this year's judged annual Purple Isles Art Guild show at the Islander History Museum in Is-lamorada. Both won high honors in their cate-gories. Brava. Geri Felder Smith won a 2nd Place Ribbon in the Oil Painting division with an evocative nude (right), and Jan Hartz, in her first year as an art guild member, took first place and a blue ribbon for Photography. We are extremely proud of both of them and hope you had a chance to see them live at the show.



The third picture is another photograph, printed on metal, by Jan Hartz, and shown directly below. It flew away with the second place ribbon last month at the Joe Cella "Birds in Nature" Exhibi-tion. Mazel tov to both women.



At left we offer you an artistic creation of another kind. Nissan Mayk sent us this photo of daughter Shyella (and husband Amit's) second son, Lahav Galil Shuker, born on February 27th. His brit was on March 6th, which just so happened to have been great-grandma Bea Graham's 91st birthday.



One of the brightest smiles at KJCC events this year has been Shirley Karger's. She and husband Gus (Gunther, our Holocaust survivor, saved from death in Germany by the *kindertransport* program) live in Homestead and enjoy our Jewish community here so much that they regularly drive the stretch to join us at services and events. We did not see them on Purim weekend because they were having their own community celebration, the Homestead Carnival (Mardi Gras) Festival. Shirley, originally from New Orleans, rode through the parade (with Gus driving their convertible), reliving the days when she actually was Mardi Gras Princess, in 1954. (Note the sash.) Brava. (Shirley, next year we'll have our Purim party in the evening; you can come as Esther and graduate from Princess to Queen.)

Joyce Peckman sent us this photo of youngest son Keith with he, Rebecca and the kids all togged out for Purim.



On February 21st, Linda Kaplan and Yardena Kamely met in Miami to attend a luncheon sponsored by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a nationwide NGO comprised of business, faith-based, academic, military and community leaders engaged in building international democracy and trade (below). Among the coalition members and sponsors is the American Jewish Committee (AJC), founded in 1906.



On March 15th, KJCC Board Member Beth Kaminstein curated a significant art show for the Keys, featuring the work of

two important modern Abstract Expressionists, Jules Olitski (born in the Ukraine but raised in New York) and Larry Poons (born in Tokyo but who also came of age in New York). It all took place at Moorings Photography and Art Gallery in Islamorada.



The Importance of Dr. Deborah Lipstadt

A childhood friend becomes a famed scholar of the Holocaust

by Medina Roy

Okay....this is a true story....really....

It was some 20 years ago. I was in a Barnes & Noble bookstore. I was browsing in the *Judaica* section when suddenly, about ten feet past me, a book just spontaneously fell off a shelf, landing title-side-up. I was the only one in the aisle and, being a book-lover (and librarian), I had to go over, pick it up and return it to its place on the shelf. I noticed the title, "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory." I found the title intriguing, of course, but then I noticed the author's name: Deborah Lipstadt. Deborah Lipstadt?? Could it be?? I lifted the book and turned to the back cover. Nope. No photograph. Then I opened the book to the back cover flap and there she was....flaming red hair and freckles, just as I remembered her from my childhood.

Deborah – I knew her as “Debbie” – and her family lived directly across the street from me while growing up in Far Rockaway, Queens, New York. At the time, our street consisted of mostly Modern-Orthodox Jewish families, with about a dozen children. (Total, not

each.) Most of us attended the nearby yeshiva HILI (Hebrew Institute of Long Island). We would come home from school, change into our play clothes and rush into the street to play stoop ball, jump rope, stick ball or even just quiet games like pick-up sticks or jacks. Once we even built a go-cart with lumber we found on a vacant lot down the street.

Naturally, we all went our separate ways once we graduated high school and went off to college. I had not stayed in touch with Debbie, and so when her book fell off the shelf at the bookstore, I was quite surprised to see that she was now an author. Of course I bought the book, and when I got home did a little research. She was not only an author but a prominent and distinguished historian and Holocaust scholar, too.

It turns out that the Debbie Lipstadt book I now owned was the winner of the 1994 *National Jewish Book Honor Award* and the first full-length study of those who attempt

to deny the Holocaust. And that Dr. Lipstadt (I really should start referring to her commensurate with her national stature now) was the

Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center
Yom Hashoah
 ANNUAL COMMUNITY WIDE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Sunday, April 23, 2017
 10:00 – 11:30 am
ATJC Soffer Sanctuary
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt

Memorial Lighting Procession by
Religious School Students

Color Guard Presentation by
Dr. Michael Krop High School

Special Performance by the
Holocaust Survivor Klezmer Band

Victor Farkas, Ursula Kersh & Rose Rubin
 Yom Hashoah Chairs

Historian and Brandeis grad Deborah Lipstadt is the subject of the new movie "Denial," starring Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson, and Timothy Spall. It's based on Lipstadt's book, "History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier," the true story of the trial involving Holocaust denier David Irving.

Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. Lipstadt was a historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She was appointed by President Clinton to the US Holocaust Memorial Council on which she served two terms. Dr. Lipstadt has been called upon by members of the United States Congress to consult on political responses to Holocaust denial. From 1996 through 1999 she served as a member of the United States State Department Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad. In this capacity she, together with a small group of leaders and scholars, advised Secretary of State Madeline Albright on matters of religious persecution abroad.

first to call attention to the rapidly expanding movement of Holocaust denial.

In the book, Dr. Lipstadt discusses, among others, David Irving. In 1995, she learned that he was preparing to sue her and her British publisher for calling him a Holocaust denier. A year later, she realized the dark significance of Irving's intentions, the level of damage he intended to wreak on both her and her work, and decided to fight. In the United States, a public figure like Irving would have to show that Lipstadt had acted "in reckless disregard" of the truth. But under British libel law, the burden of proof lay on Dr. Lipstadt, the defendant, "to demonstrate the accuracy of what she had written." Lipstadt's attorneys submitted some three thousand pages of testimony during the course of the legal battle, which went on for five years. The case was regarded as so significant that, to assist Dr. Lipstadt, the Israeli government released Adolf Eichmann's journals, which it had kept under lock and key for twenty-eight years, and delivered a copy to Professor Lipstadt's legal defense team.

In February of 2005, Deborah Lipstadt published another book, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving*, describing her experiences. The book itself ignited another firestorm in the Lipstadt-Irving conflict. C-Span intended to broadcast a speech by Lipstadt – in March at Harvard University – about her new book and announced that it would also feature a talk by Irving to "balance" their coverage of the story. Dr. Lipstadt, who has maintained a consistent policy against appearing with or debating Holocaust deniers, insisted that C-Span either reverse their decision or cancel the broadcast of her lecture. When C-Span's plans became known, 500 eminent historians signed a petition in support of Dr. Lipstadt's ultimatum, stating, "Falsifiers of history cannot 'balance' histories. Falsehoods cannot 'balance' the truth." C-Span refused to cancel their planned coverage of Irving, and Lipstadt then refused to appear on their Book-TV program. The con-

troversy sparked renewed analysis of the original court case and focused attention once more on Lipstadt's battle against Holocaust denial.

Currently, Dr. Deborah Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. At Emory she helped establish and direct an *Institute for Jewish Studies*. In 1994 President Bill Clinton appointed her an historical consultant to the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*; she served two terms and was then reappointed by President Barack Obama. She helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to *The American Response to the Holocaust*. Dr. Lipstadt has been called

upon by members of the United States Congress to consult on political responses to Holocaust denial. In 2006 she was elected to the *American Academy of Jewish Research*, the oldest organization of Judaic scholars in North America. Fellows are nominated and elected by their peers, so she is now among the most distinguished scholars teaching Judaic studies at American universities.

So why am I telling this story? (Yes, I'm very proud of her.

Wouldn't you be?) On Saturday evening, April 22nd, to commemorate this year's Yom HaShoah, and as part of KJCC's annual Holocaust program, we will be screening "Denial" in the KJCC sanctuary. The film, which did well in commercial release, dramatizes Dr. Lipstadt's court battle to challenge David Irving's distortions of the truth. It will be good for all of us, together, to experience the full impact and purpose of professional Holocaust denial, and the brave scholar who stands resolutely against them.

Some of us are planning a trip the following morning to Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in North Miami Beach, where Dr. Deborah Lipstadt will be speaking in person. If you would like to join our "field trip," please contact me by April 14th to arrange carpooling. You can reach me at hiitsmedee@gmail.com or (305)394-1702. ◇

Under British libel law, the burden of proof lay on Dr. Lipstadt, the defendant.

Dave and Sam Raise the Roof

Every year our Officers and Board of Directors do their best to come up with a fundraiser that's about more than money. Yes, we are the stewards of the shul, making sure we have what is needed to take care of all contingencies, whether that means dealing with simultaneous failure of multiple air-conditioning systems (as happened some months ago) or the tackling of a new expansion project when we're bursting at the seams. Last year we had a profound spiritual experience during the repair of our Holocaust Torah,



culminating in a daylong community enrichment project that was months in the making. That event became one of our most successful fundraisers ever, thanks to a multitude of generous members who embraced the task and then, as they participated, came to deeply feel its meaning. This year, angels from within our community and music lovers from throughout the Keys joined forces to support another fundraising project. It was clothed as a concert and it raised way more than our bank balance.

For weeks the colorful, cheery caricatures of Sam Weis and Dave Feder peered out from posters on bank, restaurant and gallery front windows. "18 Strings & Attitude" it promised. Two unique and well-respected guitarists were to play at KJCC!

Concert-chair Linda Kaplan and her committee worked diligently, recruiting Angels and Sponsors, distributing posters and taste-testing dark chocolate-covered strawberries, Kir, Proseco, sushi and triple-crème-brie for

the VIP pre-concert cocktail-party. (Somebody had to do it: thank you, Donna Bolton, premier organizer, plus devoted crew, Susan Ellner, Joyce Peckman, and me.) Thank you Angels, Sponsors, ticket-seller-extraordinaire Renee Salant, and ticket buyers.

The real VIPs, of course, were our artists. Sam Weis and David Feder were busy for weeks preparing, writing and honing new material. How lucky we are to have two highly gifted musicians among us who are also KJCC



Angels and Sponsors (well, many of them) gather for a pre-concert photo in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, nibbling on brie and sushi, enjoying Royal Kirs and building anticipation for the gala concert to come.



members with generous souls. The music was rich, original,

experimental, spiritual, complex, and moving. Sam and Dave, each unique, are artists at the top of their game, unafraid to follow their muse no matter where the inspiration leads. One particular piece, performed and written by Sam Weis, was 17 minutes long. Not a cough or a whisper or a shuffle of feet was heard in the sanctuary (where 130 people were seated). The bell-like music of Sam's 12 strings mesmerized us, took us on a journey through the great Northwest, over ocean and orchard and let us down gently when it



was over. David added his six strings to the mix at mid-show, and

a whole new concert began. This was not David Feder playing background music for diners. This was song after original song of dynamic rhythmic complexity, joyful noise and then some. We were privileged to hear two



complete concerts and then one fabulous song shared by the two of them that capped off the night. We enjoyed their delightful patter and magnetic personalities throughout. Both received standing ovations from the audience of KJCC members and other lovers of unique artistry.



If you missed this, we are sorry. If you loved it and supported KJCC with a ticket purchase or helping hand or extra contribution, we say thank you and hope you loved both the music and all the great refreshments afterwards. One more ovation for Sam and Dave, please! (There may be a recorded CD in the offering. As each guitarist said to the other that night: Stay tuned.)

—Gloria



***Our special KJCC
acknowledgment and gratitude
to our concert's
Angels and Sponsors:***

Angels: Donna Bolton, Susan Ellner, David & Toby Goldfinger, David & Patti Gross, Stan & Jenny Margulies, Linda Pollack, Steve & Barbara Smith, and Anonymous.

Sponsors: Bernard Ginsberg, Joseph & Katherine Shabathai, Steve & Jan Hartz, Joyce Peckman, Roger & Danna Levy.

Dave & Sam (cont.)—





KJCC Annual Community Passover Second Seder



Tuesday, April 11, 2017

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact

Renee Salant

reenesam@mac.com (206) 730-8002

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

Vegetarian options are available - please request when
making your reservation.

PASSOVER

Donations: Adults \$54; Children 12 and under are our guests.

BAGELS OVER BERLIN

A good movie that documents an important part of our history (told by the people who lived it, Jewish boys who joined the Army Air Corps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor) makes for a riveting evening. It gets even better when the man who conceived the idea, filmed the interviews and produced the film comes to visit and talk with you (us) about it. The movie recently won 2nd prize at the Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival. Next stop, Chicago. Alan Feinberg was a delightful and engaging speaker. Kudos to Medina and her Committee and continuing thanks to Michael and Lorena Kaufman for their sponsorship of this year's film festival.

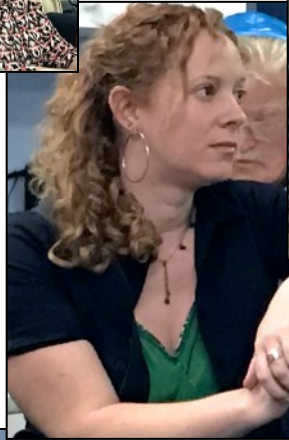


Alan Feinberg (left and below) answers questions from the large, fascinated KJCC crowd gathered for post-movie Q&A. We were amazed when he told us that each of the pilots interviewed was still alive and none was younger than 90 years old. Their stories elicited laughter and also brought us to tears.



Look at these fascinated faces. Many had questions but even more had their own stories and prime source material to share. Alan Feinberg was generous with his answers, entertaining in his delivery and appreciative of the input. We wish him well in Chicago and all his other entries in film festival competitions.

Gunther Karger (below) must be thinking about his own WWII experiences and his escape from Germany via the last train of Jewish children to leave Germany.



New members Jeff and Cheryl Margulies, above center, and KJCC Financial Secretary Donna Bolton, just above, during Alan's post-film Q & A session.



George Swartz shares more personal history with Alan, at left. Dana Grace, (above), historian and scholar, takes it all in, while Elaine Solas, above right, gives her contact information to Alan's wife Nancy Jo for more sharing of documents. Who knows what planted seeds might grow from this evening?

Shabbat Across America

(And then off to Africa with Professor Tudor Parfitt)

by Gloria Avner

In the Rodgers and Hammerstein (both Jewish) musical "Sound of Music," the *Do Re Me* song uses a classic truism for its initial lyrics: "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start." For nearly a decade, KJCC has been celebrating Shabbat Across America at Shabbat's beginning. We invited our ever-larger and more diverse *mishpocha* to our home-away-from-home/Social Hall for a big Shabbat dinner with lots of homemade food beautifully displayed on artistically set tables.

We lit candles, sang blessings over wine, said *hamotzi* over challah, and enjoyed ourselves. When we went into services after singing grace, being thankful for our food (*Birkat HaMazon*), a good feeling lingered in the air. It's a fact. Under the influence of the National Jewish Outreach Program, congregations full of people like us shared the same experience of observance across this continent on the same day, together as one.

This year we did something different. We started near the end. Shabbat is a 25-hour holiday, after all, and we wanted to enjoy it to the



very last moment. The third joyous meal of Shabbat, *Seudah Shlishit*, and the day of rest's last hours were to be our focus. We would celebrate our time with our second souls, the very special gift of Shabbat,

knowing that soon we would transition from the sacred back to the secular. In a moving moment, after an extremely delicious and probably most healthy meal we've ever served, we broke into song - let's break into this sentence for a heartfelt thank you to the people who made those wonderful salads (Natalie, Erica, Nettie, and Kathy), roasted vegetables (Jeff), tasty curries (Jane and Glo-



ria), olives (Jim), dishes with rice and craisins, spinach, exotic names, and cauliflower soufflé (Medina, Toby and Yardena) to the best ladyfingers ever (Beth) and cobblers and fruit and knishes oh my, and to all that I've forgotten, so many thanks.

We chanted with vigor the prayer of Grace After Meals, and when that was over we did not want to stop.

We burst into *Daveed Melech Israel*, then morphed into *Shalom Chaverim*, *Hava Na Gila*, *Tzena, tzena, tzena*, and carried on banging rhythm with our hands on tables until breathless, nearly out of oxygen, we accepted the invitation to move on and observe *Havdalah* in the darkened sanctuary with Rabbi Agler. It was tender, our leave-taking.

The chanted blessings over wine and spices and the braided candle symbolic of our connection to one another creating a great and eternal light was, as always, short, sweet and meaningful.

Shabbat was over but the evening promised another chapter. Dr. Tudor Parfitt, famed anthropologist, explorer, scholar and pre-eminent expert on the historical presence of Black Jews in Africa, was about to give us an



Eating the traditional *seudah shlishi*, we gathered in both Social Hall and classroom to honor Shabbat Across America before we adjourned to the sanctuary to begin the second part of the full evening: a talk by

Professor Tudor Parfitt on his latest research about emerging Jewish connections to Africa.

inside view on his latest and most surprising current research, the discovery of one more tribal connection between Judaism and Black Africa, a people in the West African State of Luango that he had never heard of, but whom

had been recognized as important by scholars going all the way back to the Enlightenment. After his talk Dr. Parfitt made the fascinating comment during Q & A that there really is no such thing as race. Processing that startling statement, we adjourned and walked back to the Social Hall for more eating and drinking, grateful that so

many had turned out to share this unique Shabbat experience with us, sixty for the dinner and nearly eighty for the talk.

It was a wonderful Shabbat. The combination of secular learning with the warm glow of Shabbat still hovering, we re-entered our weekday lives feeling enriched. ◊



A special sweetness was added to the evening when Rabbi Agler performed the Havdalah ceremony, We sing, we bless wine, we sniff spices, light our many-wicked candle and say goodbye to Shabbat. Dousing the light in a *shissel* full of wine, we sing again, wishing each other a good

week, a blessed week, as we re-enter the secular world of the workaday.

At left, Professor Tudor Parfitt — author, adventurer, scholar and revealer of hidden worldwide connections to Judaism — speaks at KJCC on March 4th about his ongoing work with the Luango of western Africa.

There was some Q & A for Professor Parfitt in the sanctuary at the end of his talk. (Among his anthropological nuggets, when asked about race, and the irony of Jews so often being referred to as a “race,” that, scientifically, there really is no such thing as “race.”) The questions and discussion continued in the Social Hall afterward over coffee and nosh, as they always do at KJCC. Then again, isn’t that what social halls and coffee are for?



At evening’s end, Professor Parfitt poses with KJCC Executive Vice President and Ritual Director Gloria Avner, left, and President Beth Hayden, at right.

PURIM AND PIZZA AND MITZVOT, OH MY

When 48 people, including eight children, shout and spin their noisy *groggers* in unison time after time, there is no escaping the fact that something profound is happening in KJCC's Social Hall. (It's also extremely funny when five-year-old Ruby Fink runs from right to left across the "stage" every time Haman's name is mentioned with a sign saying "Boo! Hiss!" while her older brother, an enthusiastically furious Haman, stomps across with her.)

We performed the four mitzvahs asked of us for *Purim*.

After we greeted and bedecked our members with masks and assorted flowing robes for costumes, Jules Seder led our well-dressed children in a rousing rendition of "Oh Once There Was a Wicked, Wicked Man" (with Oshi Gross playing Esther on the very day of her 13th birthday). Beth Hayden, our new president, introduced the

actual reading with inspiring words from Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. We then took a quick peek at our own



As it is every year, Purim at KJCC is a smorgasbord of activity and fun. In the photo at top, new president Beth Hayden offers a welcome, with sage commentary by Rabbi Lord Sacks. Pauline (who knew Queen Esther) models her crown. Gloria drapes Mordechai-like garb onto Jules. At right, the children, led by Jules, sing a Purim song.

parchment *Megillat Esther* with the lovely calligraphic crowns over the letters spelling out the word *mel-ech*, or king. At last, in our round robin way, we began, after Steve Hartz led us in initial prayers, to take turns reading, and



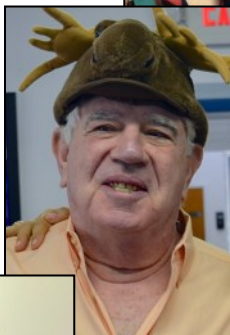
even more important for the first mitzvah – listening – to the *gan-sa* (Yiddish for complete) *megillah*.

We completed the other three mitzvahs required of us as well. We gave *tzedakah* (charity) by stuffing our blue collection boxes with money, we distributed *mishloach manot* by giving away to lucky winner Lee Schur (who said the day really lifted her spirits) a beautiful basket filled with wine, cheese, fruit, crackers and chocolate, graciously donat-



ed by Renee Salant, and, finally, we celebrated our people's escape from extermination by sharing a joyous meal. *Purim* and pizza has a nice ring to it. And Maria's homemade vegetable soup with rice could not have been more satisfying. We ate the children's homemade *hamantaschen* (created at KJCC the night before – see pics), and interspersed them with Nettie Seder's sophisticated, creative ones filled with Brie cheese and pecans or mango jam and coconut. I did not keep track of liquor consumption, but I trust that at least a few of us drank enough to be a little *farshimult* (Yiddish for confused) in telling the difference between Haman's words and Mordechai's. Next year we'll have an evening costume party for adults (with prizes) and a *purimspiel* for everyone, and we'll have a great time all over again. In *Mishnah* circles, the word is that *Purim* will be the only holiday we'll celebrate after the Messiah comes.

–Gloria



It's a little hard to see faces, but Medina had taken fun-house-type photos of everyone (on purpose...you know, Purim) and mounted them on display boards. Sam Weis' mask, below, was actually hand-crafted in Vienna. (Austria, not Virginia.)



Purim Continues...

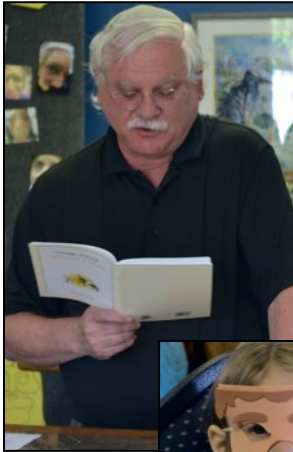


Just like it's supposed to be, Purim at KJCC is a full participation activity. Everyone gets a grogger. Everyone gets a copy of the text so they can take their turn reading the Megillah. Many dress up in costume (some timidly, some bravely). And, as you can see, our children always participate. Ruby Fink had the job this year of

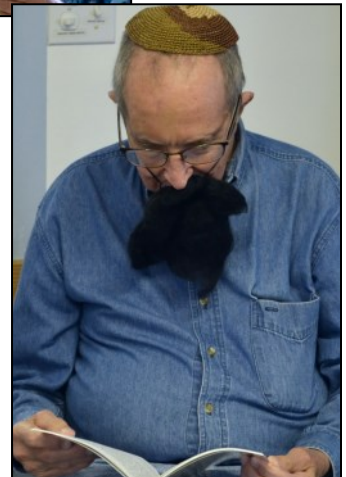
seeding the crowd with cue cards to boo each mention of the evil Haman's name. She did her job

well, and so did we. (If Bloom's hat was green instead of blue, wouldn't he make a great leprechaun?)





We read, we listen, we give charity and then (what else?) we eat. Bring on the pizza and Haman's ears. Really.



Passover

It's that time of year again. The time when the most Jews celebrate a holiday. The time when the Jewish story gets told to the most people. We have two articles on Pesach for you, one on esoteric info, the other on details of understanding the traditional kosher rules. Chag Sameach.

Passover: Things Your Rabbi Never Told You

by Gloria Avner

It's almost time to take out our haggadahs and tell that same old story. It's a wonder-full story, the most important story we have to tell, the story of our freedom and survival against the greatest of odds, including our own intransigence. The acceptance of the Commandments at Mt. Sinai is the Jews' most important defining event. It is also the event by which God self-defines. God does not say "I am the God who created everything that is." God says "I am the Lord that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God."

Still, though we know the story, we love new learning. You might want to share some of the following little-known facts, side stories, and metaphysical insights about Passover at your own seder table. (Much of the American information was gathered from the Tobias Geffen papers of the American Jewish Historical Society, the rest from Talmud Tractate "Pesachim" and discussions with a learned friend.)

"The daughters you shall let live" (Exodus 1:16)

When the Egyptians decided to kill the Jewish male babies, women played a huge role in God's plan for Jewish redemption, setting the stage by saving Moses, by keeping our names, our customs, and our family strengths and beliefs intact. It should not be surprising that the most popular *haggadah* in the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century was arranged, edited and translated by a woman. Before feminism, before Maxwell House, there was Lillie Goldsmith Cowen.

Mrs. Philip Cowen, as she preferred to be called, was the wife of the first publisher of

the Jewish weekly newspaper "American Hebrew." She worked side by side with him, editing and typesetting until his retirement in 1906. In 1904, she published the Cowen Haggadah, the first mass-produced adaptation of the *haggadah* in modern American vernacular. Hundreds of thousands of copies were sold all over the world and were distributed to American Jewish servicemen in both World Wars.

The grape debate

"I will free you from the hard labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their bondage, I will redeem you with an outstretched arm...!

will gather you in to be my people" (*Exodus* 6:6-7). Wine at the Passover seder is associated with freedom. Slaves, after all, were not permitted to drink wine. In fact, the four cups of wine are associated with four expressions of freedom and redemption.

Ironically, when the Constitution's 18th Amendment went into effect in January 1920, Prohibition threatened to eliminate this important symbol of religious freedom from Jewish ritual life. Jews found themselves embroiled in a battle both with the U.S. government and with each other.

While wine would be permitted for Jews during Passover, the new law required obtaining special government permits to make and, in some cases, import wine. These permits became a major target for organized crime. Congregations that existed only on paper applied for permits, a practice that received negative press and became a source of concern for the Jewish community.

Reform and Conservative rabbis volunteered to give up their wine-making permits, saying that grape juice could be substituted without violating Jewish

law, making Orthodox rabbis irate. With the end of Prohibition and the rise of Nazism in the 1930s, American Jews once again banded together to face a common enemy.

Passover in the (New Mexican) desert

"Therefore it is our duty to thank, praise, pay tribute, glorify, exalt, honor, extol, bless and acclaim the one who has performed all these miracles for our ancestors and for us."

In February 1918, 25-year-old Jacob "Jack" Yellen found himself far from his New York City home in the high desert of southern New Mexico. Born in Poland and brought to America as a boy, Yellen's aspirations as a Vaudeville producer and lyricist were cut short by World

War I. He became a field representative of the Jewish Welfare Board for Work and was part of a group of dedicated young men and women around the country providing for the religious and personal needs of tens of thousands of Jewish men being trained to fight the Kaiser's army.

When possible, Yellen held Friday evening services, produced and sang in camp shows, and generally acted as chaplain, counselor and older

Prohibition: *Good for Sacramental Wine Business*

The Volstead Act, which was passed in the year before Prohibition began, granted federal agents permission to investigate and prosecute anyone who violated Prohibition liquor laws. But wines used for sacramental purposes were exempt, which meant that a limited amount of wine could be made at home and in wineries.

To acquire sacramental wine, some people went as far as to pose as priests and rabbis. In 1925, a study found that the demand for sacramental wine in the US increased by 3 million liters (800,000 gal) in a two-year period.



brother. His devotion and enthusiasm earned him the respect of the camp's non-Jewish officer corps.

When Passover arrived on March 28th, Yellen organized and led a seder for the camp's Jewish soldiers. About 60 enlisted men were present, along with many distinguished guests. Yellen managed to procure candlesticks, matzah, bitter herbs and paschal lamb, all served in a mess hall decorated in blue and white. Grape juice was



zah, bitter herbs and paschal lamb, all served in a mess hall decorated in blue and white. Grape juice was

substituted for wine.

Officers called upon to speak not only praised the contribution of the Jews to America, but also wished the Jewish people well as they worked toward creating a Jewish state. The seder ended with Yellen singing "Hatikvah" and the "Star-Spangled Banner."

Yellen, in collaboration with longtime partner Morton Ager, went on to write such American classics as "Ain't She Sweet" and "Happy Days Are Here Again." His Jewish classic "Yiddishe Mama" sold more than 1 million copies in 1925.

"Those Jews, they take care of their own"

"It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went out of Egypt (Exodus 13:8). For me but not for him – had he been there, he would not have been redeemed."

When the wicked son asks: "What is the purpose of this work to you?" it is clear that he excludes himself from the community.

Involvement in the needs of the community is one of the most powerful defining ideas of what it means to be a good Jew. A century ago, the non-Jewish world was in awe of Jewish philanthropic organizations as well as wealthy families and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of impoverished and un-

educated Jews. This spirit of giving was best exemplified by the Baron and Baroness de Hirsch.

In 1888, the German Jewish industrialist gave a gift of \$10 million to aid in the education of poor Russian Jews. The world was amazed. Headlines all over America reported the Baron's gift, which was deposited for safekeeping in a London bank. It was called "the second-largest private act of charity in the history of the world."

After the Baron died, his wife Clara continued his legacy. In 1896, she came to another place of dire poverty and gave an equally generous gift of \$10 million to help another group of desperate Jews. That place was New York's Lower East Side.

It's the Real Thing™

The Wise Son, what does he say? According to the famous medieval scholar Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (commonly known as Rashi), the wise son is wise because he is one who knows how to ask wisely. In the spirit of the wise son, Rabbi Tobias Geffen of Atlanta was a man who knew how to ask wisely.

The formula for Coca-Cola ranks up there among such great American secrets as Area 51 and the Manhattan Project. Geffen, an Orthodox rabbi who served Atlanta Jewry from 1910 until his death in 1970 at the age of 99, is responsible for Coke being kosher.

Born in Kovno, Lithuania, in 1870 he immigrated to America and became rabbi of a congregation in Canton, Ohio, in 1903. Seven years later he became rabbi of congregation Shearith Israel in Atlanta.

Being a respected rabbi in Atlanta, headquarters of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., he was asked by rabbis from around the country whether or not Coca-Cola was kosher. In the 1930s, it seems, tastes among Jewish youth were changing. The seltzer that pleased the parents no longer satisfied the children. The



rabbi contacted the company to ask for a list of Coke's ingredients.

The year was 1935. At that time, Geffen did not know that Coca-Cola's formula was such a closely guarded secret. Only a few highly placed individuals in the company knew the list of ingredients. After learning more about Geffen, Coca-Cola made a corporate decision to allow him access to the list. He was required to give them his word to never reveal the secret to anyone else. The rabbi agreed.

After investigating a list of ingredients, Geffen determined that one, glycerin, made from animal tallow, was not kosher. Eventually, the company found a vegetable-based substitute.

The formula, however still included traces of grain alcohol. Since anything derived from grains is potentially *chametz*, Coca-Cola could not be certified kosher for Passover even after the formula was changed to include vegetable glycerin. Eventually, Coke's chemists experimented and found that, during the Passover season, they could substitute sweeteners produced from beet and cane sugar without compromising Coke's taste. They agreed to start manufacturing Coke with the new sugars several weeks before Passover each year. This comes to us as Coke in bottles with yellow caps.

Going deeper – Another New Year for the Jews

In the mystical realm, there are also a few things our rabbis never told us, things that all Jews may have taken for granted hundreds of years ago, but which may well have been diluted in the Americanization and Reformation



of 20th century Judaism.

Our calendar is unique, the only one to combine both lunar and solar elements as well as incorporating a "leap" factor. It is a spiral, calculated so that each year the same energies are manifested at the same time. Pesach, it is written, has to be in spring. We make sure by adjusting through leap years. Pesach is the time in which the energy of growth, change, and freedom is manifest. If we can tune into that energy of freedom, it is available to us just as it was in the time of the Exodus.

Pesach, this time for reinforcing access to the energy of freedom, has been described in a *midrash* from the *Talmud Pesachim* as "a night of watching for all the children of Israel." Watching. Paying attention. Imagine that you are in a forest in the middle of the night. It is so dark you cannot see your hand in front of your face. You have no way of finding your way out of the forest. And yet, if you are paying attention the whole first night of Pesach, there may be one moment in which the whole sky will be illuminated in a flash of lightning and you could see just enough landmarks to find your way.

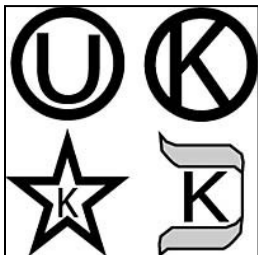
Metaphysically speaking, *chametz* – leavening – is analogous to ego. Like leaven it is puffy, it inflates, an artificial thing. We don't want to destroy our egos. They help us to function. Still, while cleaning leaven out of your house, think of putting your ego on the shelf for eight days so you can look within.

Pesach is the perfect time for us to make inner or behavioral change. Each of us has an impediment, some obstacle to our spiritual development. If we can take advantage of the divine energy available to us in the universe, we will be able to free ourselves from that which is holding us back, imprisoning us. If you can identify that something which is standing in your way, this is the time to access help from the universe. It would be an excellent time to start a diet, break an old destructive habit, begin an exercise regime, a time to free yourself of any behavior that does not serve your highest good and that of your family, community, and the world. Working to liberate ourselves, we work for freedom for all and "*tikkun olam*." ◇

Kosher for Passover?

by Joyce Peckman

To eat or not to eat it - that is the question. Matzah - yes. *Chametz* - no. *Chametz* is any food product made of wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, or their by-products, which has leavened (risen) or fermented. Ashkenazi tradition has determined that flour from any of these five grains that comes in contact with water or moisture will rise unless fully baked within eighteen minutes. Any food or drink containing these grains - whether bread, cookies, pasta, beer or whiskey - is *chametz*. The exception is *matzah*, which is supervised, carefully timed and punctured with tiny holes that prevent trapped air from causing it to rise. Why 18 minutes? Just as water has a boiling point, flour has a fermentation point -



There are a number of icons printed on edibles to signify that they're kosher.

18 minutes. After 18 minutes, the dough created by the mixture of flour and water begins to ferment and rise, creating leavened bread.

Some foods, like fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, fresh fish, fresh meat and poultry, can be eaten with no concern about their *chametz* content. Some foods, such as pure tea, pure unflavored coffee, sugar,

honey, milk, pure cottage cheese and cream cheese from unopened packages are also fine.

Keep in mind that anyone keeping strictly kosher will look for a Kosher for Passover *hechsher* (symbol of supervision) on any and all packaged food products used during Passover, including dairy products, sauces, nuts, broths, spices, and even matzah products (not all of them are labeled Kosher for Passover). So look for the *OU-P*.

Then there is quinoa, which first arrived in

the U.S. from Chile in the 1980s. Quinoa, although it can be used like rice, is not a grass, but rather the seeds of a leafy green plant in the amaranth family, similar to chard or spinach.

Thus quinoa is kosher for Passover. Gluten-free, loaded with protein, calcium and iron, quinoa has become a staple in many kosher homes. Another bonus is that unlike rice and matzah, quinoa is not binding on the digestive tract.

Kitniyot, which translates into "small things," includes rice, corn, millet, dried beans and lentils, peas, green beans, soybeans, peanuts, sesame seeds, poppy seeds and mustard seeds. These have been banned for centuries by Ashkenazi Jews. The origin of the ban is unclear; it's thought that perhaps *kitniyot* were considered too similar to grains. In Europe they often shared the same storage bags, so it's possible there was concern that *chametz* might accidentally be mixed in with the *kitniyot*. Another theory is that *kitniyot* expand when immersed in water, which may have been perceived by the early rabbis as a form of rising or leavening. Whatever the reason, most Ashkenazi Jews today stick to the traditional ban on *kitniyot*, even though the prohibition does not technically appear in the Torah. Most vegetable oils have *kitniyot*. Only cottonseed, grape seed and olive oil are okay. I didn't realize that corn syrup is used in almost everything until I walked down the supermarket aisles looking for the little *OU-P* on containers. Coca Cola distributes special soda for Passover, using sugar instead of corn syrup. Try it if you can find it, and you will taste the difference.

Sephardic Jews do eat *kitniyot* during Passover. Their first course is often vegetable soup or chicken soup with rice rather than matzah ball soup. Since it is tough to be a vegetarian without eating beans and legumes, many vegetarians become Sephardic during Passover. ♦





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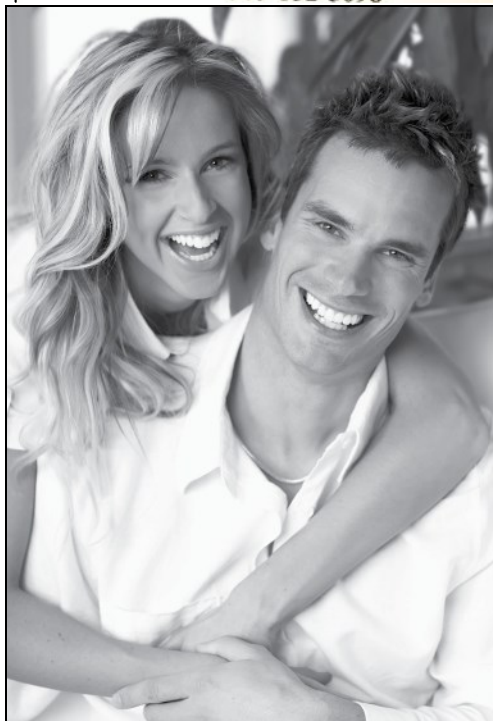
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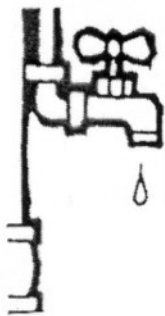
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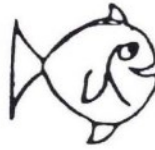
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