Chai~Lights

February 2014 1 Adar 1 - 28 Adar 1 5774

Remembering Ellen Coltman - page 26

A Short Primer on Purim Katan - page 33

A Weekend to Remember - page 38

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

February 2014 1 Adar 1 - 28 Adar 1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Names denote leaders of Friday services. *Italicized* names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.						1
2 **Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m.** Adult Ed lecture 7 p.m.	3	4	5 **Men's Club Game Night 7:30**	6	7 Joyce Peckman *Linda Pincus; Erica Lieberman-Garrett*	8
9 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. **Annual Meeting 11 a.m.**	10	11	12	13	14 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely *Steve & Barbara Smith; Joel & Linda Pollack*	15
16 **Movie 7:00 "Jewish Refugees From Arab Countries"**	17 **President's Day**	18	19	20	21 Bernie Ginsberg *Bonnie & Dave Greenberg* **Advertisers Dinner 6:30**	22 **Rabbi Agler & Torah Service 10:00 a.m.**
23 Adult Ed lecture (part 4) 7 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur **6:30 Service** *Joyce Peckman*	

2013 - 2014
Officers and Board

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Bernard Ginsberg

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Sam Vinicur

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly publication of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message
Bernard Ginsberg

Time passes quickly, and though it seems I was just elected yesterday, my term of office will soon be half over. Our present officers and directors have graciously volunteered for the customary second year of service; we will be adding Linda Kaplan and Sy Gelbard as directors and Dave Mont as financial secretary.

I want to thank each and every officer and director, plus the Sisterhood, for their yeoman service keeping our little synagogue going. We are progressing in the right path, following the example and innovations of all our previous presidents.

We have had wonderful Sisterhood dinners, and rousing Torah services led by Rabbi Adler. The weekend with visiting Cantor Irwin Gelman and Rabbi Agler reached the epitome of what a synagogue should accomplish. We were spiritually uplifted and educated in Judaism, not just painlessly but enjoyably. Adult education in Hebrew is going on at all levels of Hebrew language skills, led by *morah* (teacher) Yardena. Her lectures on Jewish history will also give us a very well rounded adult Jewish experience. But what about the children?

Our religious school is alive and well, here at the far end of world, and it has helped us produce *B'nai Mitzvah* children of whom we can be truly proud. However, it is not just from school that a Jewish education comes. If not for the respect given Jewish tradition by each generation – the parents and grandparents – there would be no *B'nai Mitzvah*. I personally *kvelled* with pride at the Bar Mitzvah of Westley Silverman, but much of the credit belongs to grandparents like KJCC members Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld (Jane's mom and dad), and all the other grandparents of our congregation. I also honor all our forebears, stretching back through the years, who provided the environment in which their children and grandchildren would learn to value education, and Jewish education in particular.

Please come to services and participate in the life of our little shul. Each attendance at synagogue events is a victory in the battle for Jewish survival. Lead a service, help someone else learn to lead a service, welcome a prospective new member, help Sisterhood set up for dinner, think of some new activity that will endear Judaism to our younger generation – it all will add to the odds that there will be a Jewish civilization for our great-grandchildren to benefit from.

With love of Israel, Bernie

Nosh

A Successful Book Swap

Thanks to all who participated in the Book Swap at KJCC on Sunday, January 12th. Some twenty or more KJCC friends brought well over 150 books to trade. We had fiction and non-fiction, cookbooks, books on stress reduction and yoga, just to name a few. Several books had Jewish themes and will be incorporated into the growing KJCC library. The consensus was that we should make this an annual event. It's a great way to recycle books no longer needed and to free up shelf space for new books.

-Medina Roy

Yardena's Lecture Series Continues

This year's Adult Education lecture series continues, with the next session on February 2nd. Additional sessions will be February 16th, February 23rd and the final on March 2nd. The February 2nd lecture will conclude the topic of Jewish communities living under Islamic rule. The final two lectures will be titled "Religion and Violence, Schism and Sectarianism: The Challenge of Pluralism Within the Abrahamic Faiths, Past and Present." Light refreshments will be served.

The February 16th session will feature a movie, "Jewish Refugees From Arab Countries," with discussion afterward led by Yardena and Medina. For more detailed information about the movie, please see the ad on page 10.

Letter from Nyan Feder
January 7, 2014

Hi, Gloria!

I was hoping that you could pass this along to the rest of the scholarship committee in addition to my previous email with my grade update! Thanks so much!

It's Nyan here to thank you again for awarding me with your scholarship! It has helped me tremendously in school this past semester and I know it will be just as helpful in the semester to come! Not having to constantly stress about my financial situation really helped me stay focused on my work and on my transition into college, and for that I am truly grateful! College is a blast and I'm having the time of my life meeting new people and living independently for the first time! And on top of all of that, our football team just won the BCS national championship game! Go Noles!

I am so glad to be part of such a wonderful community in the KJCC and I hope that I can eventually give back to you as thanks for what you have given me!

Thank you again!

Best,
Nyan

(ed. note: the KJCC Scholarship Committee is chaired by David Gitin.)

Oneg Sponsors for February 2014

February 7th - Linda Pincus and Erica Lieberman Garrett to celebrate birthdays.

February 14th - Steve and Barbara Smith to honor Rebecca Smith Strasser's birthday; Joel and Linda Pollack to celebrate their anniversary.

February 21st - Bonnie and Dave Greenberg because they are glad to be part of the congregation.

February 28th - Joyce Peckman, in memory of Fred and Dorothy Ross

BOOK PLATE

(for new purple Tanakhs)

In honor of the

KJCC

by Bernard Ginsberg, M.D.

December 2013

February Birthdays

1st.....Evan Grossman
1st.....Roy Pollack
3rd.....Caeleigh Stuart
3rd.....Dick Bromwich
3rd.....Leslie Janowitz
5th.....Rebecca Smith Strasser
6th.....Evan Harvey
6th.....Martin Field
7th.....Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....Larry Jacobs
9th.....Linda Pincus
9th.....Ron Garrett
12th.....Johnny Knowles
12th.....Paul Roberts
13th.....Jerrold Benowitz
14th.....Debbie Madnick
15th.....Judith Weber
18th.....Beth Hayden
21st.....David J. Marmar
21st.....Stephen Harris
22nd.....Harry J.C. Friedman
24th.....Muriel Swartz
24th.....Suzie Greenman
25th.....Rita Conklin
26th.....Jim Williams
26th.....John D. Schur
27th.....Betsy Grossman
28th.....Arlene Line

Our Advertiser Dinner is February 21st

In what has now become an annual KJCC tradition, we will be inviting all our advertisers, as well as new and prospective members, to join us for the KJCC dinner on February 21st. Please see the ad on page 16.

Meditation Garden Brick

RON LEVY
MULTI-TALENTED LEADER
1947 – 2013
ALWAYS REMEMBERED.
MURIEL & GEO. SWARTZ

Yartzeit Plaque

Dr. Joseph Goldberg
Beloved Husband & Father
June 23, 1946 - February 25, 2013
by Susan Goldberg

Meditation Garden Brick

IN HONOR OF KJCC
LOVE,
THE
BUFFALO GELMANS

Rabbi Agler's February Torah Service

Continuing what has become one of the most eagerly anticipated aspects of the religious life at KJCC, Rabbi Richard Agler will offer his monthly Torah Learning Service on Saturday morning, February 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

If you know the Torah cold, and have it, along with all the centuries of rabbinic commentary, at the tip of your mind, therefore able to self-discuss all aspects of Jewish law, you probably won't get much out of these discussions. For everyone else they're a many-layered treasure.

February Anniversaries

		Years
9th	Uri & Liliam Kamely	22
11th	**Joel & Linda Pollack**	**52**

BOOK PLATE
(for new purple Tanakh)

In honor and memory of
my mother,
Rosie Biskar,
who didn't believe
any of this.

Update on the KJCC Library

We are most grateful to Stan and Jenny Margulies for their recent donation of a full set of Encyclopedia Judaica to the KJCC library. This 16-volume set, plus a number of annual yearbooks, which (for those who remember such things) added new entries and updated others, represents the leading reference source for information on the Jewish people, the Jewish faith and the State of Israel. Although our new set is old (published in 1971), it is still considered an authoritative source on Jewish life, culture and history. The encyclopedia was edited by famed British Jewish historian Sir Cecil Roth (1899-1970).

We also extend our thanks to Elaine Solas and Mort and Gene Silverman for their recent donations of books to the library. And at Bernie's instruction, we also recently moved our complete set of the Kabbalah's main text, the Zohar, from the sanctuary to the library. Come and browse.

-Medina Roy

KJCC's Annual Meeting is February 9th

The KJCC by-laws, filed as part of our articles of incorporation, mandate that each year a general meeting be held to which all members in good standing are invited and encouraged to participate.

The primary order of business at the Annual Meeting is the final vote for and swearing-in of this year's Officers and Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, again as charged by the by-laws, has already approved the slate being presented. But membership has the final say. You must, though, be present in order to cast a vote.

The Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. Prior to that, the monthly KJCC Board Meeting will convene the same day at 9:00 a.m. All members in good standing are always encouraged to attend Board Meetings.

Sisterhood will serve a light lunch following the installation. For additional information, please see the formal announcement on page 37.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Gene Silverman at 305-664-3316.
CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.
MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.
PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is $36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.
ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.
KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and **ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES, BOOKPLATES** for siddurim: Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.
JNF TREES IN ISRAEL: A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.
CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to make your donation.
ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or **DIRECTORY:** Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual rates.

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

In Memoriam February 2014

In Memory Of

Sue Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

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In Memory Of

Lou Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Sunnie Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Kitty Nyman

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

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In Memory Of

Ted Nyman

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake

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In Memory Of

Marvin Galanty

By Marc Bloom

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In Memory Of

Sarah P. Zalk

By Meredith A. Cline

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In Memory Of

Reuben L. Zalk

By Meredith A. Cline

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In Memory Of

Eve Greenstein

By Barnet O. Coltman

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In Memory Of

Robert Kinney

By Gerri Emkey

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In Memory Of

Barry Feinberg

By Arthur Feinberg

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In Memory Of

William Feinberg

By Arthur Feinberg

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In Memory Of

Manya Gelbard

By Sy A. Gelbard

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In Memory Of

Rose Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

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In Memory Of

Charles Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

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In Memory Of

Dr. Joseph Goldberg

By Susan W. Goldberg

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In Memory Of

Joseph Gorson

By Janice Gorson

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In Memory Of

A. James Weiss

By Janice Gorson

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In Memory Of

Nicholas Goldenberg

By Mrs. Marty Graham

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In Memory Of

Robert Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

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In Memory Of

Ilona Ban

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

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In Memoriam February 2014

In Memory Of

Chalom Haviv

By Leo Haviv

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In Memory Of

Fannie Phillips

By Patricia Isenberg

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In Memory Of

Isaac Jacobson

By Melvin Jacobson

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In Memory Of

Lillian Janowitz

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz

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In Memory Of

Pinchas Kamely

By Yardena Kamely

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In Memory Of

Sylvia Kay

By Harvey & Joan Kay

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In Memory Of

Joseph Krissel

By Michael Krissel

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In Memory Of

Samuel Marmar

By David & Pamela Marmar

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In Memory Of

Joseph Kaufman

By Jeff & Lisa Miller

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In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

By Lynn Nobil

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In Memory Of

Irene Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

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In Memory Of

William Pollack

By Joel & Linda Pollack

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In Memory Of

Malka Frank

By Joel & Linda Pollack

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In Memory Of

Shirley Horowitz

By Pauline Roller

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In Memory Of

Al Roller

By Pauline Roller

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In Memory Of

John A. Schur

By Lee Schur

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In Memory Of

Miriam Blinder

By Steven & Barbara Smith

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In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

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In Memory Of

Ann R. Kapulskey

By George & Muriel Swartz

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In Memory Of

Morris Estrin

By Lillian Tallent

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In Memory Of

Minnie Berger

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

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In Memoriam February 2014

In Memory Of

David C. Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner

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In Memory Of

Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

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In Memory Of

Samuel Wolfe

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

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KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH ~ FLEISHIG

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

8:00 PM

SERVICES

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

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

DONATION: MEMBERS $18

NONMEMBERS $25

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE

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.

Bookplates	*In Memory of*
Vinicur, Sam	Rosie Biskar

Count Your Blessings
Bofshever, Joel & Toby
Kamely, Yardena
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Weber, Judith

Chai-Lights	*In Honor of*
Plutzer, Arthur	Joel & Linda Pollack
Plutzer, Arthur	Pauline Roller

Chai-Lights	*In Memory of*
Plutzer, Arthur	Al Roller

General Fund	*In Honor of*
Bennett, Jeff & Shelley	Pauline Roller's 99th birthday
Cline, Meredith	Will Pollack's Bar Mitzvah
Cline, Meredith	Joel & Linda Pollack for their longtime support of me
Cline, Meredith	34th anniversary of George & Muriel Swartz and for their longtime support of me
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	in appreciation of Dr. Bernard Ginsberg
Greenberg, David & Bonita	
Nelson, Darling	
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Westley Silverman's Bar Mitzvah

General Fund	*In Memory of*
Avner, Gloria	Alex Avner
Avner, Gloria	Marianne Cimkowski
Avner, Gloria	Stephan Ban
Avner, Gloria	Clayton Rakov
Avner, Gloria	Ron Levy
Avner, Gloria	Jose Cohen
Cline, Meredith	Rosie Biskar
Cline, Meredith	Marianne Cimkowski
Cline, Meredith	Bob Freundlich
Cline, Meredith	Dr. Joseph Goldberg
Cline, Meredith	Jerry Hirsch
Cline, Meredith	my Morah, Michal Kamely
Cline, Meredith	Ron Levy
Cline, Meredith	Rene Rose
Gessley, Debora	Clayton Rakov
Goodman, Jamie & Laura	Stephan Ban
Greenman, Frank & Judy	Stephan Ban

General Fund	*In Memory of*
Horn, Ron & Dorothy	Stephan Ban
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Paul Busker
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Bob Feldman
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Clayton Rakov
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Allan Berry
Pollack, Joel & Linda	Stephan Ban
Wolden, Diane	Clayton Rakov

Holidays	
Steamer, Donald & Ellen Eiss	L'Chaim

Meditation Garden	*In Honor of*
Ellner, Susan	bricks - 2
Gelman, Irwin & family	brick - honor of KJCC
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	Sally Sussman
Swartz, George & Muriel	brick - Ron Levy, always remembered

Rabbi and Cantor Fund	
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin	in appreciation of Rabbi Agler

Sisterhood Oneg Fund
Eisenstein, Judith
Ellner, Susan
Friedman, Steve & Jane
Gedrich, Amy
Greenberg, David & Bonita
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Peckman, Joyce

Sunshine Fund	*In Honor of*
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Joan Boruszak, speedy and complete recovery

Sunshine Fund	*In Memory of*
Sax, Stuart & Lauren	Marianne Cimkowski

Yahrzeits	
Boruszak, Joan	Emma Kohlenbrener
Dandrea, Robert & Joni Sages Dandrea	Lola Rosenberg
Emkey, Gerri	Nathan Weisberg
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila	Betty Weinstein
Tallen, Lillian	Morris Estrin
Taramona, Hermine	Norma Robinson

Yahrzeit Plaque	
Goldberg, Susan	Dr. Joseph Goldberg

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles

Here we are in January of a new year and it seems like the minutes are already flying into hours, hours into days, and days into months. I want to remind everyone that we still have lots of opportunities in our calendar for you to sponsor an Oneg after services on one (or more) of our upcoming Friday nights. Won't you please consider sponsoring? Please contact Joyce Peckman or myself if you're interested. We're delighted to help you celebrate (and share with you) a "mitzvah" or any other occasion you wish.

I hope all who attended our weekend with Cantor Irwin Gelman and Rabbi Richard Agler found it as spiritual and delightful as everyone who's spoken about it to me. The visit to our shul by the Tibetan monks was a treat. It was special when they blessed our Torah and offered it a sacred prayer scarf. The interfaith peace service at Burton Memorial Church will be remembered for a long time.

Looking at our gift shop the other day, I noticed that we have a lot of great stuff and great gifts for not a lot of money. So, stop by and see Susan Gordon or myself; we'll be happy to show you something you just can't live without.

On January 17th we had one of our wonderful Sisterhood Shabbat dinners, followed by the KJCC Children's Hebrew class and their teachers leading Friday night services. The kids work extremely hard all year with their teachers practicing for this. (I know this because my daughter, Moira, sings her songs nightly in the shower to let me know what she's learned.) The children contribute so much to our synagogue. And whenever you're enjoying one of our dinners, I hope you'll take a moment to appreciate all the love that Sisterhood puts into them.

The other week, guided by gardener supreme Steve Steinbock, the students all planted vegetables. Now, every week during class, they nurture and take care of them and watch for them to sprout. Thanks, Steve. The children also celebrated Tu B'Shvat, with a seder and planting of trees, which has become a KJCC tradition. So everyone in our *mishpocha* contributes to the rich life at KJCC.

Did I mention that Sisterhood as a group – led by Erica Garrett – conducted services the week after the KJCC students? We try to do many things and mix things up to always keep things interesting.

On February 9th at 11 a.m. we will have the installation of our new Officers and Board Members at our Annual Meeting. Afterwards, Sisterhood will be hosting a brunch full of plenty of goodies.

On February 21st at 6:30, Sisterhood will host this year's dinner appreciating our advertisers and new members. It's also the perfect time to invite prospective new members to join us, to feel the energy of KJCC. I will be co-chairing this dinner with Erica Garrett and (hopefully) help from others.

On March 7th at 6:30, Sisterhood will be co-hosting, along with Ritual Committee, a *fleishig* covered-dish dinner celebrating "Shabbat Across America and Canada." On March 9th from 11-2, Sisterhood will be hosting a Passover/Purim Bazaar in connection with The Chosen Gift Shop. March 16th will feature our annual Purim celebration around noon. Wow. So much happens here during High Season.

Contact Joyce Peckman if you'd like to attend "Spamalot" at Actors playhouse in Coral Gables on March 23rd.

March 30th will be Sisterhood's Women's Seder, time to be announced. Lastly, the second night of Passover will be celebrated at The Islamorada Fishing Club on April 16th at 6 p.m. Mort and Gene Silverman have graciously offered to host us this year.

Let's make February a Great Month!! ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center
Adult Ed Program

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

Date: Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014

Time: 7:00 pm at the KJCC

DVD: The Forgotten Refugees

Running Time: 49 minutes

"The Forgotten Refugees" of the Arab-Israeli conflict is an untold story of the Middle East.

"The world has long recognized the Palestinian refugee problem, but without recognizing the other side of the story - the 850,000 Jewish refugees of Arab countries."

Ronald S. Lauder, President
World Jewish Congress

Discussion and light refreshments to follow.

Questions: Contact Medina Roy
hiitsmedee@gmail.com

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely

Gender and Judaism

At our Shabbat Service last month, led by the students and teachers of our Religious School, we commented on *Parashat Yitro*. The *Parasha* tells of the continuing experiences of our ancestors after they had left Egyptian slavery. It was now two months since they had become free people, and Moses prepares them for the receiving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Now, the greatest event in all of Israel's history is about to take place.

In Exodus 19:9-13, God tells Moses to instruct the people to prepare to receive the law. But when Moses gives instructions in verse 15 he adds the words "do not go near a woman." The implication seems to be that, for Moses, the community of Israelites that God wanted to address consisted only of the men. When we read about this event some women are reminded that they feel excluded by parts of our tradition.

In Orthodox liturgies of the *Birchot Ha-Shachar* (morning blessings) that are recited first thing in the morning, men say: *Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, She'lo Asani Isha.* "Blessed are You, Adonai, Our God, King of the Universe, Who Did Not Make Me a Woman." Women say: *Baruch ata Adonai……She'asani Kirtzono.* "Blessed are you……Who Made Me According to His Will." A long-standing question from women is where does this saying, "*She'lo Asani Isha,*" come from? Is being a woman less than being a man? And when we say *Baruch She'asani Kirtzono*, why don't we say, "Blessed are You for creating me a woman?"

A long-standing question from women is, where does this saying, "She'lo Asani Isha," come from? Is being a woman less than being a man?

Some Rabbis say that the blessing comes from the interpretation that the man is obligated to do *mitzvot* more than the woman, more than the gentile, and for that he should be more grateful. The idea behind this thinking is that the woman is made with inner "perfection," that she needs to do less *tikkunim* (repairs), and that she is therefore not obligated with the weight of *mitzvah* as much as the man. The *Talmud* makes it clear that the *Bracha* (blessing) "*she'lo asani isha*" is related strictly to men's greater obligation in commandments – not to any inherent added value or worth men have over women. The question is, how much of marginalization of women in Jewish practices can be justified by the arguments that women are more educated, spiritual, "holy," "perfect" and therefore don't need to do all the *mitzvot* like men have to do?

Non-Orthodox versions of the liturgy are trying to change the egocentric tone of this *Bracha* and two other *Brachot* (blessings), "*…She'lo Asani Goy*" and "*…She'lo Asani Eved*" ("…Who Did Not Make Me a Non-Jew;……Who Did Not Make Me a Slave"). Non-Jews are assigned only basic ethical obligations under Jewish law, and slaves are ex-

empt from a range of obligations, too. Some liturgies omit these three blessings (e.g. the British Reform and Liberal movements) and some adapt them. The American Conservative and Reconstructionist Siddurim (prayer books) give them as: "*... She'asani B'T-zalmo*" (Who Created Me in His Image, a reference to Genesis 1:27); "*... She'asani Yisrael*" *(Who Created Me as a* Jew); "*... She'asani Ben-Khorin*" (Who Created Me Free).

In the Israeli *Masorti* (traditional Conservative) *Siddur*, the *Bracha* that women say in the traditional liturgy ("... According to His Will") replaces all three mentioned *Brachot,* with an explanation that the others should be assumed to be included in this, and so new blessings need not be added.

Two very interesting discoveries are studied by the scholars in relation to this topic. There is a 15th-16th century *Siddur* for women, which is now in the Roth collection at the library of the University of Leeds. It is written in a dialect of *Provençal* in Hebrew characters and Hebrew, and uniquely contains the blessing "...*She'lo Asani Ish*" (Who Did Not Make Me a Man). Also, an Italian *Siddur* from 1471 contains the blessing "*Baruch ..... She'asani Isha ve'lo Ish*" (Who Made Me a Woman and Not a Man.) This *Siddur* is housed in JTS's library archives; the original of this *Siddur* can be seen online at *www.jtslibrarytreasures.org*.

In an article in *The Forward*, "Siddur: 'Thank God for Making Me a Woman,'" (January 4, 2012), Elana Sztokman writes: "Equality for Jewish women is not a 20th century invention. A *Siddur* from the year 1471 contains an alternative text to the much abhorred "*she'lo asani isha*" ... a text that assumes ... that the person holding the prayer-book is male. In this 15th century book, the text reads, "*Baruch she'asani isha v'lo ish*," (Thank God for making me a woman and not a man.) According to Professor David Kramer of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the *Siddur* was produced by the rabbi and scribe Abraham Farissol for a groom to give to his bride in 1471. Farissol lived in Italy from 1451–1525. The article's author, a feminist, thinks that the medieval Italian rabbi was pre-modern, pre-feminism, and even pre-industrialism. "And yet," she writes, "he executed what was arguably a great feminist act."

In an article in The Forward*... Elana Sztokman writes: "Equality for Jewish women is not a twentieth century invention."*

Change is difficult, is slow. Orthodox rabbis often tell women that change takes time, that we cannot rush history, that social understandings have to evolve at their own natural pace. In modern times of Jewish history the Reform movement, the Reconstructionists and the Conservative movement have accelerated changes in Jewish practice concerning women. The Reform branch ordained its first female rabbi in 1972. According to surveys and anecdotal evidence, women do seem to be more involved in religious affairs nowadays. Interestingly, on average, American women (Jewish and non-Jewish) are more religious than men. Rebecca Tulus-Deubrow comments in an article titled The *End of Jewish Men?*: "....men are scarce in pews and adult education classes, and boys are known to flee after their Bar Mitzvahs .... If religion is a universal human need, then men are tragically missing out ....."

These comments make me think that maybe, in these modern times, if men could include in their blessings a *Bracha* like "*Baruch..... she'asani ben-zug l'isha*" (a partner to a woman), then both men and women could engage in religious and spiritual life with equality for women. Compared to the medieval times of Rabbi Farrisol, modernity gives us, both men and women, many freedoms: the freedom to choose our Jewish identity, the option to guide our life by *yeda ve'torashah* (the name of this column) from Judaism, the freedom to make choices, and ultimately, to make thoughtful changes to how we observe and practice Judaism. ◊

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy

A Welcome Recognition

In mid-December, the 20-state council of the Center of European Nuclear Research (CERN), voted unanimously to accept Israel as a full member. CERN, located in Switzerland, is the largest and most respected center in the world for the study of atomic particles. Israel had been an associate member since October 2011 and is now the first and only country outside Europe to be granted full member status. Currently some 40 Israeli scientists, along with 44 doctoral and post-doctoral students, divide their time between Israel and CERN. "Israeli membership in the organization will make it possible for our scientists to have access to some of the most advanced infrastructures in the world," said Yaakov Peri, Israel's Science, Technology and Space Minister. Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman called it "a proud day for Israeli science.
(www.worldjewishcongress.org, 12-13-13)

Vienna Philharmonic Rights a Wrong

At the annual meeting of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra held in late October, all ensemble members agreed to strip six former senior Nazi officials of honors awarded them by the orchestra. Historian Oliver Rathkolb led the research that discovered the orchestra's close cooperation with Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels and other top Hitler officials after Germany's 1938 annexation of Austria. Included in the revocation of honors were both a former governor and a mayor of Vienna. Under the Nazis, thirteen musicians with Jewish roots were fired by the orchestra and five died in concentration camps. By the end of World War II, about half of the Philharmonic's members had joined the Nazi party. The research also revealed that Helmut Wobisch, the former head of the orchestra, was a member of Nazi Germany's elite paramilitary SS and collaborated with the secret police. In addition, the Austrian Academy of Sciences has now acknowledged that many of its scientists were members of the Nazi party and that some of its students served in the SS. Excluded from the Academy during World War II were twenty-one Jewish scientists, including three Nobel laureates. Out of those twenty-one individuals, nine were murdered by the Nazis. *(www.israelnationalnews.com, 12-20-13)*

She Came in at Number 3

As is widely known by now, Time magazine has named Pope Francis its 2013 person of the year. Coming in third place was Edie Windsor, a new icon of the gay rights movement. (Edward Snowden was second.) The magazine called her an "unlikely activist of a battle she never thought she would wage." Windsor, 84, fought against the United States government and eventually won a landmark victory for gay marriage in the Supreme Court. Windsor's battle began in 2010, when she sued the government for a refund of the estate taxes (which totaled over $360,000) she was required to pay when her wife, Thea Spyer, died in 2009. The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a federal law passed in 1996, forbade recognition of the couple's legal marriage in Canada in 2007, resulting in the disqualification of any federal protections, including the estate tax exemption for surviving spouses. The Supreme Court decided 5-4 in Windsor's favor in June 2013, declaring DOMA unconstitutional. (DOMA excluded gay married couples from some 1,000 federal provisions – one being filing joint tax returns). The decision marked the first time the United States formally recognized marriage between partners of the same sex.

Windsor was born to Jewish immigrants from Russia. Her mother taught her that if a boy called her "a dirty Jew," she should "pull his hair and run home." She began master's studies in applied math at NYU in 1955, learned to program computers and started working on the Atomic Energy Commission's UNIVAC computer. In 1958, she went to work for IBM. She and Thea had been together some 40 years when they married in 2007. *(TIME magazine, 12-23-13)*

One Voice at a Time

During the course of filming "Schindler's List" in 1994, director Steven Spielberg had the opportunity to meet and get to know many Holocaust survivors. Recognizing that they were aging and their stories dying with them, Spielberg established the *USC (University of Southern California) Shoah Foundation,* whose mission is "dedicated to making audio-visual interviews with survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides a compelling voice for education and action." Spielberg himself contributed millions of dollars to get the foundation started, videotaping as many testimonies as possible. He called it a race against time. Twenty years have now passed and there are almost 52,000 eyewitness testimonies, with more than 105,000 hours collected from all over the world. The archive was recently expanded to include eyewitnesses of genocide in Rwanda. *(www.latimes.com, 12-8-13)*

Lesbian Penguins: A Love Story

Luckily for two penguins, this story comes out of Israel and not Russia. Suki and Chupchikoni are two South African Jackass (also known as black-footed) penguins living at the Ramat Gan Safari Park. Penguins pair for life, choosing their mate during adolescence, and they return to the same nesting site year after year. Safari employees figured that Suki, the smaller one, was female, with Chupchikoni a male when the two moved in together. (According to park spokeswoman Sagit Horowitz, there is no way to distinguish between male and female penguins just by looking at them.) And no one at the park ever doubted that Chupchikoni was a boy; (as a matter of fact, in colloquial Hebrew the word "chupchik" is the diminutive word for penis). As it turns out, an Israeli veterinary student was doing research and took blood samples from the penguins, which showed that Chupchikoni, too, was a female. Tamuz Setti, head of the Safari Avian Department, believes that even though there are available male penguins in the exhibit, Suki and Chupchikoni chose to be together. The two are not the only "gay" animals on record. This type of behavior in penguins was observed as far back as 1911. More recently, the same thing happened with Roy and Silo, two male Chinstrap Penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo. Their true story, "And Tango Makes Three," was told in a 2005 children's book by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson. (By the way…since its publication by Simon and Shuster in 2005, "And Tango Makes Three" has topped the lists of the American Library Association's *10 Most Challenged Books* between 2006 and 2010. Several school districts have had it removed from their collections.) *(www.haaretz.com, 12-19-13)*

In Memoriam

· Edgar M. Bronfman, Sr., billionaire philanthropist, staunch supporter of the State of Israel and long-time president of the World Jewish Congress (1981-2007), died in December. He was 84. Canadian-born Bronfman was the son of Eastern European Jewish immigrants. Bronfman took control of the Seagram Company from his father, Samuel Bronfman, who had founded the liquor company in 1924. The elder Bronfman had made his fortune during Prohibition, when Bronfman liquor found its way to American customers through bootleggers. During his tenure as leader of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), an umbrella group of Jewish organizations in some 80 countries, Edgar Sr. increased the organization's activism on behalf of Jewish communities around the world and worked to improve Jewish relations with the Vatican. He took the lead in exposing the Nazi past of Kurt Waldheim, the former secretary general of the United Nations who later became presi-

dent of Austria. As president of the WJC, Bronfman became the first-ever Jewish leader to address the United Nations General Assembly. He spearheaded the efforts to get reparations for Holocaust survivors and their heirs – a sum reported to total over $11 million – from European banks. In 1970, Bronfman participated in a delegation to Russia to lobby the Kremlin for greater rights for Jews in the Soviet Union. In 1999, President Bill Clinton awarded Bronfman the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In the citation, Bronfman was heralded for working "to ensure basic rights for Jews around the world.
(*www.israelnationalnews.com, 12-22-13*)

· Ariel Sharon, one of Israel's most important and controversial leaders, died in mid-January after eight years in a coma. He was 85. Among the last of Israel's founding fathers, Ariel Sharon fought in every Israeli military conflict in the country's first three decades. He was born Ariel Scheinerman to Russian-speaking parents in the moshav *Kfar Mala* in the central part of pre-state Israel. His parents had met while at university in Tbilisi, Georgia, his father Shmuel studying agronomy and his mother Dvora studying medicine. They immigrated to Palestine in 1922.

As a teenager, young Ariel (or his nickname "Arik") began to take part in the armed night-patrols of his moshav. In 1942, at the age of 14, Sharon joined the Gadna, a paramilitary youth battalion, and later the Haganah. His bravery in the battle for Jerusalem in Israel's 1948 War of Independence, where he was shot in his stomach and groin, made him a legend at the age of twenty. It was about this time that David Ben-Gurion gave him the name "Sharon." In September 1949 (at 21), Sharon was promoted to company commander of the Golani Brigade's reconnaissance unit and in 1950 to intelligence officer for Central Command. He then took leave to begin studies in history and Middle Eastern culture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A year and a half later, on the direct orders of the Prime Minister, Sharon returned to active service in the rank of major, as the commander of the new Unit 101, a special forces unit created to undertake reprisal operations in response to Palestinian fedayeen attacks.

From 1958 to 1962, Sharon served as commander of an infantry brigade and studied law at Tel Aviv University.

Sharon's offensive strategy at Abu-Ageila, during the 1967 Six-Day War, led to international commendation by military strategists. Researchers at the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command studied Sharon's operational planning and lauded his innovations.

At the start of the Yom Kippur War in October of 1973, Sharon was called back to active duty along with his assigned reserve armored division. On his Negev farm, before he left for the front line, Reserve Commander Zeev Amit said to him, "How are we going to get out of this?" Sharon replied. "You don't know? We will cross the Suez Canal and the war will end over there."

Under cover of darkness Sharon moved his armored forces to a point on the canal that had been prepared before the war. Bridging equipment was thrown across on October 17th, between two Egyptian armies. Sharon headed north, intent on cutting the Egyptian Second Army's supply lines. Abraham (Bren) Adan's division passed over the bridgehead into Africa, advancing to within 101 kilometers of Cairo. His division managed to surround Suez, cutting off and encircling the Third Army. This complex ground maneuver, designed by Sharon, is regarded as a decisive move in the Yom Kippur War, undermining the Egyptian Second Army and encircling the Egyptian Third Army. He was widely viewed by Israelis as responsible for Israel's ground victory in the Sinai. *(from various sources.)*

Did You Know….

• Major Oshrat Bachar has become the first woman to lead a combat battalion in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces). She will head a field intelligence battalion operating along the Egyptian border. Women have served in the past as battalion commanders in the education corps and in logistics units, but until now not in combat units. *(www.haaretz.com, 1-2-14)* ◇

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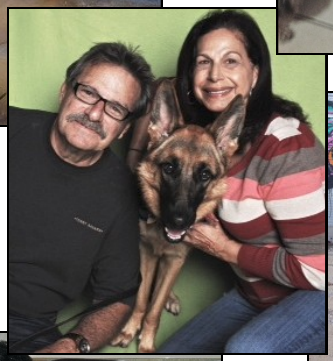
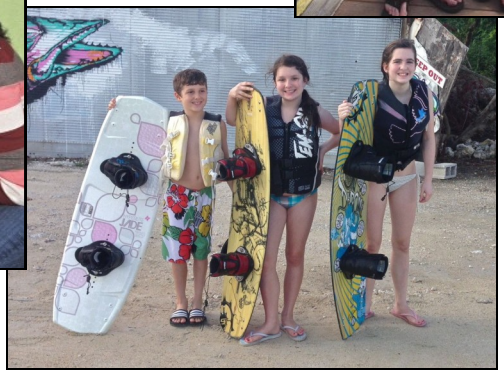
Photo Gallery

As is now an annual tradition (rapidly closing the gap on Chinese food), Christmas Day to KJCCers means Open House at the home of Carol and Steve Steinbock. All was festive, all was right.

Then came New Year's Eve. Ken Atlas had patrol duty, but sent us this shot of fireworks on Blackwater Sound taken from his patrol cruiser. The next two photos were taken at the party thrown by the Feders. Nyan was home from school, so there was lots of music. Joining Dave and Nyan on stage is Robert Werthamer on keyboard. (Who knew?)

The four photos at bottom were taken at the home of Jeff and Patty Schocket.





We have lots of New Year's Day photos. At top left, Gloria waves from the shallows of Anne's Beach on Lower Matecumbe. Grandma Ellen watches as Madison Rose meets her first puppy. At upper right, Lee Schur arrives for brunch at Snappers with children Paul and Karen Schur. At center left, Marshall and Myra Kaplan pose with Bella. Drew, Anna and Alyssa Shulman, visiting Marathon grandparents Marsha and Stephen Harris from Dublin, Ohio, learned how to wake board.

At bottom, the new Sisterhood officers pose at their installation breakfast on January 5th.

The photo above isn't exactly about New Year's, but it does celebrate a new life, one connected to KJCC. Bea Graham's granddaughter Shyella and husband Amit welcomed their son, Negev Shaviv Shuker, to this world on December 22nd. Warm congrats to all.

Photos courtesy of Gloria Avner

On Sunday, January 5th after Sunday School, the KJCC students began an organic vegetable garden under the ever-watchful eye of Steve Steinbock. Steve had brought everything necessary — soil, tubs, pots, seeds and wire racks — to KJCC ahead of time. After class it was time to get hands into the dirt. We'll let you know when it's time for the harvest.

Just before Shabbat on Friday, January 10th, a lot of KJCC members were strolling the grounds of The Banyan Tree in Islamorada, admiring and supporting the work of four KJCC artists on display. The event was called "A Playground for Orchids," and the hand-crafted clay orchid holders by the four were inventive, useful, and lovely. *Mazel Tov* to Barbara Bernstein, Medina Roy, Marcia Kreitman, and mentor Beth Kaminstein. *Keys to Peace* was also at the event, selling raffle tickets for the Peace Bell I created on an old dive tank, one of several painted by local artists. The orchid holders and tickets for the bell can still be purchased at The Banyan Tree. The drawing for the bell will be held in early March.

-Gloria Avner

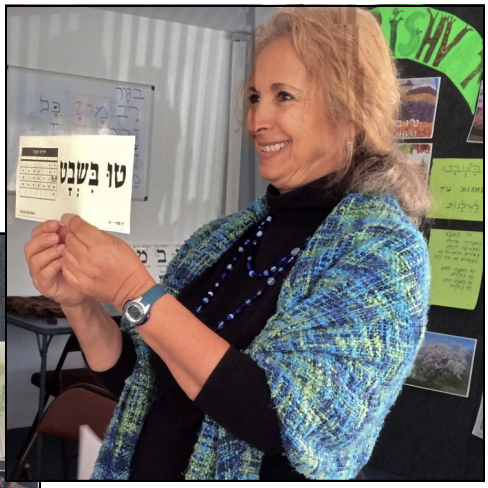
One of Bernie's goals as president is to involve our students as much as possible in the life of KJCC. In that spirit, the Sunday School, with a little help from two recent graduates, led services on January 17th.

Teachers Yardena and Gloria asked all mothers of participating students to come to the bimah for a special prayer, above.

After weeks of preparation and a job well done, the students and their teachers could relax and smile just before Kiddush (next page).

It was also a busy night in the Social Hall. Sisterhood had provided a scrumptious dairy dinner before services. Then after came the blessings of the wine (or for some, grape juice) and bread, the oneg and the customary schmoozing and spirited conversation.

Tu B'Shvat was celebrated at KJCC on Sunday, January 19th. First there was the seder. (How many of you know that there's a Tu B'Shvat seder?) There are special prayers and blessings for this New Year of the Trees. Trees, after all, give us food.



Photos courtesy of Gloria Avner

Tu B'Shvat isn't just for our KJCC students anymore. More and more of our adults are joining in the celebration, which begins with the seder inside and then shifts outdoors, where each year a tree is planted. Prez Bernie, below, prepares to go outside to brave the cold and winds visiting the Keys courtesy of the dreaded Polar Vortex.

The KJCC students plant a fruit-bearing tree each year in celebration and honor of Tu B'Shvat. (This New Year of the Trees always takes place during the rainy season in Israel. It was cold here, but not raining.)

This year was a special planting, not just for the students but for all of KJCC. Mort and Gene Silverman have donated and are tending (well, Mort does the tending) what will become a delicious and beautiful KJCC orchard of avocado and mango trees.

Our thanks to Richard Knowles, Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon for the Tu B'Shvat photos.

So one of the Silverman Orchard trees was planted in honor of Tu B'Shvat. Prayers were said, pictures were posed for, and Yardena even led an impromptu Israeli dance around the new tree. (A short video has been uploaded to the KJCC web site.)

Below right, benefactors Gene and Mort stand with Gloria before the newest KJCC tree. In a few years we'll have mangoes and avocados!

Warm Memories of Ellen Coltman

by Mara Koven-Gelman

What does one do if you do not snorkel, scuba dive or shop for either key lime products or shells in Key Largo, Florida? One Shabbat while visiting the Keys, my husband Irwin Gelman and I attended warm services at the Keys Jewish Community Center. We were invited to go "Chai-yaking." I love kayaking and our visit to the Keys became much more interesting.

Barney sent us these personal photos of Ellen (and him, too, of course). In his note he said she loved snorkeling, traveling in the Caribbean, and the Georgia Bulldogs, all in evidence here.

One lady I met fit neither the category of visitor or native. All the older Jewish women I know aren't willing to kayak and resist wearing make-up foundation or shorts. Her skinny legs were covered in sun spots. The spots continued up her thighs, jumped onto her arms and up to her face. But her eyes were blue and sparkling – no spots. Ellen and husband Barney, originally from Coney Island in Brooklyn, had migrated to Lake Lanier in Buford, Georgia after their children left home. Their dream was to get closer to the Atlantic in retirement. "I'm just not happy if I can't slip into the ocean at least once a day," Ellen said.

Nearing age 70, she was the antithesis to my mother, for whom a day without yoga class, a week without a manicure and a month without a visit to Williams-Sonoma just doesn't seem a life worth living.

But Ellen paddled in the front of their two-seater, top-loader kayak on the day in May I met her. She paddled through choppy waves with a smile and focus. We headed towards John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the country's first-ever undersea park. We all paddled towards a small inlet, passing bathers on a small patch of sandy shore. Approaching the shore, we spied a bridge over thick mangrove forest. The path narrowed to allow only two passing kayaks – no large motorboats allowed. The only sounds sanctioned were talking tourists and the wind. Ellen's eyes were brightening. We paddled in a jumble of mangroves, their tree roots tangled and exposed above the water, their thick vines ending in a flourish of wide green leaves.

"I'm getting in," she declared, and with a couple of quick flips she was in – "ahhhhhh, this is soooo good." How do I describe that sound of happiness? It was the kind of sound one might hear from someone eating a good meal after fasting, or drinking cool water on a blistery hot beach day.

Her eyes went from sea to metallic blue, made brighter by the pure white of her sclera. Her husband wrapped his arms around a mangrove branch in a strong embrace to steady their kayak. Ellen struggled to raise her torso up to the level of the kayak and screamed, "Hold on, Barney, hold on!"

She maneuvered in the inviting shallow waters, not gracefully, but anyone who is skinny never looks bad doing anything.

Both my husband and I chuckled to ourselves when out of earshot of Ellen and Barney. We knew neither of our 70-something mothers would *ever* jump into a mangrove-littered ocean canoe path or even wear above-the-knee shorts. One mom is Boca-bound, the other mom Tucson-bound for winter months. Their lexicon includes words like walking sticks (not canes), face-lifts, and Lactaid.

The photo at left is from the KJCC seder in 2011, the same year they attended Taschlich during High Holidays, center. The photo at bottom is dated 2006; the event is uncertain, but someone in back is wearing a kippah.

Ellen has metastatic lung cancer. She told me that in an off-handed way when I shared that my husband Irwin is a cancer researcher. Many people share their cancer stories when they find this out. They wonder if maybe Irwin knows of a new therapy or, at least, could lend a sympathetic ear; and, by association, might I, too?

"I just finished chemo… that's why I have a hat on." She lifted up the edge to show spotty baldness with half-dyed patches of hair. Maybe that explained her thinness or her sheer delight in ocean water surrounding her body. Did the water make her weightless, easing the pain, the fear or the future?

Ellen's cancer had returned, after her first cancer diagnosis four years ago. That's as much as she shared, and went no farther; she did not follow the pattern of needing to talk or seek sympathy with which I was so familiar. We had all returned from the outing, tired after a choppy, windy return. Ellen smiled, her eyes still reflecting the blue ocean. "It was nice to meet you, Mara. I look forward to seeing you next time you come back to the Keys."

I hoped that that would happen – that I might return to the Keys and get to see Ellen's sparkling blue eyes… again.

When we returned to the Keys over the holiday break this year, with Irwin having been invited to KJCC to act as weekend cantor, I immediately asked about Ellen and was saddened to hear that she was gone. But special people are never really gone. Ellen Coltman's incredible energy and positive *neshama* will always be part of those who met her, if only for a brief afternoon of kayaking. Irwin and I will never, ever forget those incredible blue eyes. May her memory always be a blessing. ◊

Mara had originally written this after their first visit to KJCC in 2011. When here in December, she asked if we'd be interested, and the answer, of course, was yes.

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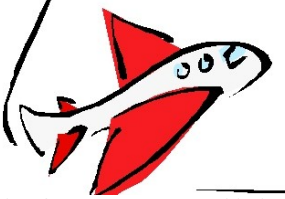


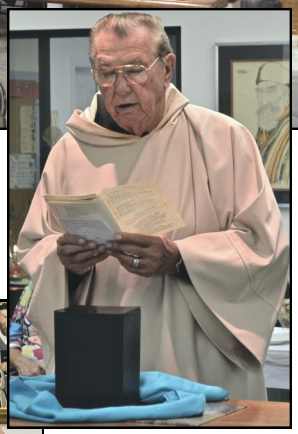
Contact Barbara Knowles @
305-772-0503 or email
iweddu@bellsouth.net

A Loving Tribute and Farewell

On Sunday, January 5th, just before 12 noon, it started to rain. No, it started to *pour*. With the permission of our president, Bernie, I had planned to have a memorial service for my mother, Marianne Cimkowski, in the Meditation Garden, but that was not to be. Then I remembered that my mother loved the rain.

Carol with her mom Marianne, above, at a KJCC Sisterhood luncheon event in 2011.

Pouring rain and all, people arrived, greeting me with hugs and warm, kind words. We all went into the Ruth Richardson Hall and Father Edward Olszewski, a retired priest who is no stranger to the KJCC and who knew my mom, led the service. Father Ed's words gently blended the two religions. He asked the Lord's blessing on my mother, we heard the 23rd Psalm and then my wonderful husband Stephen read the Mourner's Kaddish. As a tribute to my mother, in addition to old friends, the receptionist from her beauty parlor was there, as well as a few people from Silver Shores (where she had lived), including the very sweet couple who are renting my mom's place, and who had just arrived in the Keys that morning.



I am so fortunate to have the KJCC members as my "family." You have surrounded me, comforted me, been there for me through thick and thin. You welcomed my parents when they came to the KJCC, you were there for them (and me) when they were ill, and you helped me lay them to rest. I will never forget your kind and generous hearts. Thank you.

-Carol Steinbock

Father Ed, a long-time friend of both Marianne Cimkowski and KJCC, gives the eulogy. At left, Carol regales those who came to honor her with stories about her mom.

Keys Jewish Community Center

PASSOVER/PURIM BAZAAR!

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

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

You may have shopped at The Chosen in Miami over the years. The owners are bringing their on-line store merchandise to the KJCC. Check them out online -

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

THE CHOSEN GIFT

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

We will also have a Raffle for Holiday Merchandise!

(All raffle proceeds go to the KJCC sisterhood)

A Memorial for the Keys Homeless

by Joyce Peckman

Each year on December 21st, the shortest day with the longest night of the year, a small group gathers at the open wooden shelter in Settlers' Park, Tavernier. This year, for the first time, I went, accompanying Gloria Avner.

On a picnic table were sixty-six wax and LED candles, one for each soul that passed away this year, homeless in the beautiful Florida Keys. The oldest was 96. There were three infants.

Rev. Pam Feeser of Baptist Hospital opened the program by speaking about how, for most of us, these people are faceless. We don't see them because we turn away from a problem that we feel distant from, or powerless to tackle, or fearful to approach. She related how many of these people's lives began like ours, but were shattered by sickness, divorce or other tragedies from which they did not have the resilience to recover.

Four girls, The Keys Pipers, joined Pam for a flute melody, music for meditation. Then Reverend Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial Methodist read each name and age, while Father Cannon of St. James Episcopal gave a short prayer for each, and a participant then lit a candle for him or her. Each of us, not in any order, stepped forward to light a flame, as a name was recited and the prayer read. The act of choosing to take a step is meaningful, and hopefully symbolic of future action.

The service ended with the KJCC representatives. Carol Steinbock read a beautiful poem, and then there was a group recital of Kaddish, led by Gloria in Hebrew and Carol in English. ◇

Winter Solstice

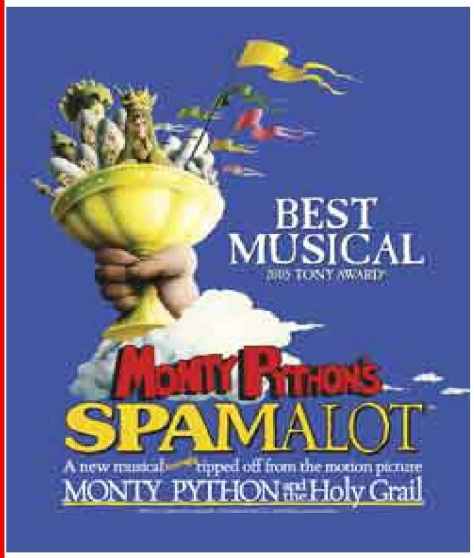
wind whips Atlantic waves
onto Settler's Park Beach
sky brilliant blue over big grassy patch
and only Charley stays
the other homeless people in the park
split
want no part of us
the one hour one day
out of 365.

seventy died
three were infants
we who remember them
bless them
say kaddish
stand on the round wooden platform
under a shading roof
light a candle for each
of the homeless
who died this year
in the Florida Keys
in Paradise
we were twenty
counting the dog

Gloria Avner

The interfaith group (almost half from KJCC) who gathered to honor the homeless on December 21st in Tavernier's Settlers Park.

Keys Jewish Community Center



Date: Sunday March 23, 2014

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Actors Playhouse, Coral Gables

SPAMALOT is the musical comedy sensation lovingly ripped off from the film classic Monty Python and The Holy Grail. Hysterically retelling the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, this Tony Award winning Best Musical will spread laughter and cheer throughout the Kingdom of South Florida. Featuring a bevy of beautiful showgirls, not to mention cows and killer rabbits, SPAMALOT has been hailed by all as "a no-holds-barred smash hit."

For tickets and information about carpooling, contact Joyce (305) 451-0665 or Susan (914) 907-3993.

Donation $45

Purim Katan

by Joyce Peckman

We all know about Purim, celebrating the story of Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordechai, and how the looming disaster in Persia was turned into a victory for the Jews. In the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on its thirteenth day ... on the day that the enemies of the Jews were expected to prevail over them, it was turned about: the Jews instead prevailed over their adversaries. And they gained relief on the fourteenth, making it a day of feasting and gladness, i.e. Purim. But how many of us have heard of *Purim Katan?*

Purim Katan, which translates as "little Purim," can also be considered a celebration of our special lunar calendar. As we know, the civil calendar used by most of the world is based upon Earth's revolution around the sun, abandoning a strict correlation between the moon cycles and the month, and arbitrarily setting the length of months to 28, 30 or 31 days, based upon which political leader or Roman deity the month was named after. The Hebrew calendar, on the other hand, is lunar. The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year, so a 12-month lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than a solar year and a 13-month lunar year is about 19 days longer than a solar year. (Because of that, since they also use a lunar calendar, Muslim holidays like Ramadan can fall out in any season.)

To compensate for this drift, the Jewish calendar uses a 12-month lunar calendar with an extra month occasionally added. A year with 13 months is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me'uberet*, literally: a pregnant year.

In the fourth century, Hillel II established a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations, which was fully codified by Maimonides in the *Mishneh Torah* in the 12th century. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length and addition of months over the course of a nineteen-year metonic cycle (named for its discoverer, the Greek mathematician, astronomer, geometer, and engineer Meton of Athens.) At the end of each of these cycles the same phase moon appears in the sky at exactly the same place, at the same longitude and against the same constellation, as it had nineteen years before. Which means that right then the lunar calendar is realigned with the solar years. So, seven times during this 19-year cycle, we get a second month of Adar to balance out the days. (In a very unusual confluence this year, the first of Adar I is also February 1, and the first of Nissan is April 1. Both April and Nissan have 30 days, so they match completely. March includes the end of Adar I along with all of Adar II, allowing its surrounding months to match completely. Thus, the 18th of February is 18 Adar I, and March 18 is the 18th of Nissan.)

All of this causes headaches for Alan Beth and me, as we try to make certain that everyone gets their *Yahrzeit* letters on time. However, it does ensure that Passover always occurs in the spring.

Which brings us to the question: what to do about Purim, which occurs during Adar, when we have two Adars?

It was decided (by the rabbis) to celebrate Purim in the second Adar, in order to link the redemption of Purim to the redemption of Pesach. The 14th of Adar I became *Purim Katan*, the only time we have a minor festival preceding the actual festival.

Although we do not read the *Megillah* or give gifts on *Purim Katan*, the rabbis decreed that the holiday should be celebrated with food and drink, and there should be no mourning or fasting. The *Midrash* also states that "any man, and especially the inhabitants of a city to whom a miracle has happened, may make that day Purim." Thus the Jews of Frankfurt, Germany, celebrated Adar 20 as *Purim Vinz*, commemorating the execution in 1616 of Vinz Fettmilch and six others after they had stormed and partially destroyed the Jewish ghetto.

In regard to other double-Adar issues: Bar Mitzvahs follow the Purim rule, celebrated during Adar II, unless the child was born in Adar I in a leap year. And no, Adar II babies don't have to wait until they are 20 years old to be Bar or Bat Mitzvah. An Adar I date will work just fine.

If you observe a yahrzeit during Adar, as I do, take note. It can get complicated. Sephardim follow the Bar Mitzvah rule cited above. However, among Ashkenazim there is a difference of opinion. Most observe the yahrzeit during Adar I, but many, like me, observe in Adar II, and some even say *kaddish* and light candles *both* Adars. Keep your KJCC calendar handy. Happy *Purim Katan*!

My thanks to website Judaism 101 for much of the astronomical information. ◇

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Sanctuary in Shanghai

by Joyce Peckman

On January 6th, Susan Ellner picked up Lee Schur and me to attend the opening night of Holocaust Education Week in Miami. As we drove north on the stretch, I thought to ask Susan if she had called Yardena, who had given us the information and motivation to begin with. She hadn't, so we called. Yardena dropped whatever work she was doing, and told us to pick her up. It was a good thing she was in the car, because she kept us from going astray when detours confounded the GPS system. So the four of us headed to Urban Studios at FIU Miami Beach. We did not imagine that we would also be taking an excursion to Paris, Russia and Shanghai.

We had planned to stroll along Lincoln Road beforehand, but after parking and looking for our destination, we had less than an hour for dinner. Then we noticed, on the corner of that very block, a lovely French bistro named "Paul," and so we dined in Paris! The sandwiches were so good, and the pastries looked so inviting, that we returned after the exhibition for dessert.

The KJCC contingent of Susan Ellner, Yardena Kamely, Joyce Peckman and Lee Schur surround Mark Weiner, who has been instrumental in taking the exhibit to cities around the United States.

Our destination was an Art Deco building, with a beautiful Art Deco lobby and mezzanine. We took the classic elevator to the fourth floor and found sleek, modern workspaces. Suddenly Yardena was hugging someone…it was Dr. Miriam Kassenoff, Director of the Holocaust Teachers Institute at the University of Miami and the Holocaust advisor to Miami-Dade County public schools, who Yardena has worked with for years.

We found first- and second-row seats in the small recital room, which quickly became standing room only. The Amernet String Quartet, nationally known and currently FIU's Ensemble in Residence, played music composed during the period of the Holocaust, several by Shostakovich and his students. At least two of the composers had perished, one in Theresienstadt. Comparing the music to 18th & 19th century Classical, I initially found it "edgy." Then I considered the lives of these composers, and I valued it.

The word the Chinese used for "Jews" is You Tai Ren, *which translates to "people with brains."*

Dr. Kassenoff welcomed us and introduced Mark Weiner, who had helped take this exhibit about sanctuary for European Jews in wartime Shanghai to cities around the United States. Mark told us how, at the University of Alabama, he had stumbled into a course on ancient Chinese history. (It was the only class that fit into his pro-

As Chinese Consul in Vienna, Dr. Ho Feng Shen issued thousands of humanitarian exit visas to desperate Jews.

gram.) He apparently so impressed the teacher that he was invited to spend the following year studying law in Shanghai, where he learned about the Jews who took refuge there, and roomed with the future attorney general of Shanghai. He told us that the word the Chinese used for "Jews" is *You Tai Ren*, which translates to "people with brains."

The exhibition room walls were covered with posters and stories. Mark brought us to the poster dedicated to Dr. Ho Feng Shen, who at the beginning of World War II was the Chinese Consul in Vienna. Acting against the direct orders of his Berlin-based superior, and ignoring threats by German officials, Dr. Ho Feng Shen issued thousands of humanitarian exit visas to desperate Jews. By 1941, Shanghai had accepted more than 18,000 Jewish refugees, who came by ship from Europe, or by rail across Russia. They were met and supported by two groups of Jewish merchants who had settled there years before: the Sephardim, including the wealthy Sassoon family, and Eastern Europeans. Unlike earlier settlers, the refugees were confined to one part of the city, but freely traded and socialized with their Shanghai neighbors, also suffering the deprivations of wartime. (Japan had first invaded China in 1931, fully ten years before.) The Jewish refugees set up homes, shops and schools (including the entire Mir yeshiva) and built a little Europe in Shanghai.

When Japan finally conquered Shanghai, things took a turn for the worse. Yet the Japanese refused the German demand to exterminate Shanghai's Jews. As a compromise, they were removed to a crowded internment camp, where they remained until the end of the war. Most then found their way to America or Israel, or went back to Europe. A few brought Chinese spouses with them. Many in later years returned to visit those in Shanghai who had been so kind to them during trying times. ◊

Note: As is often the case with traveling exhibits and non-profits, this event had many mothers. With too voluminous a genealogy to include in the first paragraph, Holocaust Education Week described itself as "a community-wide program, presented by the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, a committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation." This year there were eight separate presentations at various greater Miami locations. The event described above was co-sponsored by the FIU Urban Studies Program, The Pan Sino Group and the Jewish Refugee Museum of Shanghai.

Lee and Yardena stand at the entry to the exhibit next to the poster created by the exhibition's sponsors.

Keys Jewish Community Center, Inc.

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

To all KJCC members:

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the KJCC sanctuary.

The February Board meeting, in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall, is scheduled for the same day at 9:00 a.m. All members are invited to attend both meetings.

The primary order of business at the Annual Meeting is the election and installation of Officers and the Board of Directors. According to our by-laws, nominations from the floor can be accepted at that time.

A light lunch will be served by Sisterhood to all present immediately following the installation of Officers and Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee has met as required and selected the following slate of 2014-2015 Officers and Board Members. This slate was approved at the January 12th, 2014 Board Meeting:

***President* – Bernie Ginsberg**
***Executive Vice President* – Sam Vinicur**
***Vice Presidents* – Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon, Steve Hartz**
***Treasurer* – Linda Pollack**
***Recording Secretary* – Beth Hayden**
***Financial Secretary* – Dave Mont**
***Corresponding Secretary* – Joyce Peckman**
***Directors*:**

Marc Bloom
Sy Gelbard
David Gitin
Linda Kaplan
Skip Rose
Medina Roy
Gene Silverman

(Note: Past presidents are automatically voting members of KJCC's Board.)

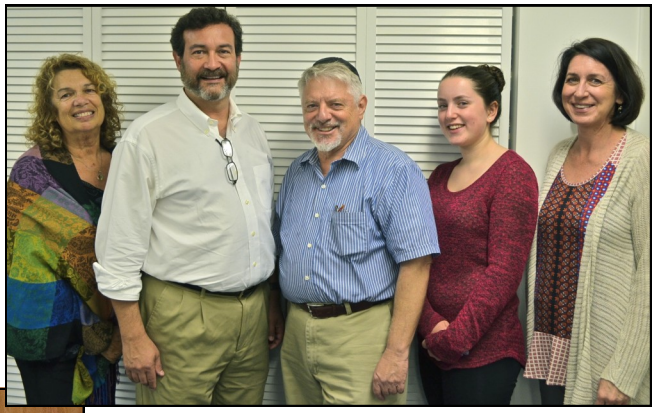
Respectfully submitted by the 2014 Nominating Committee:
Sam Vinicur (chair), Steve Steinbock, Linda Pollack, Bernie Ginsberg

A Weekend to Remember

by Gloria Avner

A full KJCC parking lot is always a barometer of success for a special event. On December 28th, the last Erev Shabbat of 2013, it was full to overflowing. The occasion was neither High Holidays nor a free dinner. All had come to attend a unique Friday night service led by visiting Cantor Irwin Gelman from Buffalo, New York.

The "specialness" continued non-stop for the next 24 hours. Thanks to Cantor Gelman's magnificent voice, the generosity and stimulation of Rabbi Agler's teaching/Shabbat service the next morning, a Sisterhood luncheon after morning services, and our participation in a multicultural "Peace Blessing" event with Tibetan monks at Rev. Kerry Foote's Burton Memorial Church later on Shabbat afternoon, we were spiritually uplifted in every dimension. In KJCC President Bernie Ginsberg's words, this "mini-*shabbaton*" (a special "seventh day" gathering for rest and spiritual exaltation)



Cantor Irwin Gelman at Kiddush after Friday's service, with Gloria, Bernie, daughter Maya and wife Mara.

was a treat for the mind, the soul, and body.

Rarely have we had a cantor lead a Friday night service for us, unless the High Holidays fell on Shabbat. We like our lay leaders, the variety of their approaches and special skills, but on this night we were treated to a special voice and a warm, *haimische* educator as well. Cantor Gelman, a respected cancer genetics scientist (at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, a famed research center in David's and my home town of Buffalo) as well as trained *chazzan* (fourth generation, no less) walked unannounced into our synagogue a year ago and then, merely by chanting Kaddish, left an impression that lasted. He accepted our invitation for a return visit and the response was electric. You could hear it in the congregation's responsive singing, as service leaders Bernie and Cantor Gelman led us seamlessly through the liturgy. Hearing the *Hashkivenu* chanted in the mode of the old classical cantors (as his mother liked it, said Cantor Gelman) was particularly moving. (Yardena is still *kvelling* about it, saying she hadn't heard the *Hashkivenu* chanted that movingly in many years.) It was good to see many faces, some we don't see often, there to enjoy this opportunity. And those holiday visitors who came by simply because they'd seen our sign were given a special gift. Over 80 people joined voices that night, often fully and happily as one.

In the morning, both Rabbi Agler *and* Cantor Gelman guided us. Attendance doubled our previous Shabbat morning record. (More than 60 people came.) Both the music and learning were intensely appreciated. The *Parshah* and Rabbi Agler's discussion were about freedom, how one prepares for it, deals with insecurities, and retains faith in the midst of adversity. We talked of Moses, the challenges of his role, the ten plagues, and how Pharaoh's heart was continually hardened against the Jews as Moses pleaded for his people to be "let go."

from the Torah. Cantor Gelman took on the *Aliyah*. Rabbi Agler paused and then quietly invited the monks, in their maroon and saffron robes, to join him and the Cantor on the *Bimah*. Once there they were transfixed, looking at the words on a parchment not so visually unlike their own hand-calligraphied sutras or scriptures. Rabbi Agler explained our prized Torah's significance, that it had been saved from the Holocaust and entrusted to us in exchange for our prayers for those who perished from its home community in Susice, Czechoslovakia. The monks did not speak English well, but this they understood.

When the Torah was placed gently back in the Ark, the senior monk stepped forward with a white silk scarf, called a *kata*. In Tibetan practice, a *kata* is given as an offering

Rabbi Agler, in his trademark informal, inclusive style, brought out animated participation. As it does so often under his guidance, Torah came alive in discussion of core issues, both ancient and modern. And then the Tibetan monks walked in.

We were just finishing discussion of *Parasha Va'eira*, and it was time to chant

to a revered teacher. The teacher blesses it and gives it back, placing it around the giver's neck. I have seen many *kata* ceremonies, in this country as well as in India and Bhutan, but never anything like this. Having Tibetan monks, living in exile from their homeland – their monastery, where they educate young monks in an attempt to keep their culture alive, is in southern India –

Kamanetz. Years ago he accompanied a group of Jewish spiritual leaders to a conference with the Dalai Lama, who wanted to know how the Jews did it. How do you keep a culture alive in diaspora? How can one be apart from your homeland and still keep your belief systems and practice intact?)

With the Rabbi's blessing, the Cantor's soaring voice and the monk's offering all

join us as we discussed our own tribe's struggle to escape oppression and return to our promised land, could not have been more synchronous. It seemed *bashert*. To present the offering of a *kata* to the Torah as teacher was an act of both reverence and

echoing within us, we were off to a delicious brunch prepared by Sisterhood. Animated conversation, with old friends and new, filled both the schoolroom and the social hall. Many thanks to Barbara Knowles for a magnificent job coordinating the delicious and welcome Sisterhood effort. After dessert, many of us trooped off to Burton Memorial United Methodist Church next door for an interfaith event, the blessing of a peace park. Rev. Foote spoke of St. Francis and said a prayer; all the monks chanted in full regalia; and KJCC – with Mikhaela Bitton, myself, and Susan Gordon holding up signs with the three Hebrew words of lyric – led everyone in song:

respect, beyond the boundary of language.

After Rabbi Agler blessed us in our going forth from the service, he invited the Tibetan monks to say their own blessing for us. With deep sonorous voices, a very different vibration filled the sanctuary. In explanation afterward, the monks used the phrase *"Tashe Delek,"* often translated as good luck, but which like our words *Shalom* and *Mazel Tov*, has many layers of meaning. They were blessing our house and the work of our hands, our people, our building, our scriptures, and our future. (There is a wonderful book in the KJCC library called "Jew in the Lotus," written by Roger

Shalom Chaverim, Shalom Chaverim, Shalom Shalom.
L'hitra'ot L'hitra'ot, Shalom, Shalom.

particular weekend to be able to say and sing this blessing to each other many, many times.

And then we say: *L'hitra'ot.* ("See you again, soon.")

Perhaps at another *Shabbaton.* ◊

There were still more activities, masked dances to watch, both the Yak and the Snow Lion, a symbol of freedom and joy, the central figure on the Tibetan flag, banned for 50 years in China. But the KJCC *Shabbaton* could well have ended on the last note of our song, where we say hello to our friends, strangers and *mishpocha* (family) by wishing each other *peace*, on every level reached by that wonderful word. We say it at KJCC every Friday night, and were fortunate enough this

As host for the Keys to Peace event, Rev. Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial Methodist opened the remarks, and introduced Wayne Scaturro, below, whose original diving bell art will be a permanent fixture at the park. After Gloria led the KJCC part of the ceremony, both prayer and song, Rev. Foote presented the monks in full regalia.

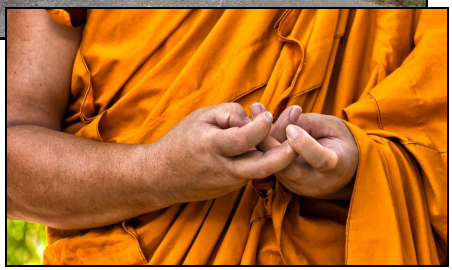
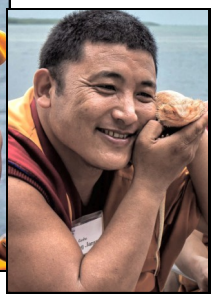


Photo at left of the KJCC contingent at the Burton Memorial Keys to Peace event courtesy of Paula Vieceli.

Our great appreciation to Jan Hartz for all the photos on this page.

After the blessing of the park, the monks added multi-culturalism to the interfaith nature of the afternoon by displaying important icons of Tibetan culture. The fierce fellow dancing below left is a yak. The knowing feline below is a snow lion, as Gloria described, an important symbol of freedom and joy to Tibetans.

The elegant poodle girl below is named Lisette. She's almost fifteen, and is the beloved companion of Jan and Steve Hartz. The monk, after blessing her, nicknamed her "snow lion."



Despite their lives of contemplation and prayer, the monks clearly have personalities. Jan captured these priceless photos of one monk blessing a lizard.

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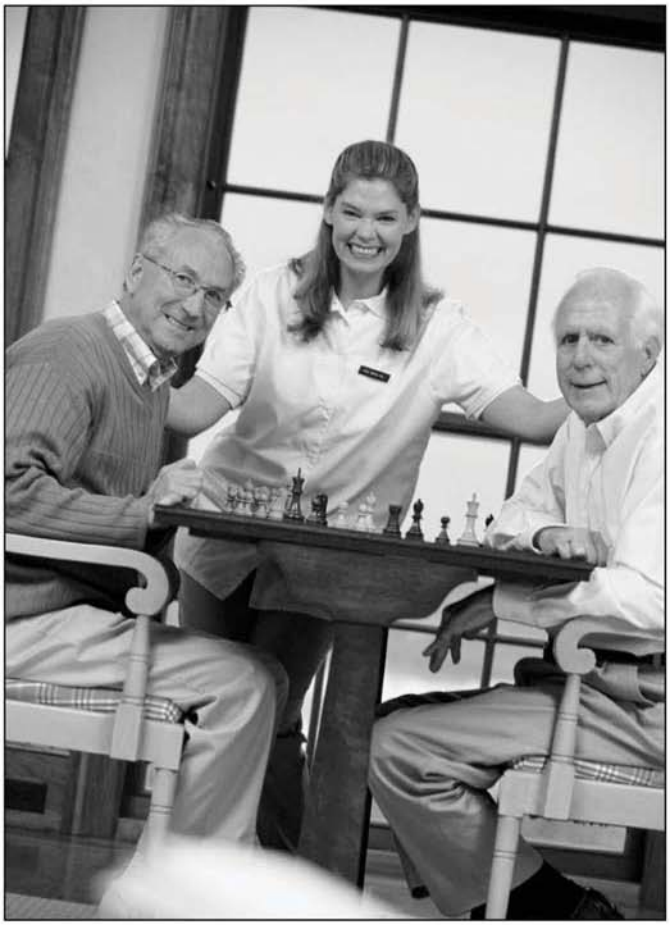

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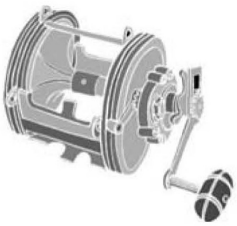

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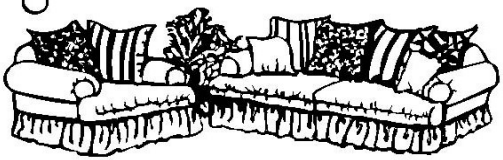

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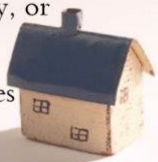

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