

Chai~Lights



June - July 2019

27 Iyar - 28 Tammuz 5779

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

June - July 2019

Names denote leaders of Friday Services.
Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 JUNE
2 Yom Yerushaliym Sisterhood 9:30am KJCC Board 11am Film "Beneath the Helmet" 7 pm	3	4 Rosh Chodesh Sivan	5 Passover in Nairobi, Rabbi & Mindy Agler 7 pm	6	7 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Donna & Bill Bolton, Erica Lieberman-Gar- rett, Jane Friedman</i> Shavuot Dinner 6pm Yizkor Service & learning 7:30 pm	8
9 Shavuot	10 Shavuot	11	12	13	14 Susan Gordon and Linda Pollack <i>Steve & Jan Hartz</i> Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Randy Klein-Gross & Family <i>Beth Hayden</i>	22
23	24 Book Club 12pm	25	26	27	28 Michael Kaufman <i>Michael & Lorena Kaufman</i>	29
30	1 JULY	2	3 Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	4 Independence Day	5 Joyce Peckman <i>Geri & Stuart Smith</i> Shabbabaque 5:30pm	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Steve Steinbock <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Erica Lieberman- Garrett & Donna Bolton	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Beth Hayden	27
28	29 Book Club 12pm	30	31	1 AUG	2 Steve Hartz	

2019 - 2020 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

bimonthly publication of the

Keys Jewish Community Center

P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, Florida 33070
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman



As I write this, we are still within the period of mourning for Lori Gilbert Kaye, murdered in the Chabad of Poway shul. The portrait of this brave, loving, vibrant woman is seared in my mind. This, only six months after eleven people were killed at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. After the shooting, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, his bloody hand wrapped in a tallis, stood on a chair and told his congregation, "Am Yisrael Chai. We are a Jewish nation that will stand tall. Terrorism like this will not take us down.... We need to show them that evil will never prevail. Let us fill up the synagogue; let's stand tall; let's dance together."

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein of South Africa wrote "He walked into a shul not only because it was a convenient place to find Jews gathering, but because it symbolized Jewish values and Jewish ideals. Thus, when we respond to anti-Semitism, attending to physical safety to keep out our enemies is only the beginning. Our enemies come up against us, not primarily to destroy our physical bodies and infrastructure, but to destroy our Divine values and ideals and our mission. To be a Jew is not only about our prayers in a synagogue. It is about how we live our life each and every single day, about how much we give to tzedakah and how we treat our fellow

human beings, how and when we pray, what we eat, who we are, what our ethics and values and morals are, and the place of Shabbat in our lives. The shul is a symbol of these values and a place where we gather, to be inspired and to renew our commitment to living a life of what it means to be a Jew in every part of our existence – at home, in our families, at work, in our schools, and in every part of society."

It seems as though a place of worship should be a place of safety; yet hate-filled people have brought death to Jewish Centers, churches and mosques here and around the world. We can react with blind fear, or we can stand tall, be aware, and take protective steps. KJCC's security committee has already made some changes that will add to our safety and continues to investigate further changes. We have had experts in the building, whose assessments are that we are more secure than many other places. We are following up on some of their suggestions. I thank Beth Hayden and Ken Atlas for spearheading this effort. Our goal is to provide a safe place for fellowship, prayer, celebrations, and activities that will bring positive energy into the world.

This will be the last Chai-Lights until September. Some of

us will be heading north, and our activity level slows down. We continue to hold Shabbat services every Friday evening, as we have proudly done without fail for almost 40 years, even immediately after Hurricane Irma. We need the increased support of those who remain to ensure that anyone who is looking for Jewish fellowship or needs to say Kaddish or will find a welcoming minyan at KJCC every Friday.

Our next organized Friday dinner will be on June 7th, a Shavuot dairy celebration before

services and learning. Please come, enjoy and partake of a study session that will not last until midnight. Although the calendar now is sparse, events will pop up. Sisterhood Book club will continue through the summer, and there will probably be some films and outings. Check my weekly emails to see what is happening. Dave Mont is always looking for interesting trips and events, so contact him or me if you have any suggestions. ◇

June Birthdays

2nd.....	Barbara Osder	15th	Bill Bolton
2nd.....	Myra Kaplan	16th	Marvin Blumenfeld
3rd	Abraham Rakov	17th	Leo Haviv
3rd	Elanor Forbes	18th	Amelia Kasinof
4th	Alfred Weihl	18th	Kim Haviv
5th	Dorothy Wolfe	20th	Harvey Klein
5th	Joseph Sachs	21st.....	Aaron Quesada
6th	Donna Bolton	21st.....	Nancy Hershoff
6th	Nancy Kluger	21st.....	Roberta Chester
6th	Suzanne Gilson	21st.....	Taryn Nobil
7th	Carrie Smith	22nd.....	James Patrick Brennan
7th	Joan P. Wohl	23rd	Dale Chasteen
8th	Eina Fishman	23rd	Steve Levine
8th	Elaine Solas	24th	Delaney Rohde
9th	Renee Brodie	24th	Rita Bromwich
9th	Zoe Moshe	25th	Jake Benjamin Markowitz
12th	Kevin M. Silverman	27th	Frank Emkey
13th	Israel Mayk	27th	Kristy Moss
13th	Jeff Miller	28th	Alan Cooper
13th	Justin Greenbaum	29th	Milo Tainow
14th	Jennifer Nobil	30th	Bob Friedman
15th	Deborah Weiss		

Service Leaders

June 7.....	Bernie Ginsberg	July 12	Steve Steinbock
June 14.....	Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack	July 19.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton
June 21.....	Randy Klein-Gross & Family	July 26	Beth Hayden
June 28.....	Michael Kaufman	August 2.....	Steve Hartz
July 5	Joyce Peckman Presentation		

NOSH

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Come to a fabulous dairy dinner, remember our beloved departed in the final Yizkor service of this ceremonial year, led by Bernie Ginsberg, and take part in an after-service-learning experience along lines established more than six centuries ago by the mystics of Tsfat (Safed). It will be a full evening (double entendre intended). We thank Donna Bolton for sponsoring this dinner and Oneg in honor of her and Bill's birthdays and Anniversary; there will be no charge. The oneg is additionally sponsored by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Jane Friedman to celebrate their wedding anniversaries. Please RSVP to Joyce Peckman at (305)-451 0665 or joycepeckman@gmail.com. (See Poster for details on pp. 32)

Shabbabeque

KJCC's Annual Independence Day Barbeque, fondly known as our Shabbabeque, will be held on Shabbat, Friday eve, July 5th, at 5:30 P.M. Skip Rose and Bernie Ginsberg will head the team manning the grills. Hebrew Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and veggie versions, with all the trimmings, will be served. There will be no charge, thanks to an anonymous donor. The after-service Oneg is sponsored by Geri and Stuart Smith, in honor of Pauline Roller. (See Poster for details on pp. 8)

KJCC Goes Bahamas:

KJCC is planning a three-day, two-night cruise to the Bahamas during a yet-to-be-

determined week in November, 2019. Rita Conklin is helping us find a moderately priced package. If you are interested, please contact Dave Mont at (305 393-9883) or moogoo-dave@yahoo.com.

Good News for High Holy Days

As we head into the quietest time of our ritual year, we are grateful to announce that our spiritual leader for Rosh HaShanah 2019/5780 will once again be our Resident Scholar, Rabbi Richard Agler. Cantor Michael Dzubin will be assisting, as he has for the past three years. We look forward to their guidance and a most meaningful experience in late September. Gratitude for their leadership can be expressed with a generous donation to our Rabbi/Cantor Fund. Unlike most Synagogues, we never charge for seats.

Book Club News

Eight members of the Sisterhood Book Club met on Monday, April 27 for an intense discussion of "The Weight of Ink," by Rachel Kadish, now available at the KJCC thanks to Joyce Peckman. It was an excellent, thought provoking read. If you liked "People of the Book," you will love this one. The overwhelming consensus was to continue meeting during the summer. Bobbie Chester, our new RSVP person, can be reached at bobbiebunkin@aol.com. The June book choice is "The Two-Family House," by Linda Cohen Loigman. The July choice is "Mazel," by Rebecca Goldstein. (See Poster on PP. 16) ◇

Yahrzeit plaque

In loving Memory of our Aunt

Pauline Roller

11/05/1915 - 11/18/2018

by Karyn & Bruce Zoren
Joyce & Mel Ruthen

Yahrzeit plaque

In Memory of

Hat Sidor Devito

11/03/1961 - 12/29/2017

From Michael DeVito
Loving Husband
"You Gave So Much"

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

MOVIES, MEETINGS, MEDITATION AND MORE

Sunday, June 2	Yom Yerushaliym • Sisterhood 9:30 AM • KJCC Board 11 AM Film "Beneath the Helmet" 7 PM
Tuesday, June 4	Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Wednesday, June 5	Passover in Nairobi, Rabbi & Mindy Agler 7 PM
Friday, June 7	Shavuot Dinner 6 PM, • Yizkor Service & Learning 7:30 PM
Sunday, June 9 & Monday, June 10	Shavuot
Friday, June 14	Flag Day
Sunday, June 16	Fathers' Day
Monday, June 24	Book Club 12 PM
Wednesday, July 3	Rosh Chodesh Tammuz
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day
Friday, July 5	Shabbabaque 5:30 p.m.
Monday, July 29	Book Club 12 PM

I'd like to thank the Adult Education Committee – Gloria Avner, Sam Vinicur and Jeff Schocket – and our dedicated KJCC members who came to the Jewish Film Festival screenings this season. Thanks to all who bought, brought and prepared refreshments and helped with cleanup at the end of the evening. A special thanks to Sam for his technological solutions to unique problems that cropped up on occasion. He remained calm (while I panicked), made phone calls and traveled up north when necessary to find a fix for each tech issue. You all are great! Kol HaKavod! – Medina, Adult Education Chair

A huge thank you goes to Dr. Steve Smith. I was invited to his and Barbara's lovely home to go through Steve's extraordinary Jewish library of books and DVDs, which he offered to donate to the KJCC library. I came away with over 50 items to be added to our collection. Any more and I would have needed a U-Haul! There will be some re-arranging in our existing library to make room for these treasures. Thank you, Dr. Steve! – Medina, KJCC Librarian

We want to welcome our newest members to the KJCC "mishpocha" (or family). It's been delightful to see Joe and Linda Levi at so many functions since they've arrived, and we're happy to welcome back long-time friend Lynn Dils. Our community is all the richer for your having joined us.

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.

APRIL 2019

Unrestricted

Mah Jongg

Joan Boruszak

Maryann Charlap Azzato

Arthur Plutzer

In Memory of

Jim Boruszak Seder Leader

Memorial Garden

Karen Zoren & Joyce Ruthen Bench-Pauline Roller

Stuart & Lauren Sax

Sam & Lilyan Sax

Yahrzeit Plaque

Karen Zoren & Joyce Ruthen Pauline Roller

Yahrzeit

Gary Margolis
& Laurie Blum

Joan Boruszak

Joan Wohl

Gloria Avner

In Memory of

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

Baruch Epstein

Milton Wohl

David Gitin

Book Plate

Barney Coltman

Ellen Coltman

MAY 2019

Unrestricted

Mah Jongg

Islamorada Community Entertainment, Inc.

KJCC Sisterhood

Steve & Jan Hartz

In Memory of

Rose Herson

Alex Perl
Gertrude Weisberg

Rene Rose

Sisterhood

Donna Bolton

Donna Bolton

Anonymous

Mindy Agler

Rosemary Barefoot

Medina Roy

Beth Hayden

Orlando Queseda

In Honor of

Donna & Bill's Birthdays

Donna & Bill's Anniversary

Sponsorship of
May Israeli dinner

Richard Agler receiving
Joel Cohen award

Steve Steinbock's Birthday

Medina's & Bernie
Ginsberg's Birthdays

Oneg sponsorship

in appreciation for
KJCC Sisterhood

Yahrzeit

Jerry & Barbara Herson

Gerri & Frank Emkey

Skip Rose

July Birthdays

1st..... Alex Hudson	8th Gary Sherman
1st..... Chely Markowitz	9th Joyce Peckman
1st..... Eitan Loi-Kamely	11th Steven Hartz
1st..... Jennifer Gilson	12th Rebecca M. Schur
1st..... Nelson Chester	12th Richard Steinberg
1st..... Patti Gross	13th Dot Brooking
2nd..... Dan Levi	13th Leslie Reamer
2nd..... Elissa A. Denker	14th David Gross
2nd..... Rabbi Ed Rosenthal	14th Paul Eric Bernstein
3rd Joseph Moss	15th Danna Levy
3rd Max Finkelstein	17th Foster Davidson
3rd Michael Kaufman	17th John Hawver
4th Mindy Rosenthal	17th Shira Goldman
7th Lucy Moss	18th Luzviminda Levine

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.

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for information, or send your desired inscription to lindap4000@ymail.com.

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 Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

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

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

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

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

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC 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.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 305-447-5225.

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

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, SOCIAL HALL CHAIR PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at lindap4000@ymail.com.

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

**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER**

Shabbabaque

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2019

PLACE: KJCC

TIME: 5:30 BARBECUE DINNER

7:30 SERVICES

COME, EAT, DRINK, AND MAKE MERRY



**CONTACT SKIP ROSE WITH QUESTIONS AND
RESERVATIONS
FRANKRENE.ROSE3@GMAIL.COM, (305) 394-2510**

OUR SHABBABQUE COMMITTEE:

**SKIP ROSE
JANE FRIEDMAN
BERNIE GINSBERG**

A LETTER ABOUT DOORS FROM RABBI STEVEN SAGER

WE CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION, WITH
AN EYE TO A WINTER LEARNING SHABBATON



Dear Keys Jewish Center friends,

I have been thinking about you since my visit a few months ago, thanks to Rabbi Agler and the rabbinic conference that he arranged. I am particularly grateful to him and honored by you for the opportunity to learn with you.

Your hospitality—your wide-open doors—move me to send you this short introduction to the rich theme of doors, doorways, and transitions:

The door is a richly important element in Jewish religious imagination. The door presides over comings and goings, over transitions. It demarcates the responsibilities and commitments of in, on one side, and out, on the other side. We should be mindful of how we move from one realm to the next. What do we take with us on our journeys? What do we leave at the door as we go in or out? The mezuzah is a reminder that it is just at the place where in and out are hinged that we should be most thoughtful.

Teachers open doors for their students; colleagues and fellow travelers and friends open for, and to, one another. Opportunity knocks, the proverb tells us. The voice of my beloved knocks, says The Song of Songs. I knock expectantly: The past that is behind me and future before me meet at the opening door. The doorway is crowded with precedent and with expectation. Elijah, who symbolizes past and future, precedent and expectation, is usually found at the door.

In Jewish law, the door separates the inner Sabbath realm from the outer work-a-day world. It is precisely here, at the door, on the Sabbath, that ancient sages raise the question of how inner Sabbath tranquility opens to the presence of the needy who stand outside. Doors are barriers both for better and for worse. At the open door we might risk vulnerability. But the consequences of the closed door can be ignorance and indifference to a world that is shut out.

Doors of the spirit open to inner, personal life arcing over thresholds of perception, pain, tolerance, and knowledge. Some thresholds prompt us to lock ourselves safely within. At the same time, the Jewish year contains sacred seasons that are well-framed opportunities to open inner doors that tend to remain closed. Study, prayer, and acts of kindness are ways of knocking on doors beyond and within hoping that they will open to inner and wider, deeper and higher worlds. Doors open to the possibility of joining all the compartments of the world's house, making the world one space and connecting all inhabitants.

A knock on the door rings hollow without imagining that a Listening Ear (Pirke Avot 2:1) makes response possible. Therefore, we knock and the heart quickens as we listen. We are hoping to see something that we have not seen before.

According to the poet, Yehuda Amichai, we are not the only ones waiting at the door. He teaches that our frail lives are doors through which God enters the world to learn something previously unknown: But through the wound in my chest God peeks into the world/ I am the door of his dwelling. ◇



June Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Jim & Rita Williams	35
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	33
5th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garrett..	25
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg.....	60
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman.....	23
11th	Medina & Carl Roy	47
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz.....	43
12th	Bill & Donna Bolton	26
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler	43
21st	Nelson & Roberta Chester.....	49
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake....	32
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax	45
25th	Herbert & Elinor Grossman	62
28th	Lloyd & Rae Wruble	50
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin	49
29th	Jerry & Betty Small	50

July Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross....	19
9th	Terry Willner-Tainow & Jon Tainow.....	47
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick	24

Oneg Sponsors for June & July 2019

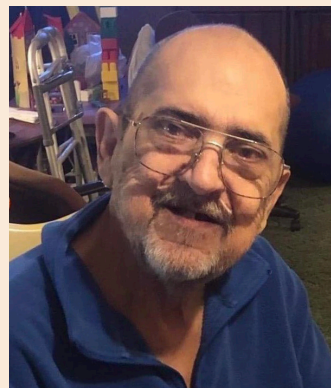
June 7:	Donna Bolton (Dinner Sponsor) in Honor of Bill & Donna's Birthdays Donna & Bill Bolton in Honor of their 26th Anniversary Erica Lieberman-Garrett in Honor of her 25th Anniversary Jane Friedman in Honor of her Anniversary
June 14:	Steve & Jan Hartz in Honor of their Anniversary
June 21:	Beth Hayden Appreciation of KJCC
June 28:	Michael & Lorena Kaufman in Honor of Michael's Birthday
July 5:	Geri & Stuart Smith in Honor of Pauline Roller
July 12:	Joyce Peckman in Honor of her Birthday

August Anniversaries

		Years
3rd	Augie & Kristy Moss	6
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	62
14th	Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer...	47
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles.....	20
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts.....	51
16th	Ira & Shirley Stein	61
16th	Jeff & Lynn Dils.....	34
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller	42
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman	37
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk	47

JOEL COHEN'S GRANDSON HONORS JOHN SINGER

Many of you will know this face and many of you won't. He wasn't a stepfather; he was a father who stepped up! He came into my life at just 7 months old, threw me over his shoulder when my parents divorced and never looked back! He taught me to be a man, responsible, and above all a good person to others. These traits radiated out of him. As of 2:20 pm, February 22nd, he went to be with God in Heaven. He was a believer . . . which is helping us all cope as best as we can. He was a Veteran and served his country during the Vietnam War. He always helped others, and you never saw him even remotely upset. He always taught us to understand that we never sweat the small stuff, followed by everything is small enough to not get upset over. He believed in family and was always helping in anyway he could.



SCUBI JEWS HELP TO REPAIR THE SEA IN THE FLORIDA KEYS DURING THEIR SPRING BREAK

By Linda Kaplan, Esq. and Dr. Jan Louise Lindsay-Hartz

Most people who live in the Keys care about the oceans and marine life and are aware that the oceans are being choked by plastic. But the problem seems overwhelming. Fortunately, we have a group of students that are helping and encouraging others to help "repair the sea". This group is the Scubi Jews, led by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal.

Rabbi Ed's writes in his recent blog about the Scubi Jews Spring Break trip :

"It's been an incredible Spring Break. The students have worked hard removing plastic and other debris from the ocean, mangroves and beaches in Key Largo. There is more plastic than anyone can ever imagine. We must reduce our use and remove what's already out there. It's killing the ocean... and if we don't Repair the Sea, the rest of the planet doesn't stand a chance.

Thanks to all of our friends at the Keys Jewish Community Center, Rainbow Reef Dive Center, Captain Slate, and Florida Bay Outfitters. A special thanks to Shayna Cohen who organized this amazing experience, and to all the students who could have been taking it easy over spring break but instead wanted to do their part to Repair the Sea.

Kayaks help our students access hard to reach mangroves during our debris clean ups. Piles of lobster trap lines, two piggy banks, and 1,436 other plastic debris items were removed from the roots of these important ecosystems on the north end of Key Largo.

Big thanks to Florida Bay Outfitters for donating the kayaks!"

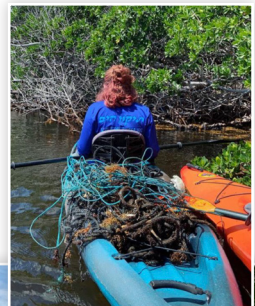
Scubi Jews is an organization that started at Eckerd College as part of its Hillel organization. Hillel is the largest Jewish Campus organization in the world with branches in over 550 universities across the globe. Eckerd College Hillel led by Rabbi Ed. Rosenthal has taken Hillel in a new direction with the Scubi Jews program.

Based on the tenet of Tikkun Olam, which is the Hebrew word for the Jewish responsibility to repair the world, and focusing on the marine en-

vironment, Scubi Jews is dedicated to educating students about the intersection of Judaism and the Sea. Their programs are intended to help repair the damage done to the oceans, rivers and lakes of the world and the creatures that live in them. They call it Tikkun HaYam, which is Hebrew for "Repair the Sea." They sponsor local reef and waterfront cleanups, coral restoration dives in Key Largo, shark awareness dives in the Bahamas, manatee appreciation trips to Crystal River, speakers, movies and much more.

Scubi Jews is one of the most popular programs at Eckerd college for Jewish and non-Jewish students alike and has inspired the creation of Scubi-Jews organizations on numerous other college campuses. Scubi Jews have done many Coral Restoration Dive Trips to the Keys as well as waterfront clean-ups. Rabbi Ed will soon be hosting the world-wide head of Hillel in Key Largo, to teach him and his two sons to scuba dive and see for themselves what the Scubi Jews have been doing. Hopefully this will lead to more Scubi Jews organizations on more college campuses.

Many people in the Keys understand the importance of the water to our way of life. Hopefully the Scubi Jews will inspire us to take more action to Repair the Seas.



In Memoriam – June 2019

David Gitin

By Gloria Avner

Lucy Kaufman

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Rose Fine

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Leo Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strump-Blitzer

Samuel Segal

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Emilia Mendez

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By Jeff & Lynn Dils

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By Janice Gorson

Bea Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg

Jean Shaw

By Skip Rose

Yolanda Haviv

By Leo Haviv

Kurt Scaller

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

Rose Graff Rosenfeld

By Morton & Gene Silverman

Max Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Samuel Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Leonard Tobin

By Andrew M. Tobin

Rose Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Celestina Bravo-Mendez

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Arthur Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Esther R. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Ruth Rosen

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Rick McNew

By Roberta McNew

Sam Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Leo Wolynetz

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Leslie Peckman

By Joyce Peckman

Leo Finklestein

By Max Finklestein

Carl C. Reiff

By Roberta McNew

Milton Lang

By Skip Rose

Barbara Gould

By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson

Morris Rose

By Skip Rose

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Andrew Hutchison

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Jan Finer

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Irma Weihl

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl

Candi Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock

In Memoriam – July 2019

Nettie Goodman

By Gloria Avner

Fred Ross

By Joyce Peckman

Ben Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock

Laura Bofshever

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

Leon Kirschenbaum

By Medina Roy

Alfred Eichler

By Judith Weber

Sylvia Hershoff

By Jay & Nancy Hershoff

Abraham L. Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Beth Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Margaret Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg

Saul Elson

By Mrs. Marty Graham

Sylvia Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman

Les Reitman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Jacob Ratchik

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Manya Starr

By Adam & Judy Starr

Miriam Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Sydney Emsig

By Lawrence Jacobs

Mack Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

Harold Rosenthal

By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal

Fred Doellefeld

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Frieda Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Phyliss Bloom

By Marc Bloom

Paula Travers

By Michele Riley

Alan Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

William Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn

Frank Stanley Sachs

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Jack Leonard Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman

Ronald Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Morgan Rowen

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Wally Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Pearl Jacobs

By Lawrence Jacobs

Harvey Kelman

By Elaine Schulberg

Milton Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

Otto Kluger

By Nancy Kluger

Stanley H. Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

Henrietta Zinner

By Donald Zinner

**Leaf on Tree of Life**

To Celebrate the Anniversary of

**Hat Sidor Devito &
Michael Devito**

February 2, 2011

Book Plate

In Memory of

Ellen Coltman

by Barnet Coltman

In Memoriam – August 2019

Isaac Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Pauline Rosenzweig

By Gunther & Shirley Karger

Seymour H. Levin

By Sanford Yankov

Priscilla Leshin

By Joan Boruszak

Ralph Bofshever

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

Mollie Lawent

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Gary W. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Zelda Edelman

By Dale Chasteen

Leonard Pearl

By Scott & Mary Anne Pearl

Robert Davidson

By Foster Davidson

Ethel Feinberg

By Hanna David

Howard Shutan

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Henry Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

S. Marshall Gorson

By Janice Gorson

Bernard Solas

By Elaine Solas

Manuel Hershoff

By Jay & Nancy Hershoff

Margaux Rene Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

Meyer G. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Chanoch Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Sheldon David Horowitz

By Beth Horowitz

Ida R. Estrin

By Lillian Tallent

Sidney Stark

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Shirley Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Isaac Cohen Pardo

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Dick Bromwich

By Rita Bromwich

Max Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Chanoch Shiloh

By Jan Price-Shiloh

Sandra Kanarek

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Gizella Reiff

By Roberta McNew

Martha Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Marty Faye

By Sydney! Faye-Davis

Joel Reed Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Olga Schuman

By Adam & Judy Starr

Florence Grossman

By Herbert & Elinor Grossman

Tom Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

Samuel Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Nathan Herson

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

Mollie Z. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Ralph Tallent

By Lillian Tallent

Erwin Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

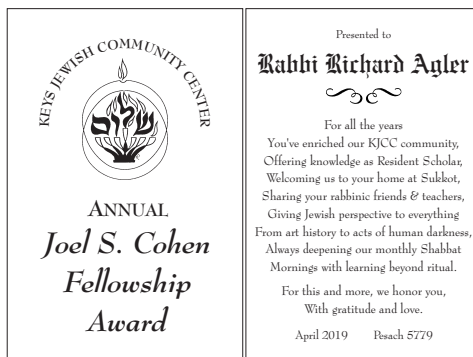
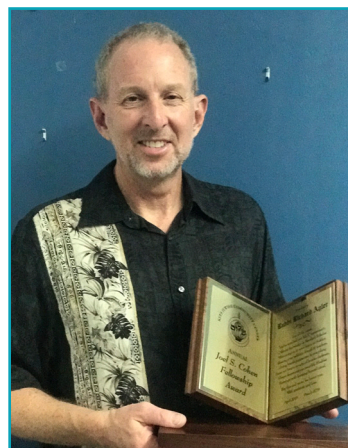
2019 JOEL COHEN FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Medina had just delivered her parashah on the last erev Shabbat before Pesach and announcements were complete. Though no one but previous winners knew it, it was time to present this year's Joel Cohen Fellowship Award, the highest honor that KJCC can give to one of its members.

Sam Vinicur, building the suspense, explained the history and meaning of the award beautifully, reminding everyone that "KJCC is an organization of volunteers, founded by a remarkable group of people . . . motivated and determined to make KJCC both a haven and a success. . . . At some point it became clear to the founders that an annual award needed to be established, to recognize those who stood out, who seemed to have bottomless reserves of time, talents, and especially their hearts to give to KJCC." Joel Cohen, our founding father, was the first recipient and the award was named after him. The winner is determined solely by a vote of previous recipients, each of whom can recommend and then vote on the person deemed most deserving of this honor.

Sam asked all previous winners to stand for the presentation. Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Steinbock, Steve Smith, Linda Pollack, Susan Gordon, Marc Bloom, Nettie and Jules Seder, Medina Roy, Joyce Peckman, Sam Vinicur and Gloria Avner all stood for the presentation as Gloria read the words from the plaque.

It was a big surprise to Rabbi Agler, and well deserved. Mindy knew but didn't tell, though she did sponsor the Oneg in his honor. Thank you again, Rabbi Richard Agler.



Dear Friends,

Once again, thank you so much for this wonderful honor. As I mentioned on the evening of its presentation, in addition to being a complete and unexpected surprise, it was also, upon reflection, something of a reverse gift.

Since Mindy and I moved to the Keys full time seven years ago, the KJCC has been a great blessing to us. Not only as a place for worship, learning and community, but also, specifically for me as a rabbi, a place to serve and to continue to fulfill a portion of my calling--free from the burdens that customarily accompany it in congregational settings. Whatever I have been able to do at, for and with the KJCC is a direct result of the membership and leadership's endorsement of this relationship. It is for this that I am most grateful and this is the reason that it truly belongs to the entire community.

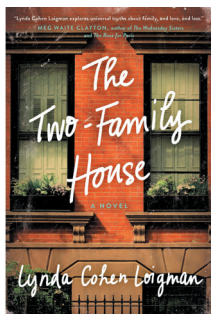
Thank you specifically to the previous recipients who made the selection. And once again, to the entire Keys Jewish community for being ours.

L'shalom, Rabbi Richard Agler, DD



Sisterhood Book Club

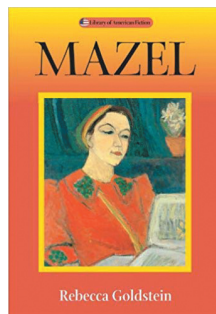
Mangrove Mike's Cafe • MM 82.2 Bayside, Islamorada



The Two-Family House by Linda Cohen Loigman

Monday, June 24 • Noon

Brooklyn, 1947: In the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born, minutes apart. The mothers are sisters by marriage: dutiful, quiet Rose, who wants nothing more than to please her difficult husband; and warm, generous Helen, the exhausted mother of four rambunctious boys who seem to need her less and less each day. Raising their families side by side, supporting one another, Rose and Helen share an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic winter night.



Mazel by Rebecca Goldstein

Monday, July 29 • Noon

Mazel means luck in Yiddish, and luck is the guiding force in this magical and mesmerizing novel that spans three generations. Sasha Saunders is the daughter of a Polish rabbi who abandons the shtetl and wins renown as a Yiddish actress in Warsaw and New York. Her daughter Chloe becomes a professor of classics at Columbia. Chloe's daughter Phoebe grows up to become a mathematician who is drawn to traditional Judaism and the sort of domestic life her mother and grandmother rejected.

**RSVP and more information - Bobbi Chester -
bobbiebunkin@aol.com 630-430-7100**

SISTERHOOD

Susan Gordon



We should expect to see some winding down of activities as we enter into the steamy-hot summer months here in the Florida Keys. Several of our “mostly year-round residents” head for cooler climates, even if it’s just for a couple of months, to escape the humidity, which creeps into our lovely island community at this time of year.

We’ve had a full season at the KJCC, with several wonderful activities enjoyed by many. Our Passover Seders were outstanding. The 16th Annual Women’s Seder was held on Sunday April 7th at the KJCC. There were 43 women in attendance. I’ve been told by several women that this was the best women’s seder ever. It truly was wonderful! Through our Tikkun Olam efforts, we raised \$2,250.00 in donations to support three selected organizations. This year’s beneficiaries are the Coral Shores High School Food Pantry, the Talia Agler Girls Shelter and the KJCC Community Garden. Each year, we honor one of our own women within the KJCC Community and recognize her contributions to the KJCC and Sisterhood. Our honoree this year is Beth Hayden. She has done so much for the good of the synagogue during her two year term as KJCC President, and currently serves as Sisterhood Vice President.

The Second Night Community Seder was held at the Islamorada Fishing Club on Saturday, April 20. There were 46 people in attendance. The waterfront club is a delightful venue, and Vinny, the food & beverage manager, is a joy to work with. I would like to thank those who led the lovely seder along with me that evening; Steve Hartz, Beth Hayden, Gloria Avner, and Steve Steinbock. The following month, on Friday May 10, we celebrated Yom HaAtzma’ut, Israel Independence Day, with an Israeli food themed Shabbat Dinner. The buffet was overflowing with an enormous selection of mouth-watering home-cooked Israeli specialty dishes, all prepared by our talented KJCC Sisterhood members.

Festive Israeli Folk music was playing in the background as we dined. It felt more like a party than a dinner, and nobody left the table hungry!

Our next holiday dinner is scheduled for the evening of Friday, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a traditional Dairy Shavuot Shabbat dinner. Please take a look at the flyer in this issue of Chai-Lights and direct your RSVP to Joyce Peckman. There is no charge for the Shavuot Dinner. Many thanks to Donna Bolton who is sponsoring the dinner in celebration of her and Bill’s upcoming birthdays!

Please plan to join us for our last official Sisterhood meeting of the season on Sunday, June 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. We will then take a two-month vacation from meetings before returning in early September to plan for the High Holidays, which will begin on Sunday, September 29, with an Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner before services.

The women of Sisterhood are planning to enjoy a relaxing “End of Season” Luncheon on Sunday, June 9. at 11:30 a.m., at Buzzard’s Roost Restaurant. Please let me know if you plan to attend, as I will need to make a reservation with the restaurant by June 5th.

The Sisterhood Book Club will meet on Monday, June 24, at 12:00 noon at Mangrove Mike’s Café in Islamorada. The book chosen for the month of June is *The Two-Family House*, by Linda Cohen Loigman. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Bobbi Chester.

Although not officially a Sisterhood event, Please add to your calendar the evening of Friday, July 5, for the KJCC Annual Patriotic Shabbabake. The traditional cookout will begin at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to wear your Red, White & Blue! Skip Rose & Bernie Ginsberg are the co-chairs for the dinner, with Jane Friedman’s assistance. Please RSVP to Skip Rose. You will find the flyer for the Shabbabake in this issue of Chai~Lights.

Wishing all a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

A Bashert Hour:

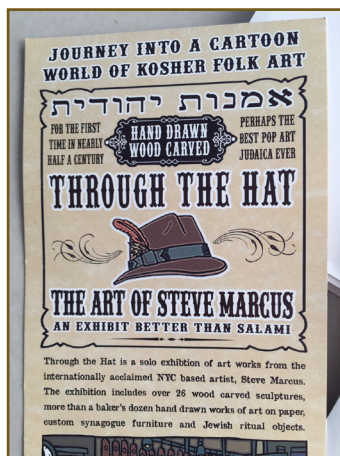
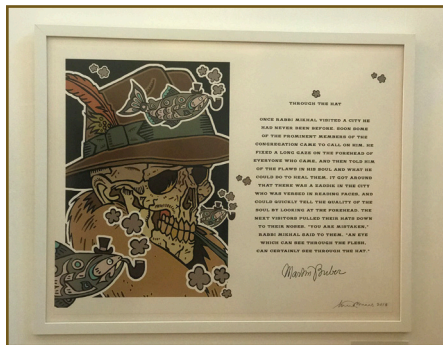
KJCC Meets a Unique Jewish Artist, By Accident



He hadn't planned to be there: he was on his way out of the Jewish Museum while we were coming in. The bearded young man sharing stories with us was a cross between cartoonist and documentarian--a New York City born and bred Sephardic sculptor, painter and preserver of all things Jewish -- authentic, but with a contemporary, very humorous, dry-wry twist.

He makes yads that incorporate the tips cut off from

Shofar horns so they may be blown (one has a kudu tip and came from Botswana). His ink is made from soot the same way ancient Torah scribes did it, and the paint he makes uses milk with casein as a key



ingredient, the same as used on 18th and 19th century painted furniture. His name is Steve Marcus and the exhibit is called "Through the Hat: A Cartoon World of Jewish Folk Art." Our little KJCC Activities Group was beyond happy to meet him.

Though our intent on this very warm Yom



On the bottom left is the yad (Torah pointer in form of a hand) made with kudu horn tip and lost wax cast bronze hand.



It's all about the small snail shell that had to be crushed to make the precious dye for the blue thread in the "tzitzit."

These carved wood figures are no more than 3 inches tall.



We are grateful to Dave Mont for putting this excursion together.

HaAztmaut Day was to celebrate the anniversary of Israel's birth by visiting the Jewish Museum in Miami Beach, we saw much more than the photographic exhibit that brought us there, Andy Sweet's "Shtetl in the Sun" collection, with its images of bubbies and zaidies walking Miami's beaches and sitting on hotel porches. We saw the museum's main South Florida memorabilia collection too, and an exhibit of exotic antique Groggers (that we'll save to show you next Purim), but our hour with Steve Marcus and his wide, wild assortment of works, from paintings of classic Brooklyn street scenes to applewood mezu-zahs to handmade lecterns to miniature carved rabbis and butchers, delighted us more than anything we could have imagined. As the poster promised, it was definitely "better than salami." We invited him to visit KJCC and join us for Shavuot dinner. We want you to meet and love him too. His art may well be gracing our walls this winter. Lucky us. ◇



We were a happy crew.



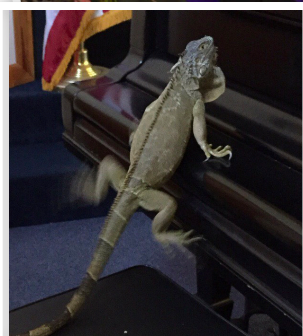
Steve Marcus' take on the diamond district.

PHOTO GALLERY



Maddie Pollack made a beautiful Queen at her School's Junior Prom Gala. Congratulations, Maddie and Grandmother Linda Pollack.

Gloria Avner and Medina Roy after leading the Yom HaShoah Memorial Service



Yes, this is a very excited iguana (whose tail was twice as long in real life as portrayed here) who might have given us a fine Scot Joplin routine after Sisterhood meeting last month if the lid to Beth Hayden's Steinway had not been closed. From here he leapt to the bimah where Susan Gordon wrestled him into catatonic submission and took him, wrapped in swaddling (a towel), outside the building. Hopefully he was as traumatized as we were and will not come back. Bravo, Susan (and Linda Pollack, for taking this once-in-a-lifetime photo)

Sisterhood President, Susan Gordon, proudly presents KJCC President, Joyce Peckman with \$2500 donation.



We could call these two well-clad ladies the KJCC twins far from home, looking lovely in Texas. Thanks, Stuart Sax, for sending us these pics of past Sisterhood Presidents Lauren Sax and Joan Boruszak.



Rabbi Agler dresses Torah for return to the Ark after Joyce reads three verses of Kidoshim at the last Shabbat Morning Learning Service until Autumn.

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



This “Heart” Needs to Learn How to “Behave”

Scientists at Israel’s Tel Aviv University say they have created the world’s first 3D-printed heart, with human tissue and blood vessels. The researchers are hoping this technology could one day be used to help human patients in need of a heart transplant. Lead researcher Tal Dvir said that, while other scientists in the past have managed to print a 3D structure of a heart, this is the first time an entire heart with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers has been printed. “Our results demonstrate the potential of our approach for engineering personalized tissue and organ replacement in the future,” Dvir said. The scientists’ research was outlined in a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Advanced Science*. They used fatty tissues taken from human patients to create the heart. The cellular material in the tissue was reprogrammed to become stem cells. The remaining extracellular material – including molecules such as collagen, a protein that supports cell structure – was processed into a hydrogel. The scientists used the hydrogel as a printing “ink.” The final result was a heart – the size of a rabbit’s heart – with properties that match the immunological, cellular, biochemical and anatomical properties of a specific patient. The team’s next step is to cultivate the organs in a lab and teach them how to “behave” like hearts. Dvir’s 3D-printed hearts can currently contract, but the cells still need to be able to have pumping ability. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of death in both men and women in the United States. Some 610,000 people in America die of this disease every year – about one in every four deaths. And why is this amazing new technology necessary? The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that, at the present time, there are over 3,700 candidates waiting for a heart transplant in the U.S. (www.huffpost.com, 4-17-19)

Help for “Smartphone Zombies”

Two Israeli cities – Ashkelon and Tel Aviv-Yafo, are experimenting with creative ways to keep pedestrians safe from what has become a serious problem. You’ve seen them...walkers thoroughly engrossed in their phones and drivers distracted by texting or talking on their own phones. According to the Or Yarok (Green Light) Association for Safer Driving in Israel, 79 percent of pedestrian injuries occur in crosswalks. The southern city of Ashkelon has painted a “three-dimensional” pedestrian crossing. The lines catch one’s attention and are an optical illusion using color and shadows, causing drivers to slow down as they approach. Tel Aviv-Yafo is taking a different approach. The largest Israeli city has chosen to fight all the “smartphone zombies” roaming its streets by installing Israel’s first LED light strips at a pedestrian crossing near City Hall. The light strips are connected to existing traffic lights and are installed at the edges of the pavement. They change color to red and green at the same time as the traffic lights. The goal of this floor lighting is to prevent texting pedestrians from crossing the road at a red light. Ashkelon is following a strategy first tried in India three years ago. Tel Aviv is following cities in Europe, Singapore and Australia that use similar lighting strategies at crosswalks. (www.israel21c.org, 4-9-19)

An Award for “Gold”

Among the 2019 winners of the prestigious James Beard Foundation award was Zahav, an Israeli eatery in Philadelphia. Zahav won the award for “Outstanding Restaurant.” Michael Solomonov, a native Israeli, and Steve Cook founded the restaurant in 2008. (Zahav means “gold” in Hebrew). The two men previously won the foundation’s Best Book award in 2016 for “Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking” and Solomonov won the

Best Chef award the following year. Solomonov moved to Pittsburgh as a child and returned to Israel as a teenager for a short time. He moved away from his classical European training and became more interested in cooking food that reflected his Israeli heritage. (www.jta.org, 5-7-19)

A Pulitzer for the Pittsburgh-Post Gazette

The 2019 Pulitzer Prize in breaking news reporting went to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for its coverage (ten stories total) of the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre last October, when eleven people were shot and killed by a gunman as they gathered for Shabbat morning services. (The front-page headline of the newspaper contained the first four words of the Mourner's Kaddish prayer using Hebrew letters.) The prize, the most prestigious in journalism, was awarded to the newspaper's entire reporting staff. The prize committee recognized the newspaper for "immersive, compassionate coverage... that captured the anguish and resilience of a community thrust into grief." (www.forward.com, 4-15-19)

Einstein's Call for Jewish Solidarity

Shortly before Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, triggering World War II and the Holocaust, Albert Einstein wrote a letter calling for Jewish solidarity. "The power of resistance which has enabled the Jewish people to survive for thousands of years has been based to a large extent on traditions of mutual helpfulness," Einstein began. He continued, saying... "We have no other means of self-defense than our solidarity and our knowledge that the cause for which we are suffering is a momentous and sacred cause." The letter was addressed to Dr. Maurice Lenz of New York. Lenz was an activist helping European Jewish refugees to enter the United States. That original letter recently sold at an auction by Los Angeles-based Nate D. Sanders Auctions for \$134,343. Bidding for the letter opened at \$12,000 but escalated steadily with intense competition among 23 bidders. The final price exceeded by far the previous high sale of \$53,504 among the twenty Einstein letters offered by Sanders since 2017. Even the original iconic photo of Einstein sticking out his tongue at the photographers came in second at \$125,000. Einstein mailed the letter from Princ-

eton, New Jersey on June 10, 1939 as Jews were fleeing Nazi Germany and Hitler was less than three months from his launch of World War II. Einstein concluded his letter to Lenz saying, "It must be a source of deep satisfaction to you to be making so important a contribution toward rescuing our persecuted fellow-Jews from their calamitous peril and leading them toward a better future." (www.timesofisrael.com, 3-31-19)

"A Leader in Medical Science..."

Newsweek magazine has named Israel's Sheba Medical Center at Tel HaShomer in Ramat Gan (a suburb of Tel Aviv) as one of the top ten best hospitals in the world. Sheba came in at number ten on the list that includes the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic. The magazine partnered with a global market research and consumer data company to develop the list. Newsweek called Sheba "a leader in medical science and biotechnical innovation, both in the Middle East and worldwide. The center's collaborations with international parties have advanced innovative medical practices, hospital systems and biotechnology." Sheba Medical Center, Tel HaShomer was founded in 1948 and is affiliated with Tel Aviv University. It serves over one million patients a year. (www.jpost.com, 5-7-19)

Arachnophobia? Study Says Go to the Movies!

Researchers from Bar-Ilan University and Ariel University suggest that short exposure to the Marvel superhero movies featuring Spider-Man can reduce symptoms of arachnophobia (the class that includes spiders, scorpions and ticks) by up to twenty percent. The researchers' goal was to test the theory that exposure therapy to phobic stimuli can counteract irrational fears. Until now, the effects of positive exposure have not been tested in cognitive behavioral therapy. Professor Menachem Ben-Ezra and Dr. Yaakov Hoffman exposed some 400 subjects to seven-second excerpts from Marvel's Spider-Man and Ant-Man movies to see what effect it had on those with spider and ant phobias. "Seven-second exposure to insect-specific stimuli within a positive context, reduces the level of phobic symptoms," the researchers wrote in the study published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. Ben-Ezra and Hoffman are continuing

their research in this area and will also examine the effects of Marvel movies on those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. (www.timesofisrael.com, 4-24-19)

Israel at 71

Some interesting facts:

- As of May 2019, Israel's population is 9,009,000. About 74.2 percent are Jews, 21 percent Muslim or Christian Arabs and the rest non-Arab Christians and others.
- Israel has the highest number of startups per capita in the world.
- Israel's expenditure on research and development (R&D) as a percentage of its GDP (4.21 percent) is the highest in the world.
- Israel ranks #2 among top 10 countries for scientific research, based on the number of scientific research papers released, the number of patents registered, the percentage of GDP spent on R&D and the number of researchers per 1,000 people.
- Israel has the lowest rate of diet-related deaths in the world.
- Since its establishment in 1901, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) has planted more than 240 million trees in Israel.
- Israel is one of the only countries in the world that ended the 20th century with more trees than it had at the start.
- Israel recycles 87 percent of its wastewater for agriculture, much more than any other country in the world.
- Israel has the highest number of engineers and scientists per capita.
- Israel boasts a literacy level of 97.8 percent of citizens above the age of 15.
- Israel is home to 66 institutions of higher education.
- Tel Aviv has the highest number of pet dogs per capita in the world – one pooch per every seventeen residents. (www.israel21c.org, 5-7-19)

In Memoriam

Menachem Mendel Taub, the Rebbe of the Kaliv Hasidic dynasty in Jerusalem, died at the end of April. He was 96. Taub devoted his life to memorializing the Holocaust and helping fellow survivors. He was born in Transylvania, what was then Romania. He was deported with

his siblings to Auschwitz. The notorious Dr. Josef Mengele experimented on him and, as a result, Taub was unable to grow facial hair. His siblings were killed in Auschwitz and Taub was transferred to the Breslau and Bergen-Belsen camps. He married his first wife before the war. (She died in 2010.) They were reunited after the war and moved to Cleveland, Ohio. In 1962, they immigrated to Israel and reestablished the Kaliv community in B'nei Brak, a suburb of Tel Aviv, where it is still active. Taub encouraged the memorialization of Holocaust victims at public events in Israel. Because of his life's work and stature, thousands attended his funeral. (www.forward.com, 4-29-19)

Henry Bloch, co-founder with his brother Richard of the international tax giant H&R Block, died at the end of April. He, too, was 96. (The brothers used the name "Block" for the company in order to make sure clients pronounced their name correctly.) When Bloch returned to Kansas City from World War II, he was 24, a decorated veteran of the Army Air Corps, having flown 32 missions as a navigator, mostly over Germany. He then started a bookkeeping service. In 1955, he and Richard began the tax preparation service which quickly grew. In its first tax season, H&R Block prepared some 2,700 income tax returns and brought in \$20,000. The following year, revenue tripled. Since its beginnings, the company has prepared more than 800 million tax returns and now prepares one in every seven U.S. taxpayers' returns. Henry Bloch was a philanthropist who contributed to many causes. He established a foundation in 2011 with his wife, listing seven areas of focus including "organizations that advance social and economic justice issues in the Jewish community." He made headlines in 1990 when it was reported that he was denied membership in the Kansas City Country Club because he was Jewish. As a result, Tom Watson, a famous pro golfer whose then-wife and two children were Jewish, quit the club in protest. He rejoined only when the club extended membership to Bloch. Asked to comment on the incident, Bloch told reporters, "It's the first time I ever made the sports page." (www.washingtonpost.com, 4-23-19) ◇

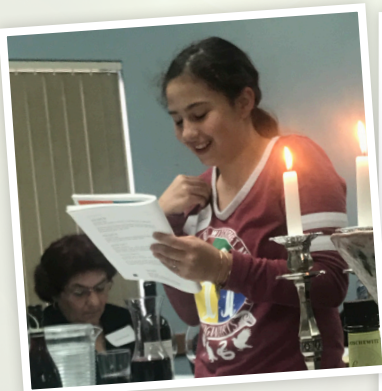
A Look Back at Our Seders

WOMEN'S SEDER 16 YEARS OF TIKKUN OLAM

For sixteen years, the women of the Keys Jewish Community Center have focused on raising funds to repair the world (Tikkun Olam, in Hebrew) by having an extra Passover Seder, a week before the official start of Pesach. We invite friends and family, Jews and non-Jews, and ask them to join with us in a most meaningful celebratory evening, a ceremony focused not just on our history (and her-story), but on taking action in the present working to pursue justice and freedom, and promote wellbeing in the world beyond our small extended family. This year we raised more funds than ever before. There were the most first time attendees this year too. Our friends love adding their names on decorated pieces of fabric to our giant tablecloth of honor. Already a tour of the cloth has become, in many ways and places, a hanging of remembrance.

We will forever know that these women from our larger-than-KJCC community were here with us, helping us educate once-trafficked girls in Kenya, cultivate our garden so produce can go to Burton Memorial Church's Foodbank, and add to the resources at Coral Shores High School so 26 families of high school students will not go hungry on weekends.

We honor a woman of our own each year and add her name to our special hanging. Congratulations, Beth Hayden. We honor a woman from the past, this year the brave and talented songwriter/martyr Hanna Szenes. But it is also moving to hear every woman speak her mother's and grandmothers' names, and then to bless the symbolic foods reminding us of our gifts and our struggles, to sing the traditional songs we love so much, to make a joyful noise with a myriad of instruments (thanks to Susan Bazin, Key Largo School Band teacher). The refrain "Dayenu!" ("that would have been enough"), reminds of how much we have to be grateful for (and I haven't even mentioned the magnificent homemade food!). We opened our pocketbooks a little wider this year, and our hearts. Next year in the KJCC Social Hall! We will do it again.



Michal, Joyce Peckman's 12 year old granddaughter, chants the four Questions beautifully. We all are moved.



Beth K and Barbara B share warmth over home made clay vessel.



BETH HAYDEN WOMEN'S SEDER HONOREE OF 2019

Beth Hayden grew up in Upstate NY. She earned her BA in Piano Performance at Ohio's Oberlin Conservatory, and her Masters and Doctoral degrees from Boston University. For the next ten years she taught piano performance, music history and music theory at the State University of NY in Plattsburgh, but then, in 1978 Beth resigned her tenured position and went to Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Beth went to Ulpan to study Hebrew, took the name Elisheva, taught at Hebrew University's Rubin Academy and performed. Her performances were played on Jerusalem's classical music radio station. She married Mischa Steiglitz, an immigrant from Russia who was serving in the Israeli army. They were only married for eight years, when he was killed in Lebanon.

Beth eventually returned to the United States, settled in Miami and began a second career in health administration and management. She began at Florida's Health and Rehabilitative Services, eventually becoming AIDS coordinator at the Prevention and Treatment Center, a dedicated HIV/AIDS Clinic, on Miami Beach. She was then hired in an administrative capacity to manage quality management for the Miami-Dade County Ryan White Part A Program (a 24 million dollar federal grant funding medical care and support services for indigent HIV/AIDS patients) and staff support for the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, an advisory board to the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commissioners.

Beth used to drive down to the Keys when she first came, because she liked its ambience. She would see the KJCC sign and wonder what kind of Jews lived in the Keys. One September, after looking but never finding a synagogue that she liked in Miami, she called KJCC and asked how much it would cost for High Holy Day tickets. Jim Boruszak told her, "No need to buy tickets; just come and see if you like it." She did and became a member, making the long drive from Homestead. The following year Beth became recording secretary, an extremely important position that she held for many years, and now holds again, after just completing a two-year stint as President of KJCC. Several years ago, Beth sold her house in Homestead, and bought the house off Route C-905, where she now lives with her Chinese Crested dogs.

After falling in love with Chinese Cresteds on an AKC televised dog show, Beth bought books about these adorable little dogs. There was not a lot of information available about them. She then joined the online Chinese Crested Matchmaker Society and purchased Pumba, and a year later Zap. One of the breeders warned her, "They are like potato chips, you can't have just one." She wanted a dog for agility training, so got Ollie. Thus within three years, she had 3 dogs. Beth and Ollie loved doing agility and he won a first prize, but he hated the loud noises at the trials, so she bought Kohengi, Kohengi is a Maori name meaning "gentle breeze" to honor the memory of the wonderful New Zealand agility handler, Lis Kristof, who ran Chinese Cresteds and who died of breast cancer and chemically induced leukemia. Kohengi, within a year, escaped the fenced yard and was hit by a car, eventually making a miraculous if expensive recovery. Ollie has become a licensed Therapy dog, bringing joy to residents of Mariners' Hospital and Plantation Key Rehabilitation. Shai, Hebrew slang for "freebie" was rehomed from Miami. Pumba and Zap have since passed away, but now Cheekah and Turbo have been added to the family to again make five Chinese Cresteds that keep Beth busy.

Beth Hayden has labored quietly for many years for the welfare of the Keys Jewish Center, fought for the care of those stricken with life-threatening illness, and continues volunteering her time to bring comfort to hospital and rehab patients. We are proud to have Beth Hayden as Women's Seder Honoree of 2019. ◇

WOMEN'S SEDER CONTINUED

Cleo Hancock, a first time visitor, bottom, told friend Donna, this Seder was a “life-changing experience.”



Squares of cloth, decorated with the names and dates and symbols of 10 years' worth of seder attendees, adorn this memorial tablecloth, affixed and added to every year by artist Marcia Kreitman, our own version of Judy Chicago

Seder plate with Donna's homemade horseradish.



Moses parts the Red Sea in this spectacular fruit sculpture creation by Barbara Bernstein.

Joyce honors Hannah Szenes with the third cup of wine.



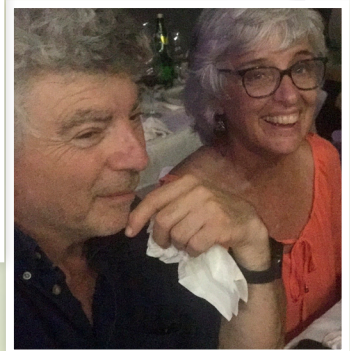
So good to have multi-talented Sam Weis back among us.

KJCC HAIMISCHE FIRST SEDER



Following our four-year old/new tradition of holding our own first night family Seder, (created originally when Passover began on a Shabbat evening), 50 souls from the KJCC Mishpocha gathered around our extended social hall family table For a homemade, in every sense of the word, pot luck Seder. Acting as *pater familias*, Joe Shabathai led the traditional rituals, with round robin retelling of our most significant story. Kathy Shabathai coordinated the food and set up, with a hardworking crew of Donna Bolton and Sam Vinicur. An excellent time was had by all.

First Seder at Beth Kaminstein's with David and Suzi-Sara Feder always has extended KJCC family/ mishpocha round the family table(s), including devoted commuters from St. Pete, Alan Beth and Candy Stanlake. It's especially good when the next generation makes to the top of the head table. Good to see Nyan Feder, Brieze and Stellar Levy and a gaggle of Toby and David Goldfinger's kids and grands.



SECOND SEDER

As far back as any of our members can remember, KJCC has celebrated the second night of Pesach, or Passover, as a Community. First night seders were traditionally held in our homes, around a dining room table, with family and friends. But on second night we put it together in a restaurant, with our extended family, open to guests and friends and Jewish tourists passing through and wanting to celebrate Pesach. We try to make it as homey and welcoming as possible. The meal is catered, though we bring our own ceremonial foods (thank you, Donna Bolton, for the horseradish, and Beth Hayden for the charoset, and Erica Lieberman-Garrett, for teaching Vinnie at the Islamorada Fishing Club to make a really fabulous chicken soup with matzoh balls). One

or two or more of us have been sharing leadership of the ceremony for years and everyone present pitches in as we answer the Four Questions and tell our story, round-robin style. We are grateful for the children who chant the four Questions, who open the door for Elijah and search for afikomen. Thank you, Susan Gordon and Sisterhood for the tremendous amount of work you do to make this a memorable and satisfying event.



We start off the Seder, as we do at all ritual events with a candle-lighting ceremony, welcoming the sundown start of a new day, the second evening of Pesach, or Passover.



Susan Gordon and Beth Hayden do Ceremonial Handwashing.



So Bloomin' happy, with Marc surrounded by his girls, Rachael, Molly and Maddy in the seat of honor.

Barbara and Paul Bernstein with photographer Richard Knowles on break.



Steve Hartz chants a beautiful melody for the Yom Tov Kiddush.



Rachel Levine and Maddie Bloom have the honor of holding the door open for Elijah. Oh, the anticipation!



A lovely moment between the lovely Jans.



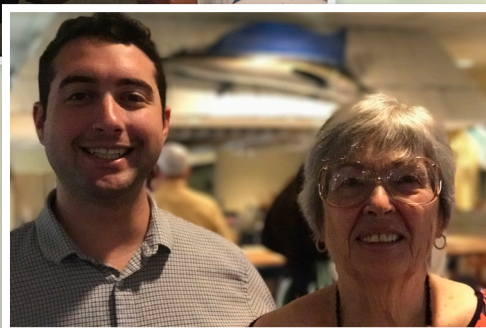
So nice to see happy faces of the shining Starrs at end of Seder.



Good to meet grandson of the Rzepkas.



Stan and Jennie Margulies liked the vegetarian option.



*A special thank you to
Barbara and Richard
Knowles Photography*

A Gift of Ancient History

To KJCC From Mindy and Rabbi Agler

Antiquities were not what brought me to the rabbinate but once I came to understand them, they became a cherished component of my ongoing Jewish learning.

I credit the spark in my interest to Stephen Bein-er Z"L, and his wife Judith, of Boca Raton, who were more than willing to share their love of collecting with anyone who was willing to listen. One of those people was me.

These ancient artifacts are far more than the dusty and inanimate objects they may appear to be at first glance. No, when we are holding an antiquity in our hands, we are literally holding history. When an oil lamp or juglet or amphora dates to the time of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, to the time of the Hebrew Prophets and Kings, or to the time of the Maccabees, how can touching it not be a wondrous experience?

Now, here at the KJCC, we look forward to dedicating the collection, compiled over the years by Mindy and me, with gratitude to Stephen and Judith for inspiring our interest. We expect that it will engender appreciation for our Jewish roots in the Land of Israel in the eyes of all who behold it. We are honored to be able to make this gift. *Rabbi Richard Agler*



Collection of clay oil lamps, the largest and simplest being the oldest.





One of the prime pieces in this collection, this original Astarte sculpture may be the rarest of the objects in the collection. There is definitely a connection in biblical times between such fertility goddess symbols and our own Esther, through whom we inherit King David (come hear Dr. Bernie Ginsberg tell his favorite story at Our Tikkun Leil Shavuot on June 7).



Imagine seeing pottery vessel fragment with a handle attached sticking out of the desert sand in a remote area of Israel and being told you can pick it up. That's what happened to Rabbi Agler while he was still studying to become a rabbi. On a field trip with

fellow students, in this exciting moment, a seed was planted, and the reverence for living history has never dimmed. We are grateful to him for sharing this love and his and Mindy's collection. We are also grateful to his mentor and will honor her memory.

Planning display with cardboard riser models.



Marcia Kreitman, long-time artist and educator, holds biblical era juglet for oil, working on display decisions.

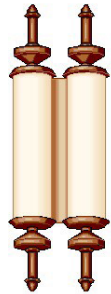
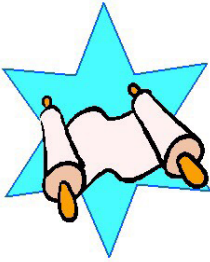


Ancient arrowhead, 2 inches long.

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- Contact Joyce -

joycepeckman@gmail.com - (305) 451-0665

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please rsvp by June 2nd - No Charge -

SHAVUOT: AS IF WE WERE THERE

My family never celebrated Shavuot. We joined a Reconstructionist shul in the 1950's, just in time for me to be Bat Mitzvahed, but the 40-day journey through the desert, the counting of Omer, and the process of developing the inner strength required to become a "light unto the nations," well, none of that ever came up. I was asleep at the wheel. Maybe you were too.

Then, a handful of years ago, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal sat us down in our Social Hall, asked us to close our eyes, and pretend we were standing in an immense crowd of newly freed Jewish slaves at the foot of Mt. Sinai while lightning roared and thunder flashed. He asked us not to look at him but just to listen while he put his own shofar to his lips (the one he's had since his student days as a trumpeter when he made a Jerusalem shofar shop owner let him try out every single one). The blast did it. The room could have shattered. He blew our minds as well as his spiraling shofar.

We may be "the people of the book" but we are also people of the imagination, inventive and often groundbreaking. Time and again, in Haggadahs, song and psalm we are asked to walk inside our history, to make it new, to cast ourselves in the roles of escapee, dependent, brave warrior, oppressed, and to immerse our children in the story of how we became a people devoted to learning, justice for all, human betterment, and acts of loving-kindness. If we just repeat words from a page, how deeply can meaning penetrate? Our story is not an ordinary soap opera. It is Cecil B. DeMille quality.

We are at a disjointed time in our history. We just celebrated Israel's Birthday—a land of our own that is now so old it would be receiving Social Security if it were a person—and the same week we were called upon to mourn not only the victims of the Holocaust but Jews attacked in our own country in a Synagogue on what should have been a Chag Sameach, the last day of Pesach. Rabbi Goldstein, minus a finger and a dear friend, told all of us to show up in shul that Shabbat. That's our defense, he said, our victory, our joy. That is what will renew us and keep us strong despite the heat and thirst and fatigue of the forty-day march into the unknown, across the wilderness, to receive the gift and the covenant of Torah. Keep showing up, learning. And there will be food. Gloria ◇



Shavuot:

Omer Counting, the 49-Day Walk to Sinai, and Polishing Our “Rocks” to be Worthy of Torah

by Gloria Avner

An old friend of mine, and the synagogue's, gifted me with a small book twelve years ago, a spiritual guide that forever transformed my view of Shavuot. It is called “Counting the Omer: Forty-nine Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition,” written by Rabbi Simon Jacobsen. Say thank you to Chaim Shaffer, creator of “Shabbos Shirts,” the next time he visits. Ritual Committee bought several books and they are available in the office for your perusal. The counting of omer is about more than barrels of barley.

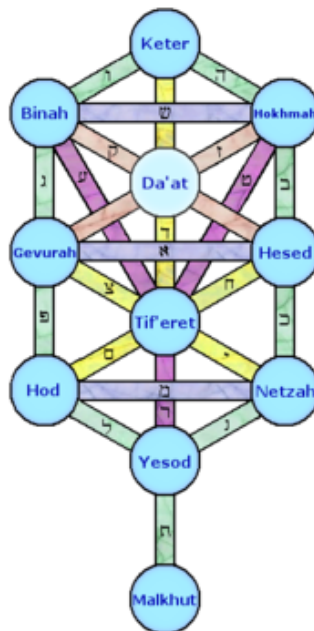
There is a teaching (reinforced by Rabbi Agler in a Shabbat Gadol learning service years ago) that our centuries of slavery in Egypt degraded us to such a degree that had we sunk one more level, we could never have recovered. We could never have become worthy of receiving the Torah, the precepts upon which our life as a people is built. The process of receiving the Torah—“instruction”—actually begins 49 days prior to the moment at Sinai, the period traditionally called “Sefirat Ha'Omer,” the Counting of the Omer.

Ancient Israel's economy was based primarily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the “waves” of grain were offered up every day from Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn't. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing ever-deeper layers of meaning.

Though omer is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is mida (plural: midot); it is the same word that is used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn't our language wonderful?

The word s'fira (plural: s'firot) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the “counting” definition, but listen to what the famous 16th century Kabbalist RaMak said: “Sefirah means both ‘mispar,’ or number, and ‘sipur,’ as in story telling. A third root is ‘sapir,’ or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of “emanation -- light from a source of illumination.”

According to our little booklet, “counting sefirot illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of sefirah tell us a story—the story of our souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as sefirot. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine.”



Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

Chesed: Lovingkindness, benevolence;
 Gevurah: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe;
 Tiferet: Beauty and harmony; compassion;
 Netzach: Endurance; fortitude, ambition;
 Hod: Humility, splendor;
 Yesod: Bonding, foundation;
 Malchut: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership
 (feminine aspect).

Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these midot/sefirot.

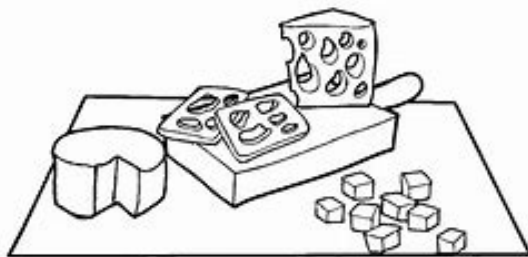


Each week is represented by a specific attribute, and each day of the week is represented by an aspect of that attribute. Imagine a grid, with each of the attributes standing for one week along the left hand side. Then imagine seven columns that represent days, again with each of the sefirot listed at the top. We begin to make a repair by focusing on the interaction of two attributes every day. There are forty-nine squares. On the first day, for example, we would focus on chesed b'chesed--lovingkindness in lovingkindness. On Day Two of Week One, we focus on g'vura she'b'chesed--the aspect of restraint in lovingkindness. On Day three of Week One, the focus is tiferet she'b'chesed--harmony in lovingkindness. On we go for seven weeks.

In consciously counting the Omer, we take opportunity to focus on one aspect of personality and character on every one of our 49 days' walk toward Mt. Sinai and the Torah. We repair ourselves one trait at a time. We polish our facets as if we were the gem, the brilliant sapphire.

Spiritually and emotionally uplifted, we can then receive the Torah properly, as much more than a legal and historic document. Torah becomes a resource guide not just to behavior in daily life but to attaining higher and deeper spiritual connection to

our source. Bring your brightly polished self to KJCC on the evening of June 7 at 6:00 P.M. to enjoy a home cooked dairy meal, to pray, remember our loved ones at the fourth and final Yizkor service of the Jewish year, study and discuss the Book of Ruth with Bernie Ginsberg, stay as long as you can to correct our ancestors' mistake of almost sleeping through the giving of the Torah. We'll help each other stay awake. Let's receive Torah with open arms and hearts. Come celebrate all the aspects of Shavuot with your KJCC mishpocha. ◇



חג שבועות שמח!
HAPPY SHAVUOT!



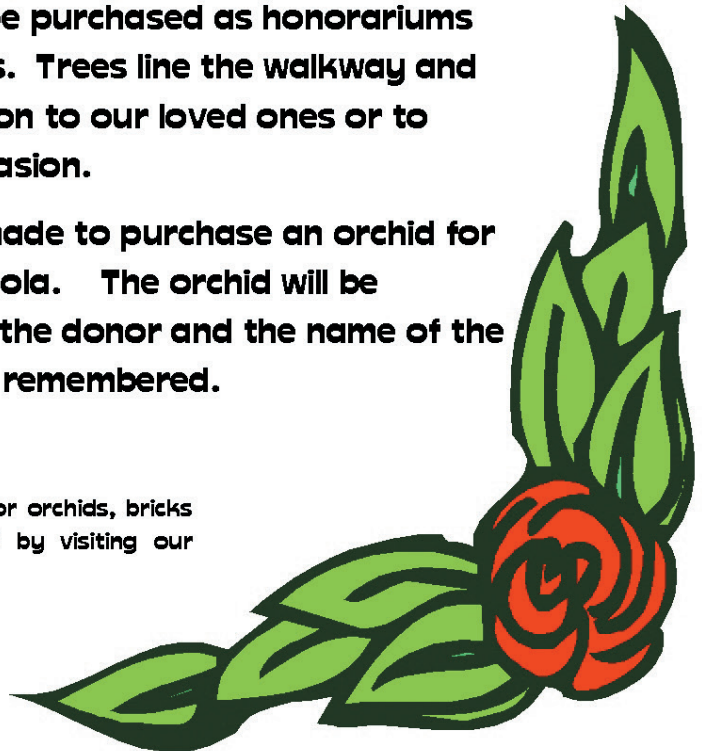
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We Remember Them

Yom HaZikaron – Israel's Memorial Day

Yom HaZikaron is the national day of remembrance for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. It is observed in Israel on the 4th of Iyar, the day before Israel Independence Day, a reminder of the price paid for independence. As of Yom HaZikaron 2019, that number was 23,741.

The evening before Yom HaZikaron a siren is sounded at 8:00 pm, just about sunset. The siren is heard all over the country and lasts for one minute, during which Israelis stop everything, including driving on highways, and stand in silence, commemorating the fallen and showing respect. Memorial candles are lit in homes, army camps, schools, synagogues, and public places, and flags are lowered to half-mast. By law, all places of entertainment are closed that evening and the next day, Yom HaZikaron. Regular television entertainment ceases, and instead the names and ranks of every soldier who died for Israel are displayed in a 24-hour television broadcast. A two-minute siren is sounded at 11:00 the following morning, and again, all movement ceases. This marks the opening of the official memorial ceremonies and private remembrance gatherings.

Beth Hayden led a moving commemoration of Yom HaZikaron that Friday night. She lit memorial candles before the lighting of Shabbat candles, explained the history of the day, and asked for several poems to be read. The service ended with the singing of Hatikvah.



Before the service, an Israeli dinner. Afterwards, Birthday cake for Israel.



WE REMEMBER THEM

POEM BY RABBI SYLVAN KAMENS & RABBI JACK RIEMER

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.
In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.



Joyce's grandchildren
celebrated too, in
New Jersey.



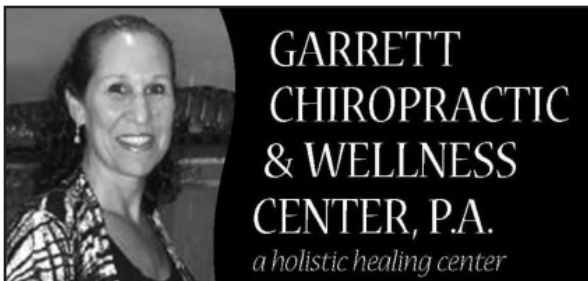
THE SILVER PLATTER

POEM BY NATAN ALTERMAN

And the land grows still, the red eye of the sky slowly dimming over smoking frontiers
As the nation arises, Torn at heart but breathing, To receive its miracle, the only miracle
As the ceremony draws near, it will rise, standing erect in the moonlight in terror and joy
When across from it will step out a youth and a lass and slowly march toward the nation
Dressed in battle gear, dirty, Shoes heavy with grime, they ascend the path quietly
To change garb, to wipe their brow
They have not yet found time. Still bone weary from days and from nights in the field
Full of endless fatigue and unrested,
Yet the dew of their youth. Is still seen on their head
Thus they stand at attention, giving no sign of life or death
Then a nation in tears and amazement
will ask: "Who are you?"
And they will answer quietly, "We Are the silver platter on which the Jewish state was given."
Thus they will say and fall back in shadows
And the rest will be told in the chronicles of Israel.



**After sadness, we dance,
with next generation.**



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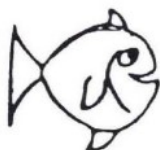


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