

Chai~Lights



October 2015

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

October 2015

18 Tishrei - 18 Cheshvan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Joel Bofshever <i>Mitch Harvey</i>	3 Havdallah at Agler Home 7:00 p.m.
4 Sisterhood Meeting 9:00 a.m. KJCC Board 11:00 a.m.	5 Yizkor & Simchat Torah 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9 Ken Atlas	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Jane & Harry Friedman <i>Barbara & Richard Knowles</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22 Challah Making 5:00 p.m.	23 Dinner 6:00p.m. Erica Lieberman- Garrett & Mitch Harvey <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	24 Rabbi Agler Service 10:00 a.m. Havdalah Peckman Home 6:30
25	26	27	28	29	30 Joyce Peckman	31

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President's Message Sam Vinicur



As I sit here wondering what to write about, images from the three elements of KJCC's just-finished Rosh Hashanah celebration parade PowerPoint-like before my mind's eye. I more than just see them; other senses join in, and I can practically hear and taste them, too.

I remember first walking into the KJCC Social Hall on the Sunday afternoon of Erev Rosh Hashanah, to erect the portable sound system and wait for Cantor Michael Dzubin to arrive. Erica and Susan had finished set-up for the upcoming dinner. Beautiful, small floral centerpieces adorned each table: bright, bold infusions of primary colors that, along with the special napkins and plates they'd bought, would soon evoke an unspoken, warm message of "prepare for a festive and happy time, all ye who enter here."

Around 5:30, as requested, all those who had cooked began to appear. The room was suddenly redolent with memories of childhood holiday dinners at (in my case... my older sister's one-year-old attempt at "grandma") Bama's house: brisket and potatoes and chicken and cranberry sauce. I don't eat those things now, but olfactory pleasure imprinting never fades.

I teased David Gross about wearing a laundered white shirt and crisp silk tie. He joked that the tie at least

had a fish design on it.

There were members we don't get to see too often, like past-president Susan Horn and partner Dot, who now live in Port St. Lucie. A member who lives in Miami pulled me aside to say how much she looks forward to receiving Chai-Lights every month, that it makes her feel so connected to all we do.

Suddenly every seat in both rooms had a resident tush and I was walking around with the microphone welcoming everyone to the first component of High Holidays at KJCC, this wonderful feast of a dinner planned and prepared by Sisterhood. The first course was to be *kneidlach* (I looked up the spelling), matzoh ball soup, in my memory the most endearingly Jewish of all food. (Maybe it's because it was one of the few things my Bama could actually make, and I never liked anything about chopped liver.)

During dessert, Rabbi Agler asked me to announce that services would begin in five minutes. And they did. The cantor soon began to sing, lilting, soaring Rosh Hashanah melodies, making a full house into a suddenly rapt community, in a unique and timeless – today or possibly even a thousand years ago – Jewish moment. Gloria and I caught each other's eye across the room and simultaneously smiled. ♦

Nosh

See you at 7:30 PM!

This is a reminder that each Friday evening, Shabbat services will now begin at 7:30 PM. After years of 8PM starts (I can still hear the voice of Jim Boruszak summoning us from the hallway at the appointed hour, "It's 8 o'clock; let's get inside!"), we have moved the time back half an hour to 7:30, and will be eliminating the early start at the end of the month. We hope to see you there.

Contributing Comfort

Eating, relaxing and schmoozing in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall has been much more comfortable recently, since the old folding chairs have been replaced with soft and stable banquet chairs. You are invited help pay for them. For a donation of \$36, you can sponsor a seat. A plaque with your name will be affixed to the back. Then come on down and enjoy its use!

Oneg Sponsors for October 2015

October 2nd - Mitch Harvey to celebrate his birthday.

October 16th - Barbara and Richard Knowles in honor of Barbara's birthday.

October 23rd - Steve Steinbock In Memory of Carol.

The Shabbos Project dinner on October 23rd will be sponsored by Stan and Jenny Margulies.

Sisterhood and KJCC Board Meetings

The monthly meetings of Sisterhood and the KJCC Board are now being held on the same day. Both meetings will be taking place at the KJCC on the first Sunday of the month. Sisterhood will meet at 9:00 a.m. and the Board will meet at 11:00 a.m. As always, all members of KJCC are welcome and encouraged to attend. It's your KJCC; add your voice to the decision making process.

Oneg Sponsorships

The annual letters from Sisterhood have gone out, suggesting reasons to sponsor a Friday night Oneg. But there are many possibilities besides birthdays and anniversaries. For the modest sum of \$60, you can also commemorate a yartzeit, celebrate an engagement, bar mitzvah, or the visit of a loved one. You can show gratitude for safe return from a journey or recovery from illness. Please send back the form with your contributions and chosen Fridays. Contact Joyce Peckman at joycepeckman@gmail.com or 305-451-0665.

Havdalah Services

We have two opportunities to enjoy the lovely Havdalah service together this month. We have been graciously invited to a dairy pot-luck Sukkot celebration and Havdalah ceremony Saturday night, October 3rd at 7 p.m. in the home and sukkah of Rabbi and Mindy Agler. There will be olives in the sukkah, delicious food in the house, a sunset over the Gulf of Mexico and inspiration as the lulav is shaken and the aroma of the etrog is inhaled. Their address is 168 Sunset Gardens Drive, Key Largo. Please RSVP and coordinate your dish with Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

On Saturday, October 24th at 6:30p.m., Joyce Peckman will host a Havdalah service at her home as part of KJCC's participation in *The International Shabbos Project*. What better way to end Shabbat and usher in a new week than to share a glass of sweet wine with friends! The address is 235 Lee Avenue Key Largo, and contact information is above.

Saturday Morning Torah Learning Resumes

As part of our three-day 25-hour International observance of Shabbat, Ritual Committee is pleased to announce that Rabbi Agler will lead a Torah service on September 24th at 10:00 a.m. You will be elevated, educated, entertained, and possibly enlightened by Rabbi Agler's warm, interactive, informal style. Refreshments (a Kiddush) will follow. See you there.

October Birthdays

2nd.....	Michael Gilson
4th.....	Michael Krissel
4th.....	Michael Kanarek
6th.....	Joel Bernard
6th.....	Mitchell Harvey
7th.....	Jordan Feig
11th.....	Olivia Landes
11th.....	Cynthia Arsenaull
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Richard Kaufman
14th.....	Paul Friedman
14th.....	Sidney Finkelstein
15th.....	Marcia Kreitman
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
18th.....	Payton Borisoff
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
25th.....	Richard Wolfe
25th.....	Landon Strasser
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
30th.....	Katie J. Schur
30th.....	Mark Hitzig
30th.....	Franklin Greenman
31st.....	Brittany Schur

Yartzeit Plaque

In Memory of
Ralph L. Tallent

Lillian Tallent

October Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....39
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....21
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger.....56
22nd	Steve & Luzviminda Levine.....3
23rd	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....14
25th	Todd & Maria.....23
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein.....61

Mark Your Calenders and Save The Date

KJCC will be participating in the "Shabbos Project," an ambitious worldwide event. At least sixty-five countries will be taking part this year. And we are one of some 103 synagogues in Florida participating.

The goal of this project is to encourage a true 25-hour experience, to deepen our experience of the joys, the process, and the learning inherent in Shabbat observance. Our experience starts on October 22nd and runs through Havdalah service on October 24th. For full details and schedule please see Gloria's article on page 23 and the notice on page 22. You can also check out the web site at www.theshabbosproject.com.

Social Hall Chairs

In Honor of Rosie Biskar, Artist
by Sam Vinicur

In Memory of Jim Boruszak
by Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memory of Joel Pollack
by Sanford & Nancy Yankow

In Memory of Carol Steinbock
by Sanford & Nancy Yankow

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Celebration of
50 Golden Years
Johanna and Arthur Willner

Meditation Garden Brick

IN MEMORY OF
Joel Pollack
By *Yardena Kamely*

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

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

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY and SOCIAL HALL SEAT PLATES,

YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Mitch Harvey 303-521-5240, 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.

PILL BOTTLES FOR HAITI: Bring your vitamin and medicine bottles to the collection box in the lobby.

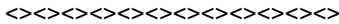
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked 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 October 2015

In Memory Of

Perren Gerber

By Gloria Avner



In Memory Of

Gertrude Widlan

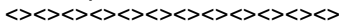
By Norbert Birnbaum



In Memory Of

Arnold Tomor

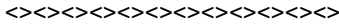
By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

Natalie Field

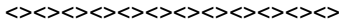
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

Arnold Widrich

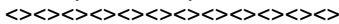
By Susan W. Goldberg



In Memory Of

Joseph Elson

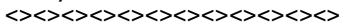
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Leonard Weiser

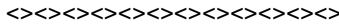
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

Stephen Berman

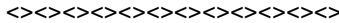
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Audrey Bloom

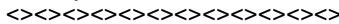
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Abraham Kanowsky

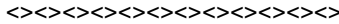
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

Nettie Fishman

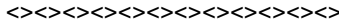
By Eina G. Fishman



In Memory Of

Stanley J. Goodman

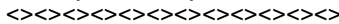
By Jamie & Laura Goodman



In Memory Of

Fanny Elson

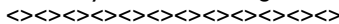
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Henry W. Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Fanny Grossman Bernard

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

Steven V. Calev

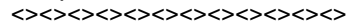
By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

Harriet Feder

By David & Suzi-Sara Feder



In Memory Of

Muriel Catanase

By Jane Friedman



In Memory Of

Simon Skolnick

By Susan Gordon



In Memory Of

Lilian Goldenberg

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Leah Kamely

By Yardena Kamely

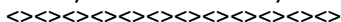


In Memoriam October 2015

In Memory Of

Michal Kamely

By Uri & Liliam Kamely



In Memory Of

Michal Kamely

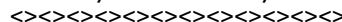
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

Rebekah Levy

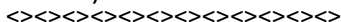
By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

Ron Levy

By Beth Kaminstein



In Memory Of

Esther M. Klein

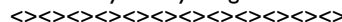
By Harvey & Judith Klein



In Memory Of

Eliza Christensen

By Nancy Kluger



In Memory Of

Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

Joel S. Cohen

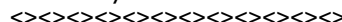
By Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

David Frank

By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Rosalyn Rose

By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

Bradley Schocket

By Jeffrey & Patty Schocket



In Memory Of

Maurice Singer

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

Jon R. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Morton I. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

Joel S. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Saunders G. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Carol Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

Herbert S. Weihl

By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl



In Memory Of

Sarah Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

Doran David Zinner

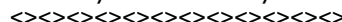
By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

Leah Kamely

By Yardena Kamely



Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Shana Tovah, and welcome 5776! In preparation for a great start to the New Year, Susan Gordon and I, along with Marc Bloom, cleaned up the kitchen, the cupboards and the drawers, and ordered some new kitchen supplies. I love being more organized and am confident that the hours we put in and changes we made will allow our kitchen to function more easily for everyone, as we continue to have more events each year.

We are off to a great start for the New Year, with a fantastic month full of meaningful services, scrumptious Rosh Hashanah dinner and lunches, an incredible Yom Kippur break fast dinner, havdalah at Linda Pollack's and special onegs. It is so wonderful to have begun the year with so many people joining together at our annual traditional and festive Erev Rosh Hashanah brisket dinner.

As I prepared the matza ball soup for the dinner, I reminisced about cleaning chickens with my mother Maxine in Toronto when I was a child, grimacing at holding the raw chicken and remembering her words, "It all washes off with soap and water!" Maybe that is where my germ phobia began!

I learned from my mom, as she did from her mother and the generations before, why we cherish our traditions, the smells and the tastes of the food that we share. The brisket, *tsimmiss*, chopped liver, knishes, turkey and stuffing, cucumber salad, green beans with almonds, chocolate and cinnamon babka, and of course our traditional honey cake, all yummy. We keep our holiday spirits alive each year as we break bread (in our case, challah) together.

A lot of energy and time goes in to making these beautiful meals happen.

Susan Gordon beautified the room and found our new tablecloths, which were generously donated by Patti and David Gross; Gene Silverman decorated with the beautiful flowers, and Jane Friedman shopped till she al-

most dropped at BJ's and Costco. Thanks also go to all of the women who cooked: Gloria Avner, Barb Knowles, Luz Levine, Linda Perloff, Ellen Bloom, Barb Bernstein, Linda Kaplan, Susan Gordon, Joyce Peckman, Pauline Roller, Gene Silverman, Muriel Swartz, Linda Pollack, Beth Hayden and Jane Friedman. Having such talented women who love to make their special traditional dishes adds the *haimish* feel to our gatherings. I would also like to thank Marc Bloom for his special herring and sour cream, and David and Patti Gross, Andy Tobin, Skip Rose, Arline Line, The Kaufman family, Toby and Joel Bofshever, Mitch Harvey, Gerri Emkey, Steve Steinbock and Dr. Bernie Ginsberg for their generous contributions to everything from the fresh authentic bagels to the whitefish salad, lox, knishes, babka, honey cake and more.... Without all of the help from our KJCC Mishpocha, our food would be cookies, carrots and hummus!! So again thank you for making this spectacular holiday season.

Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, October 4th at a new time: 9 am. I hope that you will be able to join us as we plan new events and discuss future meals!

We begin October with a special oneg on Monday evening, Oct. 5th after our Simchas Torah service.

On Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 5 pm we will have a special event in connection with The Shabbos Project. (More information on this worldwide event can be found at Theshabbosproject.org.) We will honor Shabbat by learning to make mini challahs. Sisterhood will provide all the materials for us to make challah dough together. We will then let the dough rise and be baked at home either for your own Shabbat meal, or to bring to *schul* on Friday night or Saturday morning. Please join us - it will be a lot of fun. ◇

KJCC Meditation Garden

Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden.

Plans are under way for a new pergola which will house our new KJCC Orchid Garden.

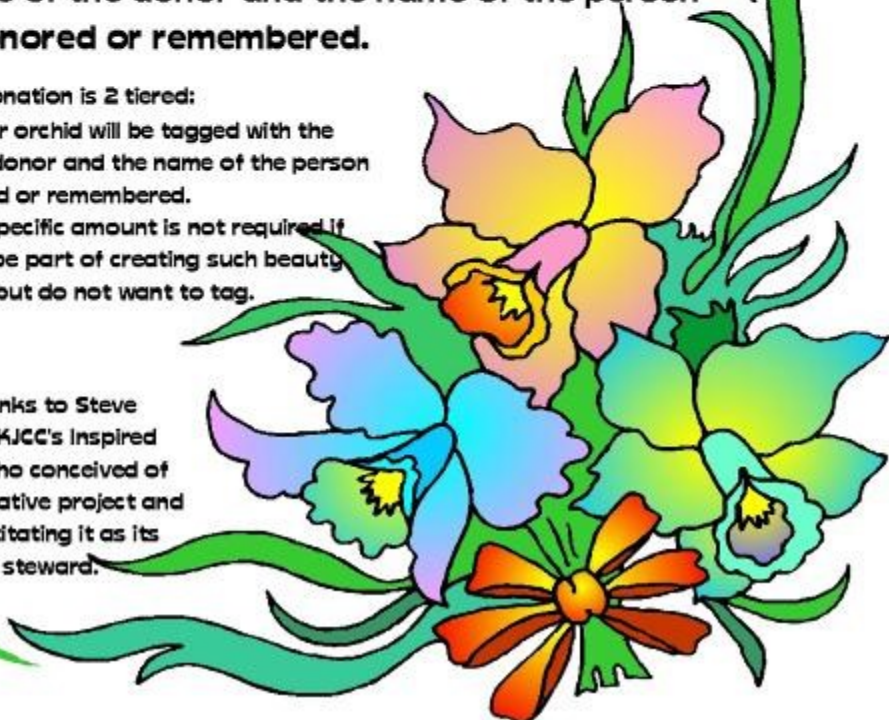
We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Suggested donation is 2 tiered:

\$ 65 - Your orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

\$ Other - Specific amount is not required if you want to be part of creating such beauty and serenity but do not want to tag.

Many thanks to Steve Steinbock, KJCC's Inspired Gardener, who conceived of this living, creative project and will be facilitating it as its loving steward.



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Planning to Live on Mars

Dr. Sheyna Gifford, 36, recently joined five other crew members in the NASA-funded *Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation* (HI-SEAS) habitat, training for a simulated space mission to Mars. For the next 365 days, Gifford – a Jewish medical doctor, science journalist, astrophysics researcher and space enthusiast – will along with her team be isolated in a geodesic dome measuring 36 feet in diameter. The two-story habitat simulates space missions, to help identify risks associated with long-term human space exploration. Gifford will serve as medical doctor, neuroscientist and habitat journalist for the mission. “We’re looking at what you need to feed and water people for a year...and how the crew manages,” Gifford said. The round trip to Mars is estimated to be a three-year journey. She also has a blog titled “A Shtick by Any Other Name: Being Jewish on Mars” where she explores being the only Jew on the mission. “When you’re in a space station that circles the Earth every 90 minutes, experiencing multiple sundowns daily – when, precisely, do you get your Jew on?” She says she will turn on the electric candles (no fire-making in space) using Hawaii time, the same time as ground control. (www.jpost.com, 8-30-15)

Helen Keller and the Rabbi

Going through Rabbi Charles Mantinband’s documents, a history team at the *Institute of Southern Jewish Life* (ISJL) based in Jackson, Mississippi, discovered a thank-you note written to him in 1936. The note had been written by Helen Keller, who sent it shortly after the death of her caretaker and companion, Anne Sullivan. “...it is winter in my life since the guardian angel of fifty years no longer walks by my side on earth,” Keller wrote. “Out of the darkness in which she died and I still am living I thank you, o friend, for the joy of lending a helping hand to those

whose eyes seek the light in vain...May God’s blessing rest upon you for your generosity to the *American Foundation for the Blind*, whose activities comfort the sightless with the rod of counsel and the staff of self-help.” Born in New York City, Rabbi Mantinband and his family moved to Alabama, then later to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where the rabbi became an active participant in the civil rights movement. He was also a supporter of the *American Foundation for the Blind*, founded after World War I and still existing today. Helen Keller was a member and contributor to this organization.

(www.myjewishlearning.com, 8-12-15)

Honoring Sister Louise

Gabrielle Sourgens, also known as Sister Louise, saved at least four Jewish children during the Holocaust. Now, 70 years later, testimony from the *Visual History Archive* is being used as evidence to posthumously award Sister Louise, who died in 1971, the highest honor for Holocaust rescuers, the title of “Righteous Among the Nations” from *Yad Vashem*. Sister Louise was a nun at an orphanage in Leignac, a rural French town. Knowing they were Jewish, she arranged for Henri Weinzweig and three other children – all about 8 to 10 years old – to live in the orphanage to protect them from the Nazis. The four young Jews lived with the other children in the orphanage and did everything they did, including going to school and church (Weinzweig was an altar boy, and it was his job to collect the milk every morning). The children remained in the orphanage for several years, until the war was over. Amazingly, both of Weinzweig’s parents survived and returned to pick him up in August 1945. (www.sfi.usc.edu/news, August 2015)

Jewish Life on Campus

According to Hillel International's annual college rankings of "Schools that Jews Choose," four of the top twenty public universities with the largest number of Jewish undergraduates are in Florida, with the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando coming in at number two among schools in North America. UCF edged out the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, which had been the top public school on Hillel's list. (This year, UF dropped to number five nationwide and Rutgers University in New Jersey moved into first, with 6,400 Jewish undergraduates.) UCF has more than 50,000 undergraduates, with an estimated 6,000 Jewish students. Florida International University (FIU) in Miami ranked number fourteen and Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee was number twenty. University of Miami (UM), at number eleven, was the only Florida private school to make the top of the list. Hillel is the largest Jewish student organization in the world. (www.miamiherald.com, 7-7-15)

The Numbers are Rising

According to a recent survey released by the *Jewish People Policy Institute* (JPPI), located in Jerusalem, global Jewish population has now reached 16 million and now stands at almost the level of the 1930s. Bowing to modern reality, the report looks at Jewish population in two parts: those with two Jewish parents are now seen as having reached a total of 14.2 million. But when including people with one Jewish parent and those who identify as partially Jewish, the number almost reaches the pre-Holocaust levels of 16.5 million Jews. According to the report, the rise was due to natural growth, primarily in Israel. Also, about three-fifths of adult children in the United States who have one Jewish parent identify as Jewish. Israel is home to about 6,103,200 Jews. The United States comes in second with an estimated Jewish population of 5,700,000. The JPPI report claims that, over the last decade, the total Jewish population has increased by eight percent, the biggest increase since the end of World War II. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 8-24-15)

"Epigenetic Inheritance"

A new study published in the journal *Biological Psychiatry* has provided the strongest proof yet that the trauma experienced by Holocaust survivors can be passed along genetically to their children. The study was done by researchers at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital. It compared the genes of 32 Jewish men and women who survived a Nazi concentration camp, witnessed or experienced torture or hid during World War II with the genes of their children, as well as with a control group of people of a similar demographic. The results are the clearest examples in humans of the transmission of trauma across generations through what is known as "epigenetic inheritance," the theory that genetic changes caused by the environment over a lifetime can be transmitted to offspring. Genes contained in DNA have been thought to be the only way to pass biological information from parent to child. But environmental factors like smoking, diet and stress modify genes all the time via chemical tags that attach themselves to DNA, switching genes on and off. Only Holocaust survivors and their children showed chemical tags on the FKBP5 gene, which is associated with how people respond to stress. The correlation did not show up on the control group and their children. Exactly how parents pass the epigenetic tags to their children remains a mystery. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 8-25-15)

An Injustice Righted

Ingeborg Sylim-Rapoport was denied a Ph.D. by the Nazi regime in the 1930s. She has at last received the honor. Sylim-Rapoport, a retired neonatologist who lives in Berlin, is 102 years old. She submitted her doctoral thesis on diphtheria in 1938. As the daughter of a Jew, she was not permitted to complete her oral defense because she was categorized as a "first-degree crossbreed" under Hitler's race laws. In 1938, she emigrated to the United States and worked as a pediatrician at a Cincinnati hospital. She and her husband moved to communist East Berlin in 1952, where she became the head of the neonatology department at *Charite Hospital*. (www.nbcnews.com, 5-18-15)

Jewish Wiz Kid

On his most recent annual visit to the *Museum of Science* in Boston, Joseph Rosenfeld, a 15-year-old high school sophomore from Virginia who loves mathematics, questioned the accuracy of a display in the museum's *Mathematica* exhibit of the formula for the "golden ratio," a number approximately equal to 1.618. The "golden ratio" is said to be found throughout history in art, geometry, nature and architecture going back to the Greek Parthenon, the Egyptian pyramids, works by Leonardo da Vinci, as well as modern architects. (Charles and Ray Eames had developed the formula in question in 1981.) The museum's display of the formula included minus signs. Rosenfeld expected to see plus signs, since that was the way he learned it when he studied it for a special project. Rosenfeld checked some websites, left a note at the museum and followed up with an e-mail. Initially, the museum responded and acknowledged the error, but later issued a statement affirming that the way the museum displays the "golden ratio" is less common but still an accurate way to present it. (www.jta.org, 7-9-15)

In Memoriam

-Goldie Steinberg, believed to be the world's oldest Jewish person, died in August. She was 114, two months away from her 115th birthday. Steinberg worked as a seamstress until she retired at age 80 and lived independently until she was 104. (*The Forward*, 8-18-15)

-Jacob Bekenstein, physicist who made great advances in the science of black hole thermodynamics, died in mid-August at the age of 68. Using advanced mathematics, Bekenstein's contribution described the "true and complex nature" of black holes. At first, physicist Stephen Hawking, an expert on black holes, disagreed with Bekenstein's theory. But later in his book "A Brief History of Time," Hawking made his own calculations and recanted, saying that Bekenstein was indeed correct. The theory is now called Bekenstein-Hawking radiation. Dr. Bekenstein was a longtime professor at the Hebrew University

in Jerusalem. (www.washingtonpost.com, 8-27-15)

-Oliver Sacks, neurologist and best-selling author who explored some of the brain's strangest pathways, died at the end of August. He was 82. Sacks wrote several books using his patients' struggles and disorders like "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat," a case study of a man whose brain lost the ability to decipher what his eyes were seeing. Dr. Sacks was instrumental in introducing syndromes like *Tourette's* or *Asperger's* to the general public. He humanized and demystified his patients as well as their conditions. Sacks won widespread attention in 1973 for his book "Awakenings," about a group of patients with an atypical form of encephalitis at *Beth Abraham Hospital* in the Bronx. (In 1990, the story was made into a movie starring Robin Williams and Robert de Niro.) In 1966, when Sacks started his clinical career at *Beth Abraham*, many of his patients had been catatonic for decades. He gave them the drug L-dopa and watched as they emerged from their catatonic state. Sacks wrote more than a dozen books. He was born in London but moved to New York as a young man. Raised in an Orthodox home, Sacks was not observant as an adult but often wrote about Jewish subjects.

(www.nytimes.com, 8-30-15)

Did You Know...

-*Birthright*, the organization that sponsors Jewish young adults between the ages of 18 to 26 on free ten-day trips to Israel, has brought a record 30,000 young people on its trips this past summer, the highest number of participants in *Birthright's* 15-year history. The individuals came from 32 countries. Overall, half a million people have gone on *Birthright* trips. (*The Forward*, 8-19-15)

-The United States Navy has named a combat ship for former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, the first Jewish woman elected to statewide office in Arizona. Giffords stepped down from her congressional seat in January 2012 after being shot in the head at a political event in Tucson, Arizona, where six people were killed. (www.jta.org, 6-14-15) ◊

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.

Chai Lights

Smith, Steve & Barbara
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

General Fund

Miller, Steven & Tonia Sledd
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Yankow, Sanford & Nancy

Holocaust Education Center

Kamely, Yardena
Swartz, George & Muriel

Meditation Garden

Rose, Frank
Kamely, Yardena brick – Joel Pollack

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Davidson, Foster
Goodman, Jamie & Laura
Mont, Dave & Georgia Landau
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Vinicur, Sam

Sisterhood – Onegs and Contributions

Coltman, Barney
Itkin, Arthur
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Peckman, Joyce
Roy, Medina
Pollack, Linda-Granddaughter Maddy's bat mitzvah
Pollack, Linda Sisterhood
Williams, Jim & Rita

Social Hall Chair Plates

Vinicur, Sam Rosie Biskar, Artist
Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Jim Boruszak
Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Joel Pollack
Yankow, Sanford & Nancy Carol Steinbock

Tree of Life – Leaves

Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna - In celebration of
50 Golden Years – Johanna & Arthur Willner

Yahrzeit Plaques

Tallent, Lillian Ralph L. Tallent

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan Jim Boruszak
Cooper, Claire Sarah Sandberg
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Len Roberts

Yizkor Book

Calev, Barbara
Chasteen, Dale
Davidson, Foster
Goodman, Jamie & Laura
Kamely, Yardena
Laskin, Carol
Rose, Frank
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Smith, Steve & Barbara
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

Photo Gallery



Above, Skip Rose furls an American flag he provided for a client.

At right, Lee Schur with grandchildren Nathan and Cate and a friend aboard *The Schur Thing* in Chicago.



Barbara & Richard Knowles cutting their 16th Anniversary cake on August 14. They sponsored the Oneg.

Mort Silverman wonders why there is only one candle on his birthday cake. We helped him celebrate at the Sept. 4th oneg, below.



When Lauren & Stuart Sax traveled west, they stopped in Albuquerque to visit Sandy and Nancy Yankow, and introduced Shayna to Lola.





Joyce Peckman is clearly glad to be back in the Keys in time for the Holidays, as she “makes a motzi.” She sponsored the oneg in honor of her safe return.



The bimah is bedecked in lovely new silk flowers for the Holidays. Thank you, Gene Silverman and Sam Vinicur, for traveling to Miami to procure them.



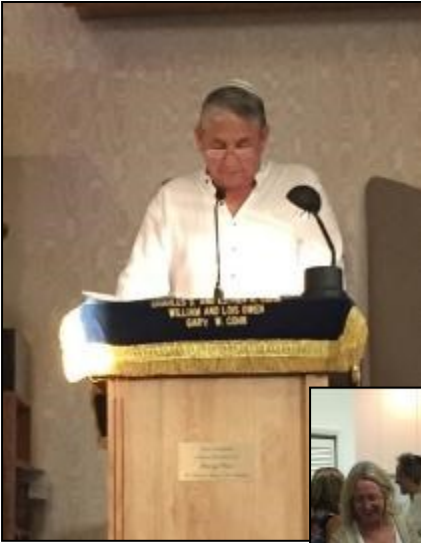
At left, Sydney! Faye-Davis helps Bernie with Kiddush at a Friday night oneg Shabbat.



Artist Marcia Kreitman points to the name of 2015 honoree Carol Steinbock, which she just added to the Women’s Seder tapestry.

The Days of Awe Begin

We begin the High Holy Days not with Rosh Hashanah, but with Slichot Service, saying “I’m sorry” to G-d. For added incentive, there is pizza and a movie. This year, the event was graciously sponsored by Gene and Mort Silverman, and by Steve Steinbock, who also led the Slichot Service.



Pizza and salad fed the body so our souls could be ready to be nourished as well. Thank you, Gene.



Art Itkin and Dave Mont in deep discussion above.



Above, Foster Davidson and Pauline share a moment.



No, that basket at left is not filled with *etrogim* for the upcoming Succot holiday. Gene and Mort’s Italian lemon tree had a bumper crop, so they brought enough to share.



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SISTERHOOD

**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

ONEG \$60

SHABBAT DINNER \$300

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

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks and baked goods.

Contact: Joyce Peckman
(732) 447-5225

Simchat Torah and the Dancing Feet

by Gloria Avner

Mazel Tov! The Jewish ceremonial cycle is complete. We've read and discussed (well, at least discussed) every parashah in the Torah. Now, on Monday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate both that ending and a new beginning with a joyous Simchat Torah celebration. We are "rejoicing in the Law," and already we look forward to starting to read and study it all over again.

It's October 5th. The seven days of *Sukkot* are over. *Shemini Atzeret*, the "Eighth day of Assembly," has begun. (It is time to pray for rain now - and all Jewish worshippers will continue to add that special line of the *Amidah* asking for "rain to fall and the wind to blow" until *Pesach*.) But the big news of the day is *Simchat Torah*! It is time to parade our Torahs (in Hebrew, of course, the plural would be *Torot*), silver trapings and all, to hold them as tenderly as we hold our precious children and to dance with them. One wise old teacher said: "The Torahs want to dance. Let us be their dancing feet." So we go circling the sanctuary. (These "circlings" are called *HaKafot*.) Seven times around we go, as we sing joyful songs and recite special prayers. Bernie is usually the one to chant the set of seventeen verses, called *Atah Ha'raita*, and he also keeps track of how many times we have done our *HaKafot*. Grown-ups take turns being the Torah's dancing feet, and the children wave special *Simchat Torah* flags. Bernie remembers as a child being given apples to stick on the point of the flag for a treat after the dancing.

If this sounds not merely joyous to you but also rambunctious, you get it. Bring your children. This is a youngster-friendly happen

ing. Remember little Rachel Levine running up and down the aisles last year? Her eyes were wide, marveling as the grownups danced. Those eyes were fastened in wonder on the growing length of the Torah as we unrolled it. She, and the rest of us as well, then listened intently as Rabbi Agler told us the world's best bedtime story, the full story of us, the Jewish people.

Rabbi Agler has graciously agreed to do it again on Monday night, October 5th, performing his now-famous seven-minute on-the-spot



translation of the entire unrolled Torah (the student scroll generously donated to the KJCC Religious School by David, Suzi, and Nyan Feder on the occasion of Nyan's Bar Mitzvah) while we of the congregation support it with our hands.

Rabbi Agler's recitation is a genuine learning experience, as well as a highly entertaining one. You don't want to miss it. Why is

it on a weekday night and not (as we would typically do) on a Friday? Because this year it happens to fall exactly between two Fridays. We are celebrating *Shemini Atzeret*, *Simchat Torah*, and the second mandated *Yizkor* of 5776 on the actual eve on which we are instructed to observe them. It's a *mitzvah*. Come to remember your loved ones. Experience joy, sorrow, remembrance, respect, jubilation. This night has it all. And all of it is important. Bring your little ones if you have them. We will start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. so that all students (young and not-so-young) can go home and get a good night's sleep. The rest of us can stay and schmooze. There will of course be refreshments.

Join us. Come and watch the Torahs dance. And perhaps feel a little of the unique Torah magic yourself. ◊

KJCC Gift Shop



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



For further information contact:
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585

One Tribe to Another: A Tallit of Many Colors

by Gloria Avner

I sat in the third row on Erev Rosh Hashanah and was struck by the beauty of our Cantor's Tallit. In the reception line after services, I took a closer look. After years of collecting, researching, buying and selling indigenous art, textiles in particular, my instincts said native Guatemalan weaving. "Right you are," said Cantor Dzubin, "but there is more to the story."

When Cantor Michael Dzubin was spiritual leader (or *Kol Bo*) to the only Conservative shul in all of New Mexico, Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Albuquerque, he became friends with a pureblood Navajo man. They had many long discussions, about religion in particular. As were most of the Navajos, this man had been educated to worship as a Christian, but he never felt comfortable with that path. It did not fit him or the beliefs of his ancestors. He researched other religions, and the more he read and learned, the more he came to feel that his native Navajo beliefs were more in synch with Judaism than any other religion—especially in regard to respect for nature, the belief in justice and correct behavior, dedication to helping others, respect for elders, devotion to family. He converted.

I think the psalm where "rivers clap hands in gladness" might have

had something to do with it.

Navajo and Jew may come from different tribes, but both are descendants of people who lived on the land, agriculturists and hunters, dependent on rain in proper amounts and season, watchers of stars, and people who pray directly to the one Great Spirit that animates all of creation.

Wanting to do something for Cantor Michael, this Navajo man created a *tallit* for him. Not only is it made of cloth hand-woven by Guatemalan Indians, but it has Native American spiritual symbology woven into the corners, with specific colors and

squares for the four sacred directions, all with multiple meanings, echoing our own emphasis on directions as pointed (and timely) as our shaking of the *lulav* during *Sukkot*.

Everything has meaning. Look at these photos. What a fine combination of what we call *kavanah*, or intent, and purely aesthetic beauty. A man "of the cloth," Cantor Michael Dzubin, a man of faith of our particular tribe, walks in beauty the Navajo way in his not-quite-traditional ceremonial cross-cultural garb and it all makes perfect sense – one tribe to another. ◇



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Shabbos Project

KJCC Sisterhood Challah Making

**Thursday October 22, 2015 5 pm
in the Cathy Kaplan Social Hall**



Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in a worldwide celebration and honoring of Shabbat. We will embark together in our making of Shabbat's most important ritual food: challah. All supplies will be provided by Sisterhood.

Those with experience will teach those of us with none, and each of us will make enough dough to take home and bake two mini challahs. At our Erev Shabbat Oneg, Friday, Oct. 23rd, and after our Torah service with Rabbi Agler on Saturday morning, Oct. 24th, we will eat and enjoy the fruits of our learning.

Please rsvp by Monday, October 19th,
to Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com.
For more information visit
theshabbosproject.org



A Challah Tutorial

by Joyce Peckman

On Thursday, October 22 at 5 p.m., the KJCC Sisterhood will be sponsoring a challah making event. Men and women will share the experience of making challah dough “from scratch”, and then taking it home to rise and bake. There is nothing in the world quite like the aroma of fresh baked challah bread! So I decided to do a little research on the history and traditions surrounding our traditional Shabbat and holiday loaf.

According to Gil Marks, author of “The World of Jewish Cooking,” until the 15th century most Ashkenazim used their weekday rectangular or round loaves for Shabbat. Then German Jews began making a “new form of Sabbath bread, an oval, braided loaf modeled on a popular Teutonic bread” (“The World of Jewish Cooking,” p.276). Seeds were added, some say to symbolize the sweet manna that fell from heaven while the Israelites wandered in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt.

In traditional homes, two loaves of challah (*challot*) are placed on the table, in commemoration of the double portion of manna that was provided each Friday to the Israelites. The loaves are usually covered with a decorative cloth, to remind us how layers of dew protected the manna. I grew up hearing another explanation: when a person eats two or more different foods, they should bless and eat them in the order that they are mentioned in the Torah. Since grain is mentioned before grapes, it would follow that the bread should be eaten before the wine. Yet the meal is being served in honor of Shabbat, which begins when candles are lit, and is sanctified during the recitation of *Kiddush*. We therefore cover the bread (“wheat”) in order that it not be “shamed” by the fact that we bless the candle-lighting and drink the *Kiddush* wine



(“grapes”) before we bless and eat *challah*.

In Sephardic communities the pieces of bread are sometimes tossed to people instead of passed on a tray, representing how food ultimately comes from G-d, not the host of the dinner. Occasionally the dog benefits from this tradition.

Why do we dip the challah in salt? According to Kabbalah, salt, which is bitter, represents divine justice, and bread, the staff of life, represents divine kindness. Both the Hebrew word for bread, *lechem*, and the word for salt, *melach*, contain the same letters. So we always add salt to our bread.

The word “*challah*” also refers to the portion of dough that is traditionally separated from the rest of the dough before

baking, and offered back to G-d. The origin of the offering is found in Numbers 15:18-20: Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, “When you enter the land where I bring you.... Of the first of your dough you shall lift up a cake as an offering... throughout your generations.” The common practice, discussed in the Talmud, is for the home baker to remove about 1/24 of the dough and toss it to the back of the oven to burn. (Commercial bakers are to take only 1/48.) Look on your boxes of matzah for the words “Challah is taken” or “The laws of challah have been fulfilled.”

I noticed that Orthodox women always use an entire five pound bag of flour, freezing or giving away what they do not need that week. I assumed that baking once a month was for efficiency’s sake, but there is more to it. There is Talmudic consensus that dough made from five pounds of flour meets the minimum size requirement for saying the blessing, “... who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to separate challah.” One should never miss the opportunity to perform a mitzvah.◊

**KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER**



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23,
2015**

**The Shabbos Project
Covered Dish Dinner**

~DAIRY~

Contact Joyce Peckman to reserve your spot
and coordinate your covered dish. Please
reserve by October 19.

joycepeckman@gmail.com, 305-451-0665



Sponsored by Ritual Committee - no charge

The Shabbos Project

KJCC Joins the World

by Gloria Avner

Get ready for a full experience of *Shabbat* (*Shabbaton*). That is the intent of the two-year-old "*Shabbos Project*," an ambitious worldwide event with roots in an unexpected place: South Africa. At least sixty-five countries will be taking part this year. Already 850 people are on a waitlist for a *Challah* Bake in London. Last year in Johannesburg 3,006 raincoat-clad women prepared challah in torrential rain. And we are one of some 103 synagogues in Florida participating.

The goal of this project is to encourage a true 25-hour experience, to deepen our experience of the joys, the process, and the learning inherent in Shabbat observance. It seems totally in keeping with the message we heard from Rabbi Agler on Day One of Rosh Hashanah. (For a reprise of his speech "Being Holy," see page 23.) Naturally, such a 21st century happening has a website on which all participants can list their events and tell their stories. See ours at: www.theshabbosproject.com

But Shabbat begins at home, not on the Internet, and we will begin in our spiritual social home, the KJCC Cathy Kaplan Social Hall, well before Shabbat arrives. One of the most important parts of Shabbat is the preparation for it. On Thursday, October 22nd, the day prior to the main event (i.e. Shabbat itself), we will meet at 5:00 p.m. to enjoy each other's company and to learn to make our own challahs. We will mix the dough with ingredients provided by Sisterhood, learn to braid it, then take our dough home, bake it, and bring our finished mini-loaves to share at the rest of our events. This will be a three-act play, taking place over 25 hours from the first hello to the last goodbye, all of it enacted with and within "Shabbat Shalom."

Candle lighting at our Friday night dinner

at 6 p.m. on October 23rd will mark the beginning. The dinner, sponsored by Stan and Jenny Margulies, will be potluck. The contact person to RSVP and coordinate your vegetable or dairy covered dish is Joyce Peckman (joycepeckman@gmail.com or 305-451-0665).

The festive spirit will continue in the sanctuary at a tuneful and celebratory *Erev Shabbat* service, held every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. They will be led that night by Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Mitch Harvey.

On Saturday, October 24th at 10:00 a.m., we will eagerly gather for the first of Rabbi Agler's 5776 Shabbat morning Torah learning services. Rabbi's interactive services are a highlight of our season, as anyone who has attended one or more will tell you. They are engaging, uplifting, educational, and, yes, entertaining. You won't want to miss this. Of course it will be followed by a luncheon, both relaxing and stimulating, with fascinating conversations happening simultaneously (and a touch too loudly, but what can you do? Perhaps it's the acoustics of the social hall...) in all corners of the room.

That same Saturday evening at we will gather once more, at the home of Joyce Peckman to enjoy a light repast, "*seudah sh'lishi*," the traditional third meal of *Shabbat*. The evening will conclude as we say goodbye to sacred time and space with our braided *Havdalah* candle, aromatic spices, and wine. Short and sweet, the service will end in song and the slight hiss of candle flame doused in wine. It will be time to return again to the secular world, but this time we will enter it especially refreshed, renewed and with greater understanding of why *Shabbat* is THE most important of all Jewish holidays, outranking even the High Holy Days. *Shabbat* keeps us, as we keep it. ♦

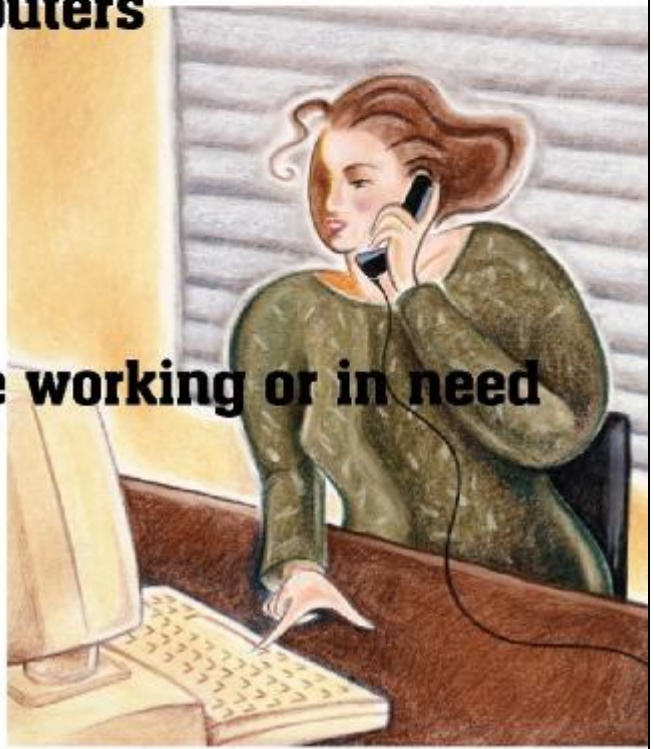
KJCC

Live Green - Recycle



In our quest to help you help the planet, we are collecting:

- ◆ **ink cartridges**
- ◆ **laser toners** (not previously recycled)
- ◆ **cell phones**
- ◆ **lap top computers**
- ◆ **i devices**
- ◆ **tablets**
- ◆ **and more.**
- ◆ **Items can be working or in need of repair.**



**Contact Steve Steinbock
305-394-0143
or just bring to the KJCC.**

Thoughts On The New Year From Rabbi Agler

Those who attended Rosh Hashanah services Day One were so moved by Rabbi Agler's d'var on holiness that we are repeating it here, slightly abridged, so that we all can experience once again the richness and depth of his thoughts.

Remember when the idea of teaching self-esteem was all the rage? The word was, if only we could increase our children's self-esteem, we could solve a whole host of problems, from academic underachievement to crime to addiction to you name it. We pretty much went all in on this. American students in recent decades have earned ranks like 15th, 23rd, and 34th in math, science and history, not so impressive for the industrialized world, but by golly we are #1 in self-esteem! It turned out the idea was not all it was cracked up to be--though we shouldn't be too hard on the promoters. High self-esteem is in fact correlated with doing well in life.

But it's more an effect than a cause. It is the result of doing well, not the reason people succeed in the first place. Self-control on the other hand, turns out to be the real deal. If you want to do well in almost any area of life, the more self-control you have, the greater your chance for success and in turn, happiness, blessing, and yes, self-esteem.

Which brings us to the Torah. The Torah says basically nothing on self-esteem. There is no verse that goes, "Do this mitzvah and you will feel better about yourself." The Torah does however, have quite a bit to say about self-control. There are 613 commandments detailing how to overcome this impulse, master this desire, control that craving. And when the Torah says that this is the path to a fulfilled life, it is time tested and proven.

At the same time the Torah teaches that happiness, fulfillment and blessing are the byproducts of a life lived with holiness--*kedushah* as we say in Hebrew. Holiness. Yes,

I was trying to find a term even less fashionable than "self-control." It is a word almost alien to our culture. We don't see it on television. It doesn't trend on social media. We don't use it in the workplace. But if we intend to live a higher life, we need, at the very least, a working



relationship with it. This is true whether we believe in God or not, whether we consider ourselves very religious, not so religious, or even anti-religious. It doesn't matter. The more holiness we live with, the better our lives become.

We know the religious path can be a difficult sell these days, especially for those who may be a little bit on the outside looking in. Horrible things are being done in religion's name, not only in faraway lands, which you don't need me to catalog, but here as

well. Denying women access to reproductive health care for one. Legalizing discrimination against gays for another. Disenfranchising the poor and the needy.

But even if we set all that aside, it is not easy to have faith in this world. We see far too much undeserved pain, disease and tragedy. We can't pretend it isn't there and we can't pretend it's easy to deal with.

Where does this leave us? Well it leaves me, for one, in pursuit of a more sacred life. Sure, you say, I'm the one wearing the white robe. That has nothing to do with it. Judaism's intention is to create holy people--as the Prophet Isaiah put it, "a light unto the nations." We start to become that by making ourselves holy as individuals. In time, the theory goes, other nations will see how well we do and emulate our best. This would be a good thing. The idea of serving the One God who demands justice and in turn, holiness, began with a small tribe led by a man called Abraham. It has made consid-

erable inroads since. For starters there are Christianity and Islam, our daughter religions. They're followers of the one God who demands justice too. Today there are also reportedly millions(!) of South Koreans studying the Talmud - our wisdom. The Dalai Lama meets often with Jewish leaders. Ask them why and they'll tell you they want to succeed as we've succeeded. We have in fact been a light unto the nations!

But back to you and me. Rosh Hashanah focuses on our personal relationship with God. Again, many people think if you are going to live a life of faith, you somehow need answers for all of your doubts; that if you don't have satisfactory explanations for injustice, terror, natural disaster, and all the rest, you are somehow being false.

If that were the case, there would be very few thoughtful people of faith. I can assure you there are many.

Author and journalist Julia Baird recently wrote, "...As courage is persisting in the face of fear...faith is persisting in the presence of doubt." In other words, doubt is not kryptonite for faith. Doubt is part of the equation. And that equation can lead to sharper understanding. We don't have to throw out the baby of faith with the bathwater of doubt. And I'm speaking personally here, not academically.

Persistence in the presence of doubt is but the beginning. Living with faith also means believing we are part of something more, something ultimate. That we are more than just a body that's taken its share of licks and more than a mind, that try as it might, cannot figure it out. Faith is about accepting that we are also a soul. Yes, soul, that thing we say we see in one another's eyes. Philosopher Alan Watts was once asked if he believed people have souls. His answer, "You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."

It is easy to lose sight of this. We don't usually treat one other as souls. We're lucky if we respect one other as minds and bodies. More often we look at our fellow human be-

ings as sources for money, votes, sex, or whatever else we can mine for our own benefit.

One of the reasons we are in the Keys is we appreciate that the beauty of creation, which is right outside our doors and windows, somehow nourishes our souls. One of the reasons we build synagogues and sanctuaries is we understand that a community without a place devoted to strengthening the soul is incomplete. One of the reasons we pray, meditate, and need our alone time--our soul time is we recognize that without it, we lose touch with who we are.

Our souls are not strengthened by default. They atrophy by default. They are strengthened when we commit to them. The way we commit to our families, careers, health, or anything else that matters deeply to us. None of us want to go through life and have it said about us that we were "just there." What do we want said? Hopefully that we were a source of love and joy, comfort, friendship and assistance; that we made a difference. Maybe even that we uplifted others.

But without a spiritual life, without an inner life, without a life that at least partially recognizes that we are a soul that has a body and not the other way around, it is way more difficult. Faith gives us a language for holiness. Religion is how we translate it into reality - and we'll get to that in a moment.

Holiness also gives us a way to respond to life's mysteries. No matter how religious--or not--we consider ourselves to be, we all marvel at nature, we are all speechless at the miracle of new life, we are all moved more than we can say by beautiful music and breathtaking works of art; we are all uplifted by love and devastated by loss.

How do we make sense of all that? Science and technology, for a change, don't give us language for this. We are in the realm of the spiritual, the holy. For starters we can be mindful of Watts' distinction between what we have— a body, and who we are— a soul. We can accept that faith is always about growth, about new ways to face the questions that lie

*"You don't
have a soul.
You ARE
a soul.
You have
a body."*

at the heart of every life. In his book *My Bright Abyss*, Christian Wiman of Yale wrote, "If you believe at 50 what you believed at 15, then you have not lived...you have denied the reality of your life." Or, as Rabbi Hillel put it two thousand years ago, "If you do not increase (in understanding), you decrease."

In any discipline, if we are not always increasing we are decreasing. Whether our field is law, medicine, finance, sales, music, teaching, auto mechanics or fishing. It is the same with faith. One of the ways we can increase our faith is by trying to live in ways that the Creator loves.

Marx said that religion was the opiate of the masses. That may have been the case 150 years ago but today I'd disagree. The opiate of the masses is the screen--the ones in our hands, the ones on our desks and the ones on our walls. Reality TV, online gaming, social media, surfing the net, the NFL, is there any question? Second place goes to actual opiates and related substances.

Religion? According to Wiman, it is about finding and "feeling the ultimate existence within our daily existence." That is not opium. That is quest--for a life of higher meaning and yes, holiness. Yeah, I'll take a hit of that. Wiman also writes, "You can't really know a religion from the outside. No matter how much you learn about it, it remains mere information, so long as your own soul is not [in the game.]" He's right about that too. Our souls need to be in the game.

Science and history teach that there is no such thing as absolute knowledge--at least not yet. Anyone who claims to have it, be they politician, scientist or believer, is a danger to himself and others. In the words of Bertrand Russell, "The whole problem with the world is that the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt."

If we accept this, and I'm guessing most of us do, however we may see ourselves politically or socially, we are liberals religiously. We live non-orthodox, non-fundamentalist, question-filled Jewish lives. This is good be-

cause it gives us freedom of inquiry as we try to get our souls in the game. It is challenging insofar as it requires us to find our higher path in a largely non-spiritual world.

The new year is the time for us to renew that search. It is the time to ask, "What is keeping me from pursuing a life of greater holiness?" (The name of another person is not an acceptable answer.) The High Holydays are spiritual "me time." "What can I do to make my journey more elevated this year?" I'll give you some time to think about it. You have 20 seconds. Go.

Hopefully that was enough to start. This year I am going to be slower to anger, more empathetic, kinder, quicker to forgive. This year I am going to eat healthier, maybe even kosher-er. This year I am going to do less indulging of myself and more serving of others. This year I am going to treat others more like I want to be treated myself. This year I will make an effort to know my faith better. This year I will take it to heart that I don't have a soul - I am a soul.

Give it all you've got. It will take self-control. It will build self-esteem, and the foundations of a life of holiness at the same time. Our faith holds that people can change. The Rabbis taught that when we attempt to live with even slightly more holiness, it elevates the quality of our own life as well as the lives of those around us. They also taught that it is never too late. And they were right.

At the new year we reflect on the fact that everything changes constantly, from the universe's grandest galaxies to our bodies' tiniest particles. We cannot step in the same river twice and we are not the same people we were a year ago. To say nothing of seven Rosh Hashanah's ago, since according to some biologists, every cell in our bodies has been replaced since then. We can change and we do change. Not only in body, but also in soul. We are all evolving. It is just a question of how. May it be with holiness in 5776.

L'shana tovah. (To read of his thoughts on this and other subjects, please visit Rabbiagler.net.) ◇

"If you believe at 50 what you believed at 15, you have not lived."

Rosh Hashanah Retrospective

Our mishpocha, 85-strong that night, gathered at our dining-room table (all twelve of them), to join together in welcoming the New Year — with apples, honey, and a beautiful fruit sculpture by Barbara Bernstein. We lit candles, blessed wine and then feasted before services began.



Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

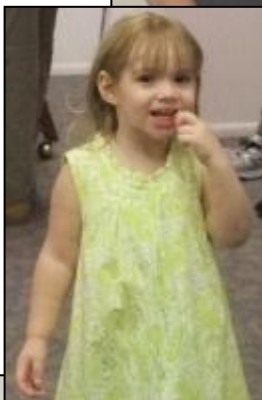


Our matriarch Pauline Roller sits with Carl Roy.



What a treat to see founding member and past president Susan Horn, here with partner Dot.

We were happy to welcome Dr. Sue Sigel and husband Bill Pomenti (far right).



Madison Rose, left, granddaughter of Marc and Ellen Bloom, gets bigger and cuter every day.



Rosh Hashanah services begin after dinner, led by Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin.



Shacharit, the morning service, ends with the congregation performing the mitzvah of hearing the blowing of the shofar. As he has in previous years, Bernie Ginsberg performed the rite, joined on the bimah this year by KJCC’s most recent Bar Mitzvah, Jonah Gross.



Kudos to Jonah Gross, whose final Tekiah Gedolah (the final blast on the shofar), was probably the longest ever heard at KJCC.



Kiddush lunch featured luscious desserts by Linda Perloff and Luz Levine, to usher in a sweet new year.





Paul and Barbara Bernstein (who worked for DAYS) creating her magnificent fruit bowl.



Kiddush at the end of Day One services. Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin lead the Motzi. At right, Ken Atlas finally makes his way through the food line. Great thanks to Ken (a Monroe County Deputy), who had volunteered as security all day for his fellow KJCC members.





Services and lunch concluded on Day One, we joined Cantor Dzubin at Ocean Pointe for Tashlich. Susan Gordon brought a large bag of bread, which we all broke into small pieces and then cast upon the water as a symbolic casting away of our "sins."





Many thanks to Luzviminda Levine, who took all the photos of Tashlich you see here. The storm that had been threatening all day thoughtfully waited until we were finished casting.

On the second day, an intimate crowd listens intently to the sound of the shofar and Rabbi Agler's intriguing Talmudic discussion about types of leaders. Do we want a "Mount Sinai or an uprooter of mountains," he asked, meaning a traditional, stable leader or an innovator willing to make dramatic changes. Our sages and rabbis, debating this for centuries, have yet to arrive at a firm answer.



Singing "Etz Chaim He," we return the Torah to the Ark, hoping to be written for good year.



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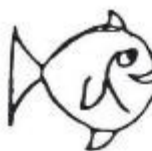
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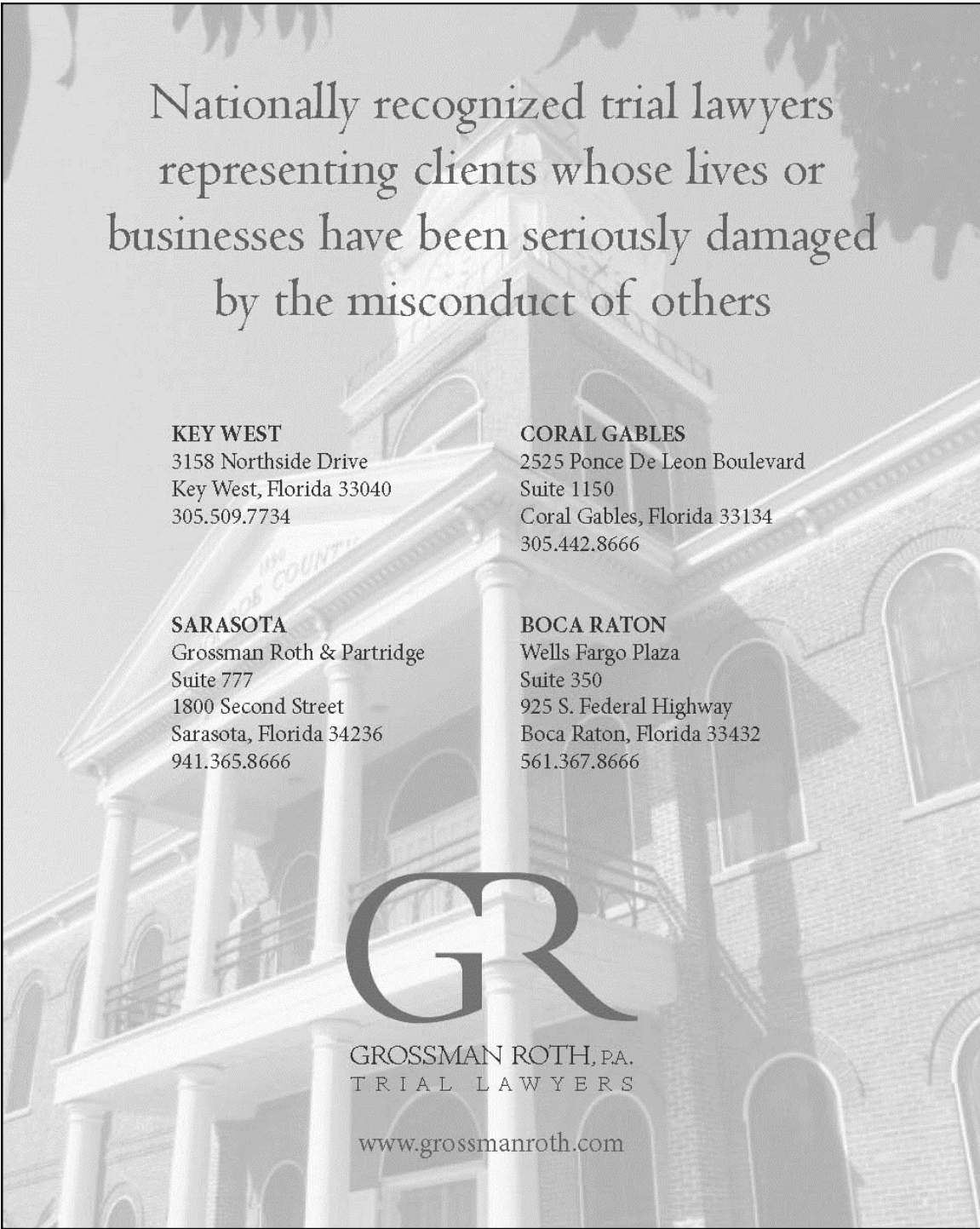
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