

Chai~Lights



March 2015

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2015 10 Adar - 11 Nisan

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yardena 2nd lecture 7pm	2	3	4 KJCC Reading of Megillah & Tomfoolery 6:00 p.m.	5 Purim	6 Ken Atlas <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	9	10	11	12	13 Shabbat Across America 6:30 dinner Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur <i>Joyce Peckman Heather Corrigan & Michael Eisenstein</i>	14
15 Prof. Tudor Parfitt Lecture "Lost Tribes" 7 pm.	16	17	18	19	20 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Toby & Joel Bofshever, Patti & David Gross</i>	21 Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m. Service
22 KJCC Women's Seder 5 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 Joyce Peckman 6:30 Service <i>Jane & Steve Friedman Lee Schur</i>	28

2015 - 2016 Officers and Board

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

President's Message Sam Vinicur



It was Sunday, February 8th, at the KJCC Annual Meeting. As sitting president, Bernie offered a cheerful and positive state-of-the-shul assessment. Of course it was positive; he'd done so much to create the atmosphere of warmth and enthusiasm that now practically radiates off the place's walls. He read the proposed slate of incoming officers and directors. We were all elected. (And without a single dissenting vote. In a room full of Jews. I had one of those flitting dream-like moments, wondering whether I'd somehow walked into the wrong meeting.)

Then it was my turn to address the congregation. I saw mostly smiles. No matter how much you think you're ready, the moment has a surreal aspect to it. I'm sure that Bernie, and Stuart, and Alan, and Steve, and Joel, and George all understand perfectly. I blurted out a few words of thanks and requests for help and asked if anyone would like to move for adjournment.

In the summer before my last year of school, a dear friend (then and now), who wasn't sure he wanted to get married, proposed something else: that he and I spend the summer seeing the country. We loaded a tent atop his three-speed Camaro and headed west.

Before we'd left, my

grandfather had said that if we ever had problems anywhere to look to the nearest Jewish organization for help. When we pulled into Seattle one rainy afternoon, we knew that camping would be impossible. The U. of Washington is there; we found the Hillel and knocked on its door.

A short, very round, black-clad, bearded and unsmiling man answered the door. He was Rabbi Jacobovitz, the Hillel leader. He didn't exactly welcome us, but we did end up inside. (We never learned his first name. We were kids.) Why were we there? I told him what my grandfather had said. He snorted, and barked a question I've never forgotten: "what have you ever done for the Jewish people that we should help you now?" The answer, of course, for both of us, was nothing. As we turned to go, his secretary stepped forward and insisted that we come in.

We spent four days with them. The secretary took us home and we stayed with her family. During the day we'd talk and eat at Hillel, and both of us grew to dearly love this gruff and impatient and ever-challenging rabbi.

As I was driving home after the KJCC installation brunch, the first thought I had was: okay, Rabbi Jacobovitz, wherever you are, this is for you. ♦



PURIM & PIZZA

The whole Megillah--
The real Megillah--
The KJCC Mens Club Megillah

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

**6:00 pm KJCC Sunday School
Kids!!!**

**7:00 pm Pizza, salad,
hamantaschen and schnapps!!!
Music for All to enjoy!!**

**PURIM
HAMANTASCHEN**

Contacts:

**Steve Friedman, stephanfriedman96@gmail.com,
305-720-1681**

**Joyce Peckman, joycepeckman@gmail.com,
305-451-0665.**

Let them know you are coming.

**Remember, it is a Mitzvah to hear the reading of
the entire Megillah.**



Tzedakah donations will be accepted.

Nosh

This Year's Woman of Valor

The Women's Seder is a tremendous amount of prideful, joyous hard work. It is a creative, bonding, feasting event that seems to develop a personality of its own each year. Part of it is the pottery – each year a different project. The food is always delicious, never exactly the same. We welcome new guests and gain new insights each year. And every year we have an honoree. Less than a year ago we told Carol Steinbock that she would be our 2015 honoree, and we will be keeping that promise. Contact Erica (hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-393-1162) to get involved with this March 22nd event. Seating is limited. We promise a full belly and a full heart.

-Joyce

BOOK PLATE

In memory of
Robert Davidson
with love from
*Carol Laskin and
Foster Davidson*

Purim at KJCC

This year's Purim celebration will take place on Wednesday, March 4th at 6 p.m. at KJCC. Things will be slightly abbreviated this year because it's a school night. Men's Club will sponsor and provide food. (Please see the ad on page 4.) Remember, hearing the Megillah read in its entirety is a major mitzvah. Earn points at KJCC.

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences
to Dr. Harvey Schwaid
and his family on the death of
Susan Schwaid.*

Tudor Parfitt to Speak at KJCC March 15th

This is a real coup for us. Oxford-educated Professor Tudor Parfitt (and a real-life member of England's famed Royal Geographic Society) will speak at KJCC on Sunday, March 15th at 7:00. Professor Parfitt, an author and explorer who has been dubbed the modern-day "Indiana Jones," has traveled the world — South America to Africa to India to Papua New Guinea — exploring claims of Jewish ancestry and connection to the lost tribes of Israel. He is the one who validated, through genetic testing, the claims of the Lemba people in South Africa. He is a fascinating and engaging speaker, and this promises to be a truly memorable night. (Please see the ad on page 18.) We'll be inviting our neighbors to join us for this presentation in our sanctuary, newly fitted for wonderful visual and sound events due to our high-end sound system and now our high-def audio-visual system with a 13-foot drop-down screen. A Q&A session and coffee will follow.

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
Karen Hayhurst
Sister of Stephen Steinbock
and Rosemary Barefoot
7/6/46 - 1/27/12
Taken Too Soon

Oneg Sponsors for March 2015

- March 6th* – Steve Steinbock to celebrate his birthday.
- March 13th* - Joyce Peckman in honor of the Yahrzeit of Dorothy Ross. Heather Corrigan and Michael Eisenstein in honor of the KJCC.
- March 20th* – Joel and Toby Bofshever and David and Patti Gross to celebrate their anniversaries.
- March 27th* - Jane and Steve Friedman in honor of Jane's birthday. Lee Schur to celebrate her birthday.

March Birthdays

1st.....	Sasha Dutton
3rd.....	Stephen Steinbock
6th.....	Bea Graham
7th.....	Hannah Feig
7th.....	Toby Goldfinger
9th.....	Pearl Jacobs
10th.....	Thomas Davis Smith
10th.....	Kate Horowitz
11th.....	Sandy Yankow
11th.....	Bryan Schur
12th.....	Heath Greenbaum
12th.....	Oceana Gross
13th.....	Carl Roy
13th.....	Ira Stein
14th.....	Jenna Lane
14th.....	Randi Grant
14th.....	Seth Horowitz
15th.....	Johanna Willner
15th.....	Allan Boruszak
16th.....	Marsha Harris
16th.....	Steven Nobil
17th.....	Daniel Friedman
17th.....	Andrew Grant
19th.....	Michelle Palacino
20th.....	Susan Sachs
20th.....	Janet Palacino
21st.....	James Nobil Jr
21st.....	Joseph Palacino
21st.....	Barbara A. Calev
23rd.....	Ken Atlas
25th.....	Sylvia Berman
25th.....	Stephanie Coeurjoly
25th.....	Joe Gould
26th.....	Anna Verity Greenbaum
27th.....	Michelle E. Denker
29th.....	Joel Pollack
30th.....	Lee Schur
30th.....	David VanArtsdalen
31st.....	Sari Eliz. Goldstein
31st.....	Jane Friedman

March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....	56
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....	19
7th	Joseph & Susan Sachs.....	50
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	7
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	18
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever.....	47

Conquering Bimah Fright

Do you experience *shpilkes* just at the thought of getting up on the *bimah* to lead services? And are you ready to bolt just thinking about delivering a coherent *d'var Torah*?

Have no fear. Our KJCC library has a few books that will do the work for you. Located in the *Judaic Studies* section (labeled JUD), you can find:

"Turrets of Silver: An Anthology of Insights, Comments and Observations on the Torah Portions of the Week," edited by Rabbi Ben-Zion Rand and Mrs. Naomi Samber.

"Peninim on the Torah: An Anthology of Thought Provoking Ideas and Practicle Insights on the Weekly Parsha," by Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum.

"*Lilmode U'lamed From the Teachings of our Sages: A Compendium of Insights, Homilies, and Interpretations of the Weekly Sedra*," by Rabbi Mordechai Katz.

"*The Torah: A Modern Commentary*," edited by W. Gunther Plaut.

There are also numerous, reliable websites summarizing and commenting on the weekly Torah portion. Some are:

- myjewishlearning.com/weekly_torah_portion
- reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study
- aish.com/tp

And if that's not enough to settle your nerves, just google "weekly torah portion."

—Medina Roy

One More Shabbat Morning Service

Make sure to mark your calendar: on Saturday, March 21st, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., Rabbi Richard Agler will lead his last scheduled Shabbat morning service of the winter season. How appropriate that this service will happen on the first day of Spring, the vernal equinox. (Please see the article on Jewish Spring on Page 42). If you have experienced Rabbi Agler's warm, informal, Torah services before, you will enthusiastically want to come back for this one. If you have missed the opportunity to take part in his unique teaching style, you will want to come for the learning, the stimulus, the community camaraderie and as meaningful a Shabbat morning as a person could have. There will be a Kiddush afterwards. See you there.

—Gloria

Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
My Wife

Carol Steinbock

1/26/47 - 10/23/14

Taken Too Soon

Shabbat From Sea to Shining Sea

It is dinnertime with "Shabbat Across America and Canada" again. For the last ten years, we have joined with the National Jewish Outreach Program to expand and deepen our Shabbat experience. We will have a wonderful dinner as we observe/honor the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Together with our own KJCC *mishpocha*, two Atlantic-to-Pacific countries, and a whole continent's Jewish people, we are on the NJOP map. Whether you are a member or a passer-by, you are invited to come, eat and worship with us on Friday, March 13th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you enjoyed *Shabbat Shirah* at the end of January, with its extra songs and musical accompaniment, you will be happy with this *Shabbat* celebration as we add "zemiroh," special Shabbat

songs, to our repertoire. In addition to the talented Jules Seder on keyboard, we are delighted to have Linda and Joel Pollack's son, Roy, with us on guitar. The dinner will be dairy and will cost \$18 for adult members and \$25 for non-members. Come to celebrate with us as we prepare to enjoy our Creator-ordained "Day of Rest." (Please see the ad on page 14.) Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com to reserve your spot and to coordinate your potluck contribution.

—Gloria

Meditation Garden Tree Plaque

THIS CABADA PALM
GRACES OUR GARDEN
IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
CAROL STEINBOCK,
FROM THE MANY OF US
WHO LOVED HER.
DEDICATED NOVEMBER 16, 2014

Rabbi Agler's Book Discussion

Once again we're reminding you of a special event that will take place at KJCC on Sunday, April 12th at 7 p.m. Rabbi Richard Agler will be leading a discussion of Simon Wiesenthal's "Sunflower" and the moral dilemmas it raises. The premise: Wiesenthal was a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. A dying Nazi officer asks that a Jew, any Jew, be brought to him. Why? Because he sought absolution for his crimes. This is the premise of the book: can evil, especially unspeakable evil, be forgiven?

Rabbi Agler asks that all who attend have read the book. KJCC has bought six copies for our library. Sign one out and join the discussion.

Scholarship Deadline

We remind you that the deadline for KJCC scholarship applications is April 1st. All the forms and criteria are on our web site, keysjewishcenter.com. This is last call.

BOOK PLATE

In memory of
Lewis Isenberg
with love from
*Carol Laskin and
Foster Davidson*

Meditation Garden Tree Plaque

DEAR FRIEND
CAROL
OUR LIVES ARE BETTER FOR
HAVING SHARED SOME OF YOURS.
STUART & LAUREN

After each president's term ends, KJCC presents them a plaque of appreciation, a small acknowledgement of all the time and heart and tsouris they've expended on behalf of us all. Here's the plaque that was presented to Bernie Ginsberg at the Annual Meeting:

**Presented to
Bernard P. Ginsberg
President 2013 - 2015**

For your abiding love of our children, Jewish language, culture and history, and your leadership of patience, generosity and humor...our deepest appreciation.

The Keys Jewish Community Center

Appreciating KJCC Library Donors

The KJCC would like to thank the following individuals for donating books to our library over the past few months: Yardena Kamely, Toby Bofshever, Beth Hayden, David Goldfinger, Steve Steinbock, Elaine Solas and Joanna Willner.

Special thanks to David Gitin for donating his recently published anthology book of poetry, "Woke Up This Morning: Selected Poems 1962-2014," which has been placed (appropriately) in the Literature section (LIT).

We send heartfelt thanks to all our donors. Our library is growing and encompassing ever-increasing facets of Jewish life, history, literature and experience. Come and see for yourself.

—Medina Roy

BOOK PLATE

In memory of
Leopold Mosheim
with love from
*Carol Laskin and
Foster Davidson*

BOOK PLATE

2 years gone
February 8, 2013
Our beloved Jerry Oshinsky
passed away too soon and will
always be remembered for his
uplifting sense of humor
and his beautiful smile.
Sherry Zwerdling

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Celebration of the Life
of My Dear Friend
CAROL STEINBOCK
Teresa Kwalick

Leaf on the Tree of Life

SMALL TOWN HERO
Richard Stein D.V.M.
Petcare Animal Hospital
April 11, 1986 - April 9, 2013
Monticello, New York

BOOK PLATE

In memory of
Henry Rubin
with love from
*Carol Laskin and
Foster Davidson*

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 SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Dave Mont, 305-393-9883, to arrange your donation.

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

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 Linda Kaplan, 305-396-7000.

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, iddevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

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

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.

Book Plates

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin

Zwerdling, Sherry

Memory of

Henry Rubin,
Leopold Mosheim

Lewis Isenberg,
Robert Davidson
Jerry Oshinsky

Meditation Garden

Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Silverman, Morton & Gene

brick - Carol Steinbock
tree - Carol Steinbock

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Friedman, Steve & Jane
Gelbard, Sy

General Fund

Plutzer, Arthur

Plutzer, Arthur

Plutzer, Arthur

Steiner, Martin & Marilee

Honor of

Pauline Roller

Joel & Linda Pollack

Dr. Bernie Ginsberg

for his care of Ann last year

Thank you for your
hospitality

Memory of

Al Roller

Susan Schwaid

Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy,

Paul Charlap, Ruth Richardson

Yahrzeits

Coltman, Barney

Doebler, Sondra

Emkey, Gerri

Marmar, David & Pamela

Schulberg, Alan & Elaine

Tallent, Lillian

Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Eva Levine

Shirley Horowitz

Nathan Weisberg, Robert Kinney

Samuel Marmar

Nat Gulkis, Bea Gulkis,

Joan Kaminsky

Morris Estrin

Morris Feinberg

Yahrzeit Plaques

Harris, Stephen & Marsha

Reserved

Keys Jewish Community Center

Book & CD Exchange

Bring books to swap.
Bring boxes. Clear out
your book shelves.
Books: Best sellers,
novels, old books, new
books, fiction,
non-fiction. If you
read it, others will
want to also.



Old tapes and cd's?
Bring them here and swap
them out. Clean out that
cabinet under the TV and
the DVR box.

Sunday, March 8, 2015
12:00 Noon
at the KJCC

Questions? Contact Medina Roy
hiitsmedee@gmail.com

In Memoriam March 2014

In Memory Of

Harvey Roazen

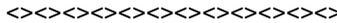
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Robert Berman

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Dorothy Stanlake

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Robert Kohlenbrener

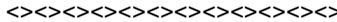
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Louis Abraham Weinstein

By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

Hilda Dorf

By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

Maurice Field

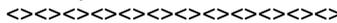
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

Harry Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Maxine Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Selma Elson

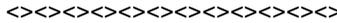
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Lillian Melnick

By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Stanley Bush

By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

Lillian Grant

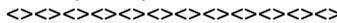
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

Arlene R. Brenner

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Lee M. Harris

By Stephen & Marsha Harris



In Memory Of

David Harvey

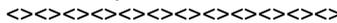
By Mitchell Harvey



In Memory Of

Anna Horn

By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

Rubin Bressick

By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

Harry Phillips

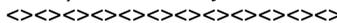
By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Eleanor Sonn

By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

Rachamim Levy

By Yardena Kameley

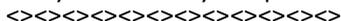


In Memoriam 2014

In Memory Of

Monroe (Monty) Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Samual Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

Louis Weinstein

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

Cissie Rose Lang

By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

Esther Schur

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

George B. Sachs

By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Anne Temkin

By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

Luba Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Irving Line

By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Dorothy Ross

By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

Leslie Allen Sachs

By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

Isadore Seder

By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Theresa Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

Alice Weber

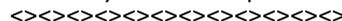
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Marian Rose Klimpl

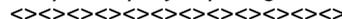
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Oscar Margulies

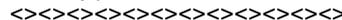
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

Denise Moss

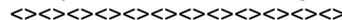
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Nate Schulberg

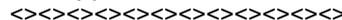
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

Ida Seder

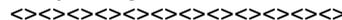
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Abe M. Reider

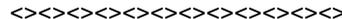
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Deborah Eichler

By Judith Weber



Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



The season is in full swing, and the shul is buzzing with activities. The month began with our Sisterhood meeting. There was good attendance and a lot of support as we discussed and planned the busy months ahead. The special food the women prepared for our meeting was lovely, and it fuels us to be even more creative and productive than ever. Lots of new members and ideas help us to continue to grow and make our little *mishpocha* even more special than it already is.

After being installed as Sisterhood president last month, I became part of the Board of the KJCC, and was installed with all of our other new and returning members, who work tirelessly and selflessly to keep everything running smoothly. *Mazel tov* to our new president, Sam Vinicur, who I know will lead us over the next two years with zeal and commitment to continue the momentum and growth that we are experiencing.

As I am writing this column, I am preparing my Bubby Lieberman's Hungarian cabbage rolls, for our Jewish Food Extravaganza on February 15th, which sold out! Having these wonderful events inspires us to try new things, to channel the *neshama* (spirit) of our ancestors, and carry on the tradition of our culture. Many visitors as well as members will have had the opportunity to taste our delicious buffet of both Ashkenazi and Sephardic food, as well as enjoy some kibbitzing and our mini Jewish Film Festival. Our committee worked very hard to make this happen, and I thank them all for their efforts and time spent on making this a very profitable fundraiser for Sisterhood. Next year we will have our first-ever Jewish Heritage Festival, where we will celebrate our 36th anniversary (double *chai*) of the KJCC, and we look forward to all the support and help again to make that happen.

I feel very grateful to all of those who so generously sponsored the event, whether

financially, or with their time in preparing the food, or by donating our wonderful auction items and beautiful artwork. It was such a joy to have three of our very own women artists honored, and I know that the lucky recipients of their pieces will be blessed by having them hanging on their walls in their homes for many years to come.

Sisterhood came together to lead the Shabbat service on Friday, February 27th. It is wonderful to see new women stepping up, getting out of their comfort zone, and participating in a beautiful service. We encourage all the women to participate, and to challenge themselves with these opportunities.

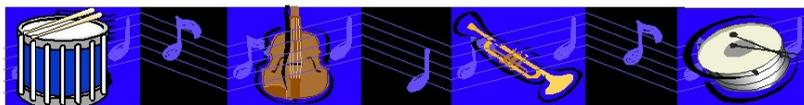
We are preparing for our twelfth annual Women's Passover Seder to be held on Sunday, March 22nd, at 5 p.m. The cost is a \$30 donation for *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and helping our community. Please R.S.V.P. to Hippiejap@hotmail.com. Beth Kaminstein has once again graciously opened her pottery studio for us to make our Passover pieces, and we all enjoy spending this time together bonding over our clay masterpieces!

We also look forward to our Shabbat Across America/Canada (I'm from Toronto) on Friday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at KJCC. This will be a dairy dinner, with music, and a fun night. Please R.S.V.P. to me for this as well. Cost is a donation of \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members.

So as you can see, a lot is going on. Please join us at our next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, March 1st at 9:30 a.m. as we make more plans and solidify our events. We would love your input and help in any way. Again, I want to thank everyone for their support and help in all the things we are doing. This is the "little shul that rocks!!!" ♦

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA



FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015

6:30 PM

COVERED DISH ~ DAIRY

8:00 PM

SERVICES



**ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015, JEWS ALL ACROSS
THE U.S. AND CANADA WILL COME TOGETHER TO
CELEBRATE SHABBAT. JOIN US!**

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com, 305-393-1162
to reserve your spot and coordinate
your covered dish.



DONATION: MEMBERS \$18

NONMEMBERS \$25

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Outrageous!

Leading Jewish groups have sharply criticized the German government for creating a new commission to fight anti-Semitism and support Jewish life in Germany without including a single Jewish person on the commission. A spokeswoman for Germany's Interior Ministry said that the religious affiliation of the experts on the commission was not a criterion in the selection process. She added that the commission – made up of eight people, mainly academics – would listen to and invite various Jewish groups during the fact-finding process. The commission is expected to submit a final report to Germany's parliament in two years. That report is supposed to be the basis for discussion on how to fight anti-Semitism. "It is an unrivaled scandal (that no one among the experts has a Jewish background)," said Julius H. Schoeps, founding director of the *Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies* located in Potsdam (a suburb of Berlin). Schoeps said that his organization, along with the *American Jewish Committee (AJC)* and *Amadeu Antonio Foundation* (one of Germany's independent non-governmental organizations working to eliminate neo-Nazism, right-wing extremism, and anti-Semitism) would go ahead and set up their own commission on German anti-Semitism. This is the second time the German government has created a commission to deal with the subject. Many Jewish leaders have criticized the report that was released in 2011 by the earlier commission for not bringing about any changes for Jews in Germany. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-12-15)

Israel's "Smart" Shirt

Israeli entrepreneurs have developed a "smart" shirt that could save lives. The shirt monitors heart activity and sends alerts of abnormalities directly to both patients and their doctors via their mobile phones. The

shirt was created by a team of textile and medical experts at *HealthWatch*, an Israeli company. Woven into the fabric of the shirt is an electrocardiogram (ECG) that is used to determine heart rate, heart rhythm and other information regarding the heart's condition. The data is then transmitted immediately via the smartphone, saving valuable time if one needs immediate treatment. The shirts can be worn in everyday situations and are machine washable. The developers of the shirt believe the design could also be adapted to monitor a fetus for high-risk pregnant women. (www.washingtonpost.com, 1-5-15)

2015 Genesis Prize Winner: An "Unconventional" Choice

Actor Michael Douglas has been selected as the 2015 Genesis Prize winner for his "professional achievements and passion for Judaism." In partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister of the State of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Israel, the prize is awarded annually by the *Genesis Prize Foundation*, in recognition of "an accomplished and internationally renowned individual who is considered a role model in his or her community." The recipient is also expected to show a commitment to the global Jewish community, to Israel and to Jewish values. The committee awarding the prize (which includes Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel) also expects the recipient to "serve as an inspiration for the next generation of Jews worldwide." The *Genesis Prize Foundation* is endowed by a group of Russian billionaires. Their goal is to celebrate "the richness and diversity of Jewish culture as well as develop a sense of pride among unaffiliated Jews around the world." Douglas, 70, is the winner of two Academy Awards, four Golden Globes and an Emmy. He also serves

as a United Nations Messenger for Peace. The choice of Douglas for the award is not without controversy; he is the son of a Jewish father, actor Kirk Douglas (born Issur Danielovitch) – and a non-Jewish mother. He was not raised Jewish but came to embrace his Jewish heritage later in life. His son Dylan celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem this past summer and father Kirk, now 98, reaffirmed his Jewish identity by having a second Bar Mitzvah when he was 83. “The Douglas family’s experience of connecting with its heritage and embracing it on their own terms embodies an inclusive approach for Jews of diverse backgrounds,” said Stan Polovets, co-founder and chairman of the *Genesis Prize Foundation*. Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, was last year’s recipient. Douglas will receive the prize in June in Jerusalem. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 1-15-15)

It’s Never Too Late...

Hilde Michnia, a 93-year-old woman living in Hamburg, Germany, is currently under investigation for her role as an SS guard during a Nazi death march where 1,400 of the 2,000 women died. She could face charges as an accessory to murder. Michnia (*née* Lisiewicz) was a guard at the Bergen-Belsen and Gross-Rosen concentration camps. She recently told a reporter that she worked in the kitchen of Bergen-Belsen but never saw starving or diseased prisoners. She did admit however, knowing that most of the inmates at the camp were Jews. Some 52,000 people died in Bergen-Belsen. British occupying forces put Michnia and 44 other camp guards and SS members on trial in 1945 in connection with cruelty toward prisoners. Eleven were sentenced to death and executed. Michnia received a one-year prison sentence and was released in 1946. A witness had testified that Michnia brutally beat two men because they had taken two turnips from the kitchen. In another case, prosecutors said they will try former Waffen-SS member Oskar Groening, 93, in April for the role he played at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Groening admitted that he was a guard at Auschwitz but said he did not per-

sonally commit any of the atrocities. He is suspected of counting the money left behind by murdered Jews and also removing their luggage before the arrival of the next trainload of deportees. (www.jta.org, 2-2-15)

European Jewry Shrinking

According to a *Pew Research Center* report released in early February, the Jewish population in Europe has declined at an alarming rate. As of 2010, it was estimated that 1.4 million Jews were still living in Europe – just ten percent of the world’s 14 million Jews. The report noted that research from Jerusalem’s Hebrew University shows a steady decline in European Jewry over the past seventy years.

There were 16.6 million Jews world-wide in 1939. It is estimated that 57 percent of world Jewry lived in Europe. By the end of the Holocaust in 1945, the Jewish population of Europe had shrunk to 35 percent of the world’s 11 million Jews. But in the seven decades since the Holocaust, European Jewry has declined further. By region, the largest drain on Jewish population was throughout Eastern Europe – with 4.7 million Jews in 1939, just 859,000 in 1945, and only 70,000 in 2010. Rising anti-Semitism has seen record numbers of people making *aliyah*, especially from France. The report noted that anti-Semitism was not the only reason for the decline, the decrease is also linked to immigration to Israel, assimilation and intermarriage. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-9-15)

In Memoriam

- Sir Martin Gilbert, distinguished British historian, Holocaust scholar and official biographer (eight volumes) of Winston Churchill, died in early February. He was 78. Author of some 80 books, Gilbert’s scholarly writing about Churchill, Jewish history, both World Wars and the Holocaust set the standards for other scholars’ research. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth “for services to British history and international relations.” Gilbert was a committed Zionist but was critical of Israel’s current political standing and the dominance of the *Likud* party. Speaking of his Holocaust

research at Israel's *Yad Vashem*, Gilbert said, "I could not get through a whole day... Sometimes I had to close the books and leave." Gilbert published "The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust." In it, he described "the incredible ingenuity and courage needed to hide a Jew...at the risk of the [rescuers'] own lives." He tells of a Polish surgeon who developed a plastic surgery technique to reverse the appearance of circumcision. Placing the lives of his family in grave danger, the surgeon issued false certificates to more than 250 men, stating that the circumcisions were medically necessary. Gilbert's wife Esther is herself a Holocaust historian. At the time of his death, Gilbert was serving on Britain's inquiry panel into the Iraq war. (*The Forward*, 2-5-15)

- Richard von Weizsaecker, former president of Germany (1984-1994) who challenged German attitudes about the Holocaust, died at the end of January. He was 94. Von Weizsaecker caused some controversy when he stated that Germany had been liberated by the defeat of the Nazis in 1945. In a landmark speech that he delivered in May 1985 – the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II – von Weizsaecker urged the German people to come to terms with responsibility for the Holocaust. "All of us – whether guilty or not, whether young or old – must accept the past. We are all affected by its consequences and liable for it. Anyone who closes his eyes to the past is blind to the present. The 8th of May was a day of liberation. It freed us all from the system of National Socialist tyranny." As West Germany's president, a largely ceremonial post, he spoke out often about the country's special responsibility after World War II, earning him the name the "conscience of Germany." He presided over the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990, 11 months after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He served in Hitler's army and was promoted several times. In 1944, he was awarded the Iron Cross. As a Wehrmacht officer, von Weizsaecker bravely acted according to his principles, refusing to instruct his troops to carry out Nazi orders he found to be inhumane. Trained as a lawyer, he defended his father at the Nuremberg trials in

1948-49. The elder von Weizsaecker served in the Nazi foreign ministry from 1938 to 1943 and was a member of the SS. Both were scions of one of Germany's most distinguished aristocratic families. (*The Forward* and *reuters.com*, 1-31-15)

Did You Know...

After 50 years with the *Cleveland Jewish News*, 98-year-old Violet Spevack is retiring. Her column, *Cavalcade*, began just six months after the newspaper's founding in 1965. The column is believed to be one of the longest continuously published columns in the United States. She has written some 2,500 columns and hundreds of other feature stories. Spevack covered local and national leaders and celebrities. In 2013, she was elected to the Press Club of Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame.

- For the second consecutive year, *Israel Bonds* sold over one billion dollars in the United States. Fifty-four percent of total sales were \$1,000 or less. This past summer, during Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza, *Israel Bonds* experienced a surge in sales, which nearly doubled from the total average in July and August over the previous three years. *Israel Bonds* president and CEO Izzy Tapoohi said "...even in times of conflict [investors] are eager to become shareholders in one of the most resilient economies in the world." (www.jpost.com, 1-5-15)

- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. released statistics for 2014. The museum had 34,000 new followers on its Facebook page; an average of 2,100 documents were provided each month in 2014 free to people inquiring about relatives' Holocaust experience; and 138 scholars applied for 27 resident fellowships available at the museum. (*United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. 2014 Year in Review*)

- The late comedian Joan Rivers received a posthumous Grammy Award on February 8th for the audio version of her 2014 memoir "Diary of a Mad Diva," her 12th book. She won the award for "Best Spoken Word Album." It was Rivers' first Grammy. She was 81 at the time of her death in September 2014. (www.jta.org, 2-9-15) ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center Adult Ed Program

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FASCINATING EVENING TALK:

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEN LOST TRIBES"

BY F.I.U. PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TUDOR PARFITT

Sunday, March 15, 2015 - 7:00 pm at the KJCC

For three decades, F.I.U. Professor of Religious Studies, Tudor Parfitt, has been the world's leading authority on the "Lost Tribes of Israel." Periodically he disappears into isolated villages in the most remote areas of the world for his research. Much of his work consists of using DNA studies to determine if marginal tribal groups can be linked to Jewish ancestry.

In the 1990s, he worked with the Lemba tribe of southern Africa. Hearing the Lemba claim that their ancestors had carried a holy object called "The Ngoma" from the Middle East to Africa centuries ago, he heard echoes reminiscent of "the lost ark" and documented his findings in a book, "The Lost Ark of the Covenant." It earned him a nickname: the British Indiana Jones.

Come listen to this 21st century explorer, author, and fascinating speaker tell his first-hand tales.

Refreshments will be served.

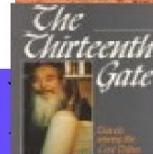
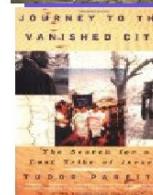
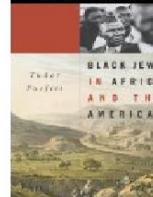
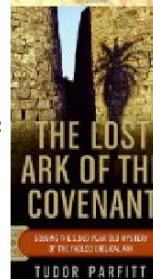
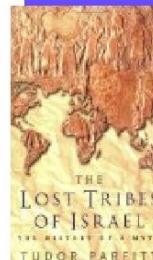


Photo Gallery

On January 25th, KJCC played host to the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF), as Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder and now acknowledged as one of the world's great innovators in developing techniques to rescue and restore vital coral reefs, spoke about his specialty to a nearly full house in the KJCC sanctuary. It was a boffo first effort by KJCC's new Tikkun Olam Committee, headed by Linda Kaplan. It was also the first use of KJCC's new high-def audio/visual system with its 13-foot drop-down screen, and it, too, was a huge success, giving Ken's Powerpoint presentation the brilliant visuals it deserved.



Ken and Linda address KJCC members and community guests, above.

In the group photos above and above right, Ken and CRF staff pose with Linda and David and Patti Gross, members of both KJCC and the CRF Board, who helped make the evening possible. At right, Linda stands with the donation painting made that evening to help raise money for CRF.





At left, new KJCC member Sherry Zwerdling, right, and good friend Natalie Dorf were happy to see each other and catch up during KJCC's annual Advertisers' dinner on January 16th. Natalie had brought one of that evening's food platters, but then realized once home that she'd left the platter at KJCC. But it wasn't there when she returned. And then Chai-Lights to the res-

cue. Richard Knowles, knowing wife Barbara had such a dish set, had loyally taken it home. A case of mistaken identity. Barbara saw the notice in Chai-Lights and returned the platter to Natalie. Bravo. —Gloria



Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner and Yardena Kamely lead the congregation in singing Hatikvah at the January 30th service, above.



Nineteen KJCCers traveled to Coral Gables' Actors Playhouse to see Ragtime on Sunday afternoon, February 1st.

With a cast of 40, it was the largest production ever put on at the Miracle Theatre, and it was terrific. Don Juan Seward II, who played the leading role of Colehouse Walker, Jr., gave a supreme song-and-dance performance, but every one of the leads was wonderful. Jules Seder gave enthusiastic thumbs-up for the orchestra.

We were joined by Jenny Margulies' mother Marika Evans, and Pauline's friend Kathy Acton. —Joyce Peckman





cycle of renewal in nature by blessing all the different fruits that grow in Israel (and, of course, by eating them and drinking four cups of "wine"). We sang, we danced,



we watered, we collected money for tree planting in Israel. Yom Huledet Sameach, Etzim!

- Gloria

Once again, on Sunday, February 1st, the KJCC Religious School celebrated one of its favorite holidays, Tu B'Shvat, the Birthday (or New Year) of the Trees. We do it each year by planting



fruit trees in our garden. This year we added a mango and a starfruit, thanks to Jane Friedman's generosity and also her husband Steve, who nobly and laboriously dug the holes. Before class, the students planted tomatoes, peppers, and strawberries in container gardens devised (and provided) by Steve. Towards the end of class the students were joined by board members, parents, and teachers for our annual mystical Tu B'Shvat seder, celebrating the



Keys Jewish Community Center

12th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday

March 22, 2015

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 12th
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai
+ \$12.00 for 12 years =
\$30.00

Join us in celebration as
we continue our efforts of
Tikkun Olam - repair the
world.

Limited seating - Please RSVP by
March 16th.

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com,
(305) 393-1182



All board photos courtesy of Richard and Eve Knowles.



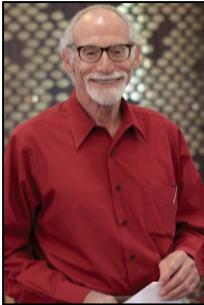
Sunday, Feb. 8th saw the KJCC Annual Meeting, at which each year's officers and board members are sworn in. Muriel Swartz elegantly conducted the ceremony, above. We installed four new board members this year: Ken Atlas, Dave Feder, Mitch Harvey and Barbara Knowles.



Sam Vinicur was sworn



in as president, and Erica Lieberman-Garrett as Sisterhood president. Bernie officially rejoined the board as immediate past-president. Luckily for all of us (and, yes, that includes you), Linda Pollack agreed to return and once again serve as KJCC treasurer.



KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Saturday, April 4, 2015

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 393-1162.

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,
Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will
be opening this to the public after March 22nd.
Vegetarian options are available - please request when
making your reservation.

PASSOVER

Donations.

Members: Adults \$50; Children 12 and under are our guests.

Non-Members: \$75



The entire newly elected KJCC Board, including all officers, directors and past presidents Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Steinbock and George Swartz, pose on the KJCC bema steps. The only person missing was Joyce Peckman, KJCC Corresponding Secretary, who was ill.



In the center photo, incoming president Sam Vinicur presents outgoing president Bernie Ginsberg with the traditional thank-you plaque. (See Nosh for the actual text.)

At right, the KJCC Religious School students, under the tutelage of *morah* (teacher) Yardena Kamely and KJCC musical director Jules Seder (behind the camera), serenade the new board with Hebrew songs.





At the brunch following the installation ceremony, which was organized and managed by Barbara Knowles, Education Chair Susan



Gordon, *morah* Yardena Kamely, and Ritual Chair Gloria Avner join the KJCC students in chanting Kiddush. Mikhaela Bitton and Oceana Gross lead the HaMotzi ceremony by slicing the challah. In the photo lower left, brunch hostess Barbara Knowles presents one cake to outgoing



president Bernie Ginsberg, and another to incoming president Sam Vinicur in the photo at bottom. (There was lots of cake, in addition to lox and bagels. We fed them and they came.)





On Saturday, February 14th, Jonah Gross and his family celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at KJCC.



Most B'nei Mitzvot start working on their *maftir* and *haftorah* portions six months in advance. Jonah's family decided three months ago to have their Bar Mitzvah with us, in their new synagogue, instead of back in California. The task could have been daunting, but Jonah practiced hard and did his *gansa mish-pocha* proud.
From his first

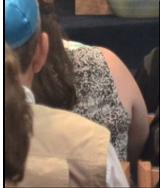
The top two photos were taken at Thursday's rehearsal with Rabbi Agler and still-prez Bernie helping with final prep.



Photos begin with these from Friday night's service, led by the entire Gross family.



moment on the bimah as emcee and co-leader (with mom Randy,





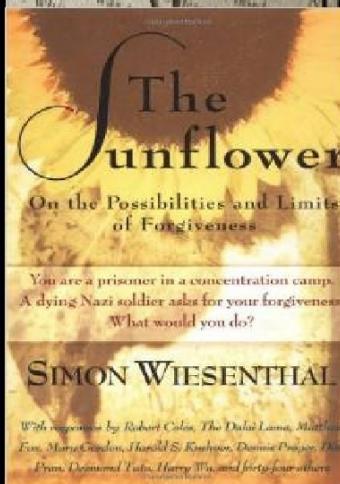
Sunday, April 12, 2015

7 pm

The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness

BOOK REVIEW

Rabbi Agler will facilitate our discussion. The book raises a profound question which touches all of us. Several copies are available in the KJCC library for you to read before coming to the Review.





prepared and chanted verses for each *aliyah*. All took their responsibility seriously. Particularly moving was Jonah's grandfather chanting for the second *aliyah*; then there was the soaring and beautiful chanting by college student, cousin and opera singer Einav, before Jonah's *maftir*.

Rabbi Agler's graceful leadership of the service enhanced the significance of this rite of passage.

The celebration afterward was a joyful one, and there is a rumor (backed with photographic evidence) that Jonah was visited by a large flying fish in the sanctuary on



dad Tomar, and sister Oshi), of the Friday night service the evening before, Jonah's poise, confidence, and competence was impressive. Family and friends came from the four corners of this continent and beyond. Our *shul* was full on a brilliant Saturday morning. Not only did Jonah chant his parts and all the blessings beautifully, but, for the first time ever, family members



the night of his party. After a *havdalah* service ended the sacred Sabbath on Saturday evening, Jonah honored his teachers and first (as he said) adult friends at KJCC, Dr. Bernard Ginsberg and me, by dedicating the first

KJCC Gift Shop



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



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



Representing the KJCC Sisterhood, Vice President (and education chair) Susan Gordon presents a relieved Jonah with the traditional Kiddush cup. He'd just gotten through both haftarah and maftir flawlessly. Doing the honors on behalf of the entire synagogue, past-president Bernie Ginsberg, who had

tutored and mentored Jonah, offers warm greetings to KJCC's newest adult member.



candle to us in a sweet and creative candle-lighting ceremony. We expect to see more of this talented young man (and, as a terrific trumpet player, a potential eventual replacement for Bernie as KJCC shofar blower) at future services. —Gloria Avner





At top, the final moment of quiet reverence at every KJCC service, when we say our final Kaddish in memory of the village of Susice in Czech Bohemia, a village destroyed by the Nazis and the original home of our cherished KJCC Holocaust Torah. Then it was time for celebration, as Jonah's family



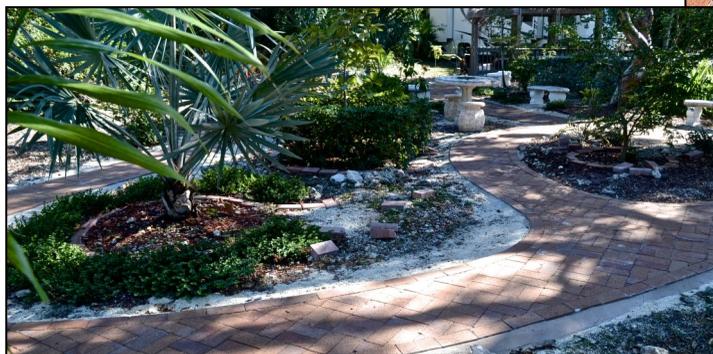
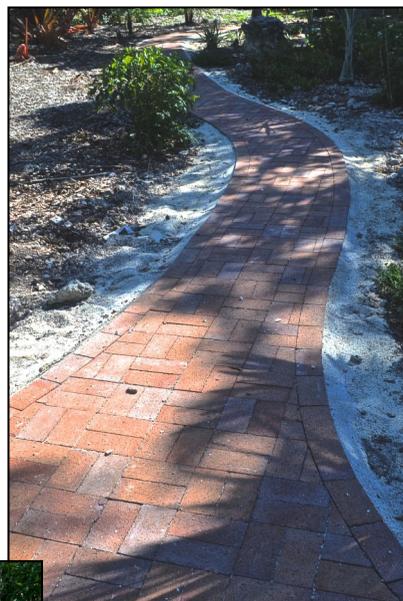
lifted him on a chair. Below, a couple of family photos.





On Sunday, February 15th, a sanctuary filled with eager Jewish food fans watched a humorous mini-film-festival on the subject of Jewish taste treats (and acquired tastes), as an appetizer before the full menu of food was served at KJCC's Jewish Food Extravaganza. Chaired by Sisterhood President Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Vice-President Susan Gordon, the event was well-attended, attractive, delicious, and made excellent use of our new audio-visual system. Some lucky people won elegant gift baskets (*Mazel Tov* to those who get breakfast at Bitton's Bistro and to all the other winners of services and products.) Thanks also to the generous members who donated to the baskets, who cooked the tasty traditional foods, the angels who underwrote expenses, and to all who attended.

—Gloria



The basic structure of our beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden is now complete. Elegant brick walkways now wind around and through every segment of the Garden, opening it up for endless casual strolling as well as quiet contemplation. Come and see.

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.

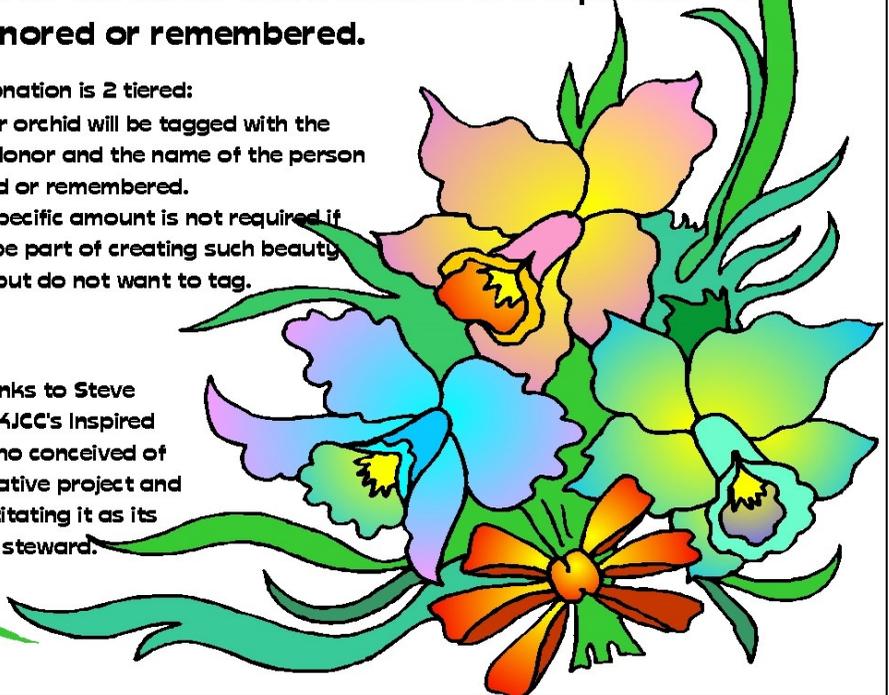
We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

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.



Coral Restoration

a Route to Tikkun Olam

World-renowned coral repairer Ken Nedimyer spoke in late January to an enthusiastic, near-full house at KJCC. The KJCC Tikkun Olam Committee has begun its work. Here's a report.

by Linda Kaplan

While Jewish activism has created many positive changes in other arenas, the only official Jewish organization in the U.S. that has a marine environment focus is the Tikkun

HaYam (Repair the Seas) program of Rabbi Ed Rosenthal from the Tampa-based Hillel. Rabbi Ed and his Scubi-Jews students frequently stay in our KJCC classroom when they come to the Keys to volunteer to replant coral. His work not only contributes to coral restoration, but has provided an avenue to connect his college students with their Jewish Heritage. One of his students, David

Steren, wrote an article for ReformJudaism.org. In this article he talks about how doing a night dive and experiencing the beauty of what surrounded him made him realize that "there is most certainly something greater than myself." David wrote: "by getting involved with Scubi-Jew I

came to understand that Judaism is more than prayers, laws and restrictions; and that other aspects of Judaism could resonate very strongly within me... Scubi Jew has shown me

another dimension of being Jewish that has kept me from rejecting it all. I have come to love the concepts of *tikkun olam*, honor of one's parents (who are

very proud of me), and respect for all of creation."

Rabbi Ed also lit a spark here

The above photo shows Patti Gross, member of both KJCC and the CRF Board, transporting farmed elkhorn coral to a transplantation site off Islamorada. The photo at left shows a healthy new planting of coral after about a year. Both photos courtesy of David Gross.



when he pointed out that we at the KJCC are uniquely suited to be the first U.S. Jewish congregation to take action and contribute to



positive change in repairing the seas. This idea, in part, led the new KJCC *Tikkun Olam* committee to reach out to the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) and together organize a community event in the context of our Sunday night education series. We were honored that Ken Nedimyer, CRF's founder and now literally in demand world-wide, was able to join us on January 25th to help spread the word about CRF's work and offer a wonderful message of hope that the reefs can be saved and restored. Over seventy people filled the sanctuary. Many were guests here at KJCC for the first time,

At top, Coral Restoration Foundation volunteers arrange the positions of new coral they'll shortly be planting in a barren area that was once rich with coral. At right, CRF volunteers hang coral sprigs onto a coral "tree." In a year or so, volunteers will once again visit this "tree" to harvest its healthy coral for planting. Photos courtesy of CRF.

and remarked at how welcome we made them feel.

Ken showed stunning slides – it was particularly riveting to see them on our brand new drop-down screen and high-def projector system – of the local reefs with abundant elkhorn and staghorn coral in the early 70s. He then showed slides of the exact same locations today, with dead reefs having no coral. The evening was quite an education. Ken discussed the many stressors causing the dramatic decline. Extreme cold in 1977 and 2010 killed much of the coral, and heat in 2014 caused coral bleaching and the death of more. Other stressors include the high level of coastal development and such as white pox disease, caused by human sewage. Those who value the reefs can know that paying for the sewer system at your

home or business, though admittedly painful, is the reason that at least this one significant stressor has been largely eliminated.

Another significant cause of coral loss was the die-off of the *Diadema* (sea urchins) in 1986, which is believed to have been caused by bacteria that came through the Panama Canal via contaminated water in a ship's ballast; the ballast should have been cleaned



during passage through the canal, but apparently was not. Once the water-borne bacteria spread through the current it killed approximately 98 percent of all black spiny sea urchins within six weeks. Overfishing of parrotfish, tangs and other types of cleaner fish also contributed to coral loss. Why are sufficient numbers of cleaner fish important? They eat algae, which keeps the reef clean, which allows coral spawns to settle and grow into coral.

After all the bad news concerning the myriad stressors killing coral, Ken showed a slide which said "Is There Hope?" The good news is that the work of the Coral Restoration Foundation provides a great deal of hope. Ken described how CRF, after years of trial-and-error studies on what techniques actually work, takes small broken fragments of coral, does genetic testing on them and grows them in their five nurseries in the keys. When the corals are approximately two inches long, they are then hung on PVC trees. CRF discovered that the corals grow significantly faster when they are hung on the trees, which lets the ocean flow through them. After a year the coral on the trees is then "out-planted" to the reefs.

Genetic testing on the coral lets CRF identify the corals that are heat- or cold-resistant as well as those that better handle more acidification. (The oceans are becoming more acidified.) The coral nurseries developed in the Keys have been so successful that the CRF has been asked to assist in the development of coral nurseries in other countries; nurseries have already been developed in Bonaire and Columbia. CRF is also scheduled to help create coral nurseries in Jamaica, Mustique, Roatan and Curacao. Like statistics showing growth and success? In 2003, at its beginning, when it was just beginning to develop and refine coral re-planting techniques and understand the coral eco-system, CRF

planted six corals. In 2009 it planted 252 corals. In 2011 it planted, for the first time, over 1,000 corals. In 2014, CRF planted over 15,000 corals. In a wonderful development, corals in the nurseries and on the reef have been observed spawning, which further increases their impact.

So where does KJCC fit in to all of this? *Tikkun Olam*, remember, means to "repair the world." We don't live near mountains, so others will have to help repair that aspect of our earth. We live as neighbors with the sea.

Like all non-profits that do vital work, CRF relies on volunteers to help, especially the slow, underwater work of re-planting corals piece by piece. KJCC's Tikkun Olam committee is working to organize a dive group for Coral Restoration dives. (CRF depends on private contributions for 80 percent of its funds. So there will always be that component of helping.) We hope to have our non-diving members participate in volunteer activities, and we are working to integrate a Repair the Seas component into our religious school

curriculum. Other goals of our committee include finding ways to assist our students with their own volunteer reef-restoration activities and to encourage other religious organizations and community groups to join with us in our support of coral restoration. It might be, as Jews, our special mandate to "repair the world," but the work is important for everyone. ◇

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Our sincere appreciation to Patti Gross for her help with this article. Patti and husband David Gross are KJCC members and also long-time supporters, coral-planters and now board members of the Coral Restoration Foundation.

PURIM UNMASKED: Behind And Beneath The Story Of Purim

Purim begins on March 4th. We know that the Book of Esther was the only one of the Hebrew scriptures not found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Perhaps it hadn't been written yet. Or maybe the dutiful ascetics who lived in desolate Qumram just couldn't quite figure out what to make of this unusual story. It has puzzled millennia of scholars and spiritual seekers as well. We present here some of the complex and fascinating aspects of this very different Jewish holiday.

by Gloria Avner

Take out the costumes, the crowns, the beards and the bottles. It's Purim time. We all know the surface of the story. Let's look beneath the mask for more. It is, after all, a Jewish holiday and the only one that will be honored, as the Talmud tells us, in the world to come.

There is something about masks that excite imagination. World cultures have used them spiritually and educationally since the time of ancient Greece. From Native America to deepest Africa to the far reaches of Asia, people have used masks to tell their stories. We tell these stories to ourselves – tales of divinity and heroes, tricksters and fools. Masks make us not ourselves. And yet, in the process of concealing, sometimes something hidden is revealed.

That certainly happens at Purim. Our children dress up. They take on the characters of Esther and Haman, Mordechai, and King Ahashverosh. They get to feel what it is like to be admired or despised, to wield absolute power or to dispense wisdom. I have seen children cry when booed. Identification is powerful.

The themes of hiding and exposure permeate not just the story, but also the very title "*Megillat Esther*." Each word has two meanings. "*Megillah*," besides referring to a document rolled up as a scroll, means "to

expose." "Esther," in addition to being a woman's name, means "concealment." The whole document's meaning can then be seen as "revelation of that which is hidden."

Take the basic story. The plot is filled with co-incidences, mistaken identity, and happenstance, each of which leads to the unimaginable end.

To recap: Seventy years have transpired since the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. The Jews are in exile in Persia, under the hand of King Ahashverosh, the ruler of almost all of the Middle East. The king throws a large banquet for all his subjects (actually, in honor of the captivity of the Jews). He summons his beautiful wife, Queen Vashti, to appear before him. She rudely refuses and he subsequently has her killed. After that, an empire-wide search is made of the most beautiful woman in the realm to become the king's new wife. Esther, a Jewish exile, "wins" and is taken to the palace, though no one knows that she's Jewish. If the degradation of a Jewish girl forcibly taken to the palace of a ruling despot is not enough, her guardian, Mordechai, one of the leaders of that generation, abandons his place among the sages to sit day and night in front of the king's gate in his concern over Esther. The king's vizier, the wicked Haman, is promoted to prime minister. A personal vendetta

against Mordechai develops, and he decides to visit his anger upon the entire Jewish people. A death sentence is issued against all the Jews in the king's provinces, and Haman builds a special gallows upon which to hang Mordechai. Things go from bad to worse. However, on one fateful night, the king awakes from his sleep and learns that Mordechai had once saved his life. He grants him royal honors. Haman is killed. The decree is rescinded. And the Jews high-handedly defeat their enemies.

Everything in this story is a paradox. Each event that seemed bad for the Jews proved to be for their good. The royal banquet in celebration of Israel's exile provided the very means for Esther to enter the king's palace. The fact that Esther was abducted allowed her to bring about Haman's demise. The fact that Mordechai sat idly by the palace gate allowed him to overhear a conspiracy and save the king's life. Haman's rise to power was the very thing that produced his conflict with the Jews and brought about his downfall. He was even hung on the very gallows he built for Mordechai, and all his wealth, which had made him so influential in the first place, was given to Esther. The very day appointed for the annihilation of the Jews was the day of their greatest victory over their enemies. It is the day on which we celebrate Purim.

Above all, we see that everything that seemed to obscure God's presence, everything of ill-fate, and the worst of human intentions, was actually the very means by which God was manipulating history to bring about the redemption of the Jews. Everything began to change on "that night the king awoke from his sleep" (Esther 6:1). The king, says the Talmud, actually alludes to God, the King of kings. On that night, God awoke from the sleep of concealment, and began to re-

veal His presence in the world below.

Many scholars have remarked on the total absence of God's name from this *Megillah*, alone of all books in the Bible. God makes no showy miracles here: no parting of the seas, no manna on the ground. Unlike all previous persecutions, exile from Persia was not even an option. At other times in history, those in power did not want to kill us. It was much more profitable to leave us be or to convert us. It was only in the times of Purim and Nazi Germany that *Amalek* held sway with hatred so total that only annihilation of the Jews would do.

Those who focus on hidden meanings say that the hand of God is evident everywhere in this *Megillah*, even though the name is not. For every crisis encountered, they say, God already had a solution in place.

Purim teaches us how to relate to God in a time when seas don't split, when bushes don't burn, when plagues don't befall our enemies, when the workings of God are concealed beneath the surface appearance of things, even when those things sometimes seem disastrous.

In Purim, we celebrate miraculous reversals of fortune. From assured mass destruction, the tables were turned, and in the space of twenty-four hours the Jews, who had been deported by victorious Babylon to that area only a few generations before, were suddenly routing every anti-Semite in Persia, the conqueror of Babylon and then the world's most vast and powerful empire.

Ever since that day, Jews celebrate Purim's message: no matter how bleak, how dark and how hopeless a situation can appear, the Almighty has guaranteed our survival and an answer has already been prepared for every difficulty.

Our mode of celebration is one of the most uncharacteristic in the annals of Jewish tradition: the sober, intellectual People of the Book turn to the bottle and are commanded to get drunk! Perhaps we are supposed to

Everything in this story is a paradox. Each event that seemed bad for the Jews proved to be for their good. Haman was even hung on the gallows he built for Mordechai.

attain a state of mind other than the normal, a consciousness more attuned to the illogic of the day. And in our intoxicated state of joy, we clothe ourselves in colorful masks and costumes, deliver gifts of money to the poor, and give treats to our neighbors.

The costumes and masks are vivid reminders that, as in the Purim story, things in our own day are not always what they seem. Below the visible surface, a mysterious, hidden plan is unfolding every moment, silently steering world history and our fates as well. If we are alert, aware, and appreciative of all that comes to us, we can play our parts well. None of us ever knows how the story will end. That knowledge is reserved for a higher power. ♦

Blotting out Haman

by Gloria Avner & Joyce Peckman

Maïmonides, the great 12th century sage and rabbi, teaches, "The reading of the *Megillah* certainly supersedes all other *mitzvot*." We don't just read it; we interact with it! Whenever Haman's name is read out, which occurs 54 times, the congregation makes noise to blot out his name. Although *Megillat Esther* has been read for almost 2000 years (and is, interestingly, the only book of the Hebrew canon not included in the Dead Sea Scrolls), the noisemaking can be traced back to the Tosafists (the leading French and German rabbis of the 13th century). They based it on a passage in the Midrash, where the verse "Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek" (Deuteronomy 25:19) is explained to mean "even from wood and stones." Haman, the enemy of the Jews in this story, is associated with all those who have tried to destroy the Jewish

people throughout history.

Sublimating the rage against enemies past and present into the *mitzvah* of blotting out the name of Haman, Jews around the world developed their own customs. A custom developed of writing the name of Haman, believed to be the offspring of Amalek, on two smooth stones, and knocking them together until the name was blotted out. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name stamped with their feet as a sign of contempt. (Amalek, you will remember, was the first nation to wage war on the Israelites as they trudged out of Egypt, and upon whom war was waged by both Saul and David, but though the instructions from on High were to eliminate them altogether, those instructions were never fully carried out.)

In France, children used to take smooth stones, write or engrave Haman's name on them, and strike them together during the Megillah reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to literally erase it. In Afghanistan, the children drew pictures of Haman on planks or cardboard. During the Megillah reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on, making a lot of noise. Wooden sandals were held in the hands and clapped together, also making a loud noise. The synagogue carpets were taken up and the congregants trampled underneath them, in case Haman was hiding there. In Germany on Purim eve, torches containing gunpowder would be ignited. During the Megillah reading, the gunpowder exploded with

Jews sublimated the rage against enemies past and present into the mitzvah of blotting out the name of Haman, and developed their own customs.

a deafening noise. A *grager* is the noisemaker we use to drown out the name of Haman during our KJCC reading of the Megillah. It is derived from the Polish word meaning "rattle." Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the *grager* as a part of their Purim celebrations. It is *ra'ashan* in Hebrew, from the word *ra'ash*, or noise.

Other communities continued the blotting out of Haman

and celebration of victory outside of the synagogues. In some towns in Italy, the youngsters would divide into two camps and throw nuts at each other. The adults rode through the streets of the town on horseback, holding cypress branches in their hands. They also placed an effigy of Haman in a prominent place, and encircled it, to the sound of trumpets. In Egypt, young men rode through the Jewish neighborhoods on horsebacks, camels and donkeys, in memory of the verse "and they brought him on horseback through the street of the city."

In Germany, instead of *hamentashen*, Jews would make doll-shaped cakes called *haman*, and gleefully break off the heads before devouring them. In one town in Germany, on the eve of Purim, two candles would be lit in the synagogue. One was called "Haman" and the other "Zeresh" (Haman's wife). The candles were allowed to burn down completely. "Thus should the haters of Israel be burnt."

In Persia, the children prepared a large effigy of Haman, and filled its clothes with gunpowder. In the middle of the courtyard, they set up a large stick, from which they "hung" Haman. They then threw oil over the effigy and set it aflame.

North African Jews also took the concept of burning haters seriously. In Algeria, children lit large numbers of wax candles to light up the home for the Purim meal. In Libya, an open fire was built, and youngsters threw an effigy of Haman into the fire. Then they

In Germany, instead of hamentaschen, Jews would make doll-shaped cakes called haman, and gleefully break off the heads before devouring them.

jumped over the fire, competing to see who could jump the highest. In Tunisia, the schoolchildren participated in burning an effigy of Haman. The younger children made small

"Hamans" out of paper, and the older children made a large "Haman" out of rags, old clothes and straw. All the townspeople gathered by the school. A large bonfire was prepared and everyone stood round it. By turn, the children

threw the "Hamans" they had made into the fire. After all of the "Hamans" had been thrown on the fire, salt and sulfur were added. Then the participants stood round the fire, hitting the burning Hamans with special sticks that they had prepared in honor of Purim and shouting "Long live Mordechai, cursed be Haman, blessed be Esther, cursed be Zeresh."

Modern Israelis celebrate by taking to the streets for parades, musical performances and general carousing. In Tel Aviv the streets are full of music and noise, as children run around bopping each other with soft but noisy plastic hammers. The partying is known as *ad lo yada* – meaning "until he didn't know." The idea is that adults are supposed to get so drunk that they can't distinguish between "blessed be Mordechai" and "cursed be Haman." In many communities, religious and secular, they take this commandment seriously.

Men's Club will host our partying at KJCC this year. We might not go on *ad lo yada*, but there will be pizza, salad, *hamentashen*, soda and schnapps. Our children will sing, we intend to have lots of fun, and we will of course read the entire Megillah as we're instructed. See you at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th. Bring your noisemakers and costumes (be creative, have fun, it's *Purim*) and desires to bless Mordechai and curse Haman, but please leave the gunpowder at home. ◇

Modern Israelis celebrate by taking to the streets for parades, musical performances and general carousing. In Tel Aviv the children run around bopping each other with soft but noisy plastic hammers.

Saving Spring for Passover and How Jews Leap to Keep it

by Gloria Avner

Everyone knows that Spring begins on the vernal equinox, March 21st. Yet it wasn't always so, at least for Jews, and in some ways it still isn't exactly so.

In Temple days, the Sanhedrin was responsible for declaring the beginning of springtime, and weather-wise the moment was unpredictable. Our ancestors were very clever. They knew the lunar calendar was important. And they knew our holy days were tied to the energy of the seasons of the year. We come from a people intimately connected to the land and agriculture. We pay attention to the phases of the moon and look for first stars each week before beginning a *havdalah* service that says goodbye to *Shabbat*.

The Sanhedrin always weighed a number of elements before officially declaring that Spring had appeared. They even took into account road conditions; Spring always followed the rainy season in Judea/Palestine, and our governing body didn't want impassable roads to make it difficult for pilgrims to fulfill their *mitzvot* and bring their "first fruits" to the Temple.

But the destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. and the temporary disappearance of the Sanhedrin changed everything. With a strictly lunar calendar in place (without adjustments to account for the length of the solar year) and no Sanhedrin around to make adjustments on the fly, a time conceivably could have come when Chanukah could appear in springtime and Passover in the autumn. That couldn't be allowed to happen. Spring could not be just a date on a calendar; there had to be real-life evidence of spring-like conditions: Trees needed to be blossoming; it needed to be bright and green, and warmer; the season

al change had to be felt both in the heart and bones. The energy of Passover – of our freedom, liberation and growth – is inextricably tied to the energy of spring, just as Shavuot and Sukkot, our agricultural holidays, are aligned with the energy of the season in which they appear.

We owe our thanks to Hillel and his rabbinical court, who lived in Herod's Judea in the generation before the Common Era. Hillel foresaw the coming disbanding of the Sanhedrin, and with his court devised the perpetual calendar we use today. Seven times in every nineteen-year cycle, approximately every three years, we add a 30-day leap month to our calendar – a second Adar – so that Nisan (the first month of the year as declared in

Exodus) can be delayed just long enough to assure that Passover will forever be aligned with the energy of Springtime, always coming after the equinox and always on a full moon.

As you sit among friends and family at your *seder* table this year, think of that full moon rising out of the ocean, feel the new growth energy tied to this time of year, and say thank you to Rabbi Hillel for assuring that we use the best of both worlds, the lunar and solar, the sacred and secular, to keep our holy days intact and powerful.

This year we have a perfect place for you to celebrate the vernal equinox of Saturday, March 21st. Come at 10 a.m. to KJCC and spend part of the first day of spring in community at KJCC, taking part in Shabbat morning services and learning through Torah study with Rabbi Agler. We don't know exactly what he will be talking about, but we do know it will be engaging, stimulating, educational, and totally in keeping with the energy of new growth. Actually, new growth happens at every one of Rabbi Agler's services, but on this day we'll all be particularly attuned to our ancient connections to the seasons and the land. ◇

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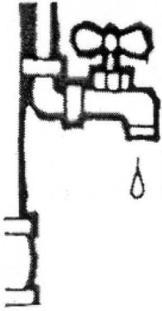
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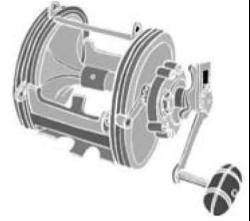
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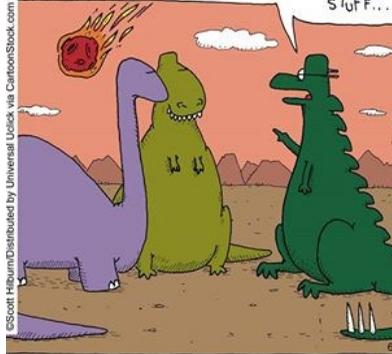


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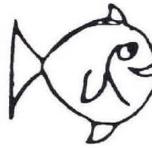
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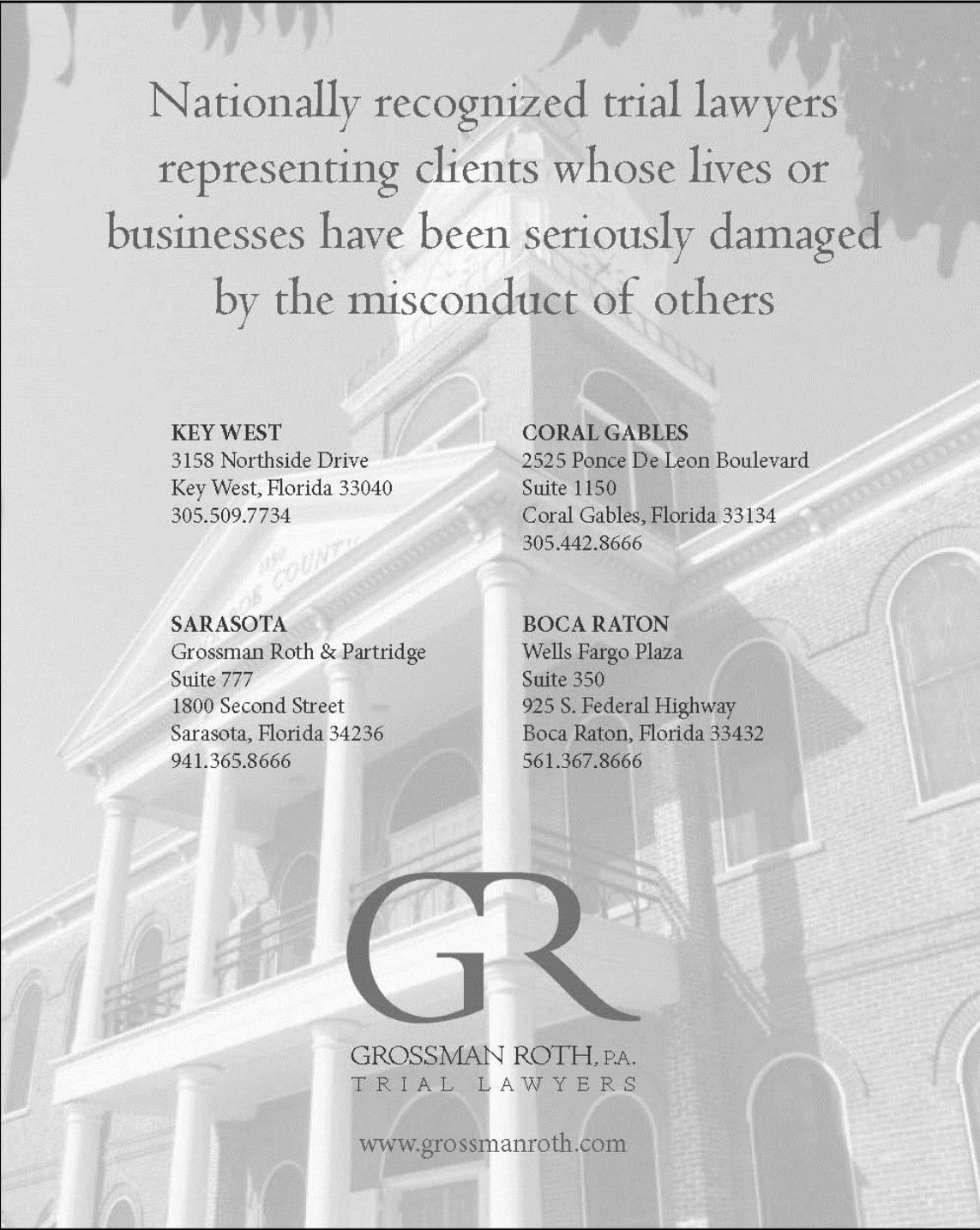
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