

Chai~Lights



June 1 - August 31, 2022

2 Sivan - 4 Elul, 5782

Photo Gallery — Pages 17-22

We Celebrate Shavuot — Pages 24-28

Trip to Israel with Joyce, Part II — Pages 29-31

TAGS 10th Anniversary — Pages 32-34



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Names denote leaders of Friday Services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30pm			1 JUN	2	3 Gloria Avner Yizkor: Joyce Peckman Shavuot Dairy Potluck Dinner <i>Michael & Lorena Kaufman & Donna Bolton</i>	4
5	6 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Steve Hartz <i>Steve & Jan Hartz</i>	11
12 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	13 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	14	15	16	17 Erica Lieberman Garrett & Art Itkin <i>Steve & Amelia Kasinof</i>	18
19	20 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	21	22	23	24 Laurie Blum <i>Sisterhood</i>	25
26	27 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	28 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	29	30	1 JUL Shabbabaque 6 p.m. Randy Klein-Gross <i>Lynn Nobil, Joel & Sara Cohen</i>	2
3	4 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	5	6	7	8 Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack <i>Steve & Jan Hartz</i>	9
10	11 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Donna Bolton & Erica Lieberman-Garrett <i>Joyce Peckman</i>	16
17	18 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Joyce Peckman <i>Sisterhood</i>	23
24	25 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	26 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	27	28	29 Joe Shabathai <i>Kathy & Joe Shabathai</i>	30
31	1 AUG Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	2	3	4	5 <i>Sisterhood</i>	6
7 Tisha B'Av	8 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Joyce Peckman <i>Loni & David Padden</i>	13
14	15 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	16	17	18	19 Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman <i>Jane Friedman</i>	20
21	22 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	30 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	31	Many of our activities will be moving on-site to the KJCC. Please check the weekly announcements for details.		

2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



Growing up, I found as I got older, being Jewish meant more and more to me. 7th grade was really the turning point for me. Hebrew school class was taught by an old orthodox rabbi. Rabbi Yehuda was phenomenal, and no one ever influenced me more. Oddly, the other students didn't share my enthusiasm, and he wasn't retained. But I'll never forget him.

On the ritual side, 7th grade meant turning 13, and having my Bar Mitzvah. By that point, we had been going to Friday night services every week, for several years. My goal was to lead the entire service, and the cantor was given the night off. We still had the rabbi, but I did all the Hebrew parts. It was the best day of my life, until the next day replaced it.

I was incredibly nervous, and it didn't help that I had such a long

Haftorah. But my Gimmel teacher said both the Maftir and Haftorah were perfect. I'd say that was my goal, but one I'd surely felt unobtainable. My tutor was a lawyer, but our one orthodox member, in addition to being a friend of my dad. Even now, I treasure those memories.

Summer is fast approaching, and I'm happy to say I expect we will have a number of live events. I think we will even be able resume the Shabbabaque! Although it wasn't safe last year, its return feels long overdue.

On a more somber note, there is still fighting in the Ukraine. I continue to pray for those under siege. I wish everyone in our membership a happy and healthy summer. ◇

Shabbat Service Leaders

June 3	Gloria Avner / Yizkor: Joyce Peckman
June 10	Steve Hartz
June 17	Erica Lieberman Garrett & Art Itkin
June 24	Laurie Blum
July 1	Randy Klein-Gross
July 8	Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack
July 15	Donna Bolton & Erica Lieberman Garrett
July 22	Joyce Peckman
July 29	Joe Shabathai
Aug 12	Joyce Peckman
Aug 19	Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

June – August 2022

Many of our activities will be moving on-site to the KJCC.
Please check the weekly announcements for details.

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Please contact us to be placed on email list.
Friday, June 3	Shavuot Dairy Potluck Dinner– Coordinate Dishes & RSVP with Joyce Peckman 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services & Yizkor led by Gloria Avner
Friday, June 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Steve Hartz
Sunday, June 12	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, June 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Erica Lieberman Garrett & Art Itkin
Friday, June 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat and Yizkor Services led by Laurie Blum on Zoom
Tuesday, June 28	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club “The Last Kings of Shanghai” by Jonathon Kaufman. Meeting on Zoom
Friday, July 1	6 p.m. Shabbabaque – must RSVP Erica Lieberman Garrett by June 28 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Randy Klein-Gross
Friday, July 8	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack
Friday, July 15	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Donna Bolton & Erica Lieberman-Garrett
Friday, July 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Joyce Peckman
Tuesday, July 26	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club “The Paperbark Shoe” by Goldie Goldbloom
Friday, July 29	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Joe Shabathai
Friday, August 5	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services
Sunday August 7	Tisha B’Av
Friday, August 12	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Joyce Peckman
Friday, August 19	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Donna Bolton & Jane Friedman
Friday, August 26	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services
Tuesday, August 30	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club. Meeting at Joyce’s House.

NOSH

Erica Wins Joel Cohen Award:

Erica Lieberman Garrett was named winner of KJCC’s highest honor at our Family First night Seder. This award is chosen each year by past honorees only, given to the person contributing the most over the longest period of time to the leadership, well being, growth and daily functioning of our congregation. Here are the words inscribed on her plaque: For Years of leadership, in positions great and small, Treasurer and Past President of Sisterhood, Writer of Thank-Yous for our Board, Service leader and piano player, event organizer and Kitchen Maven, for this we honor you, all while you care for patients and make chicken soup for friends. Mazel Tov! See p. 21 for picture.

Book Club Makes Changes

We had an enjoyable meeting in April, some of us live (thank you Linda Pollack) and some of us on Zoom. We would like to continue to do this as it enables those of us in town to get together and those of us out of town to still participate, which we all enjoy. We will not always have a movie to watch but we can enjoy snacks and conversation regardless.

The big news is that we are changing our meeting dates to the last Tuesday of the month, instead of Mondays. If you cannot come for the entire meeting, perhaps you can squeeze in a few minutes to say hello. The time remains at 12:30 p.m. See Poster for 3 months of details on P.10. Note that we also changed the coming book selections by inserting *Hotel Moscow* by Talia Carner for May 31 as it was felt that the subject was timely and should be addressed earlier rather than later. Please contact Joyce for her address and let her know you will be attending.

KJCC Sisterhood Does Good

The Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood collected articles in April for the Domestic Abuse Shelter. Since these women and children usually leave with whatever is on their backs, we felt it important to help. We had great response and decided to focus on the children’s needs. When the woman from the shelter arrived to pick up the collection, we stuffed her station wagon FULL of sheets, towels, children’s clothing, children’s shoes and toys. Before we decided to focus on the children, there was a great response with women’s clothing donations. We were also able to donate two full SUVs worth of women’s clothing to the MARC House. ◇

Anniversaries

June

	Years
1st	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark36
5th	Erica Lieberman Garrett & Ron Garrett28
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg63
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman26
10th	Scott & Sharon Greenstein38
12th	Steven & Jan Hartz46
12th	William & Donna Bolton29
19th	Mindy & Richard Agler46
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake35
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax48
28th	Lloyd & Rae Wruble.....53
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin52
29th	Jerry & Betty Small53
29th	Oran Kurtz & Lucinda Hesterman

July

2nd	Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross22
9th	Terry Willner-Tainow & Jon Tainow50
18th	Gary & Laurie Grossinger

August

3rd	Augie & Kristy Moss.....9
4th	Arnold & Tina Klein.....56
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe.....65
14th	Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer..50
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts54
15th	Richard & Barbara Knowles23
16th	Ira & Shirley Stein64
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller.....45

ONEG SPONSORS

June 3	Shavuot Dinner Sponsored by Michael & Lorena Kaufman	July 8	Steve & Jan Hartz Celebrating Steve's Birthday
June 3	Donna Bolton Celebrating Her Birthday	July 15	Joyce Peckman Celebrating Her Birthday
June 10	Steve & Jan Hartz Celebrating Their Anniversary	July 22	Sisterhood Celebrating Seeing Everyone
June 17	Steve & Amelia Kasinof Celebrating Amelia's Birthday	July 29	Kathy & Joe Shabathai Celebrating Leading Service
June 24	Sisterhood Celebrating the Summer Season	Aug 5	Sisterhood Celebrating the New Month
July 1	Lynn Nobil In honor of her parents Joel and Sara Cohen	Aug 12	Loni & David Padden Celebrating Lily's Bat Mitzvah
July 1	Michael and Lorena Kaufman Sponsoring Shabbabaque Dinner Celebrating Independence.	Aug 19	Jane Friedman Celebrating Steve's Birthday

HOW CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CAN INSTANTLY BECOME PERMANENT, LIVING MEMORIALS

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

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

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

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

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for information, or send your desired inscription to lindap4000@ymail.com.

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

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

CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for rates.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: : To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Erica Lieberman Garrett, 305-393-1162, or email her at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

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

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225. The Caring Kehilah Committee is calling and checking in on our socially distant members. Call Laurie Blum, 414-698-5647 if you wish to request that someone be contacted.

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

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

June, July, & August Birthdays

June

2nd..... Barbara Osder
 2nd..... Myra Kaplan
 3rd Abraham Rakov
 3rd Elanor Forbes
 5th Dorothy Wolfe
 5th Joseph Sachs
 6th Donna Bolton
 6th Nancy Kluger
 6th Suzanne Gilson
 7th Carrie Smith
 7th Joan P. Wohl
 9th Renee Brodie
 9th Zoe Moshe
 13th Jeff Miller
 13th Justin Greenbaum
 14th Jennifer Nobil
 15th William Bolton
 16th Marvin Blumenfeld
 17th Leo Haviv
 18th Amelia Kasinof
 18th Kim Haviv
 20th Harvey Klein
 21st..... Aaron Quesada
 21st..... Taryn Nobil
 22nd..... James patrick Brennan
 24th Delaney Rohde
 24th Rita Bromwich
 27th Frank Emkey
 27th Kristy Moss
 28th Alan Cooper
 30th Bob Friedman
 30th Milo Tainov

July

1st..... Alex Hudson
 1st..... Eitan Loi-Kamely
 1st..... Jennifer Gilson
 1st..... Patti Gross
 2nd..... Dan Levi
 2nd..... Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
 3rd Joseph Moss

3rd Michael Kaufman
 4th Mindy Rosenthal
 7th Lucy Moss
 9th Joyce Peckman
 11th Steven Hartz
 12th Dana Grace
 12th Miriam Frankel
 12th Rebecca M. Schur
 12th Richard Steinberg
 13th Dot Brooking
 14th David Gross
 14th Paul Eric Bernstein
 17th John Hawver
 17th Shira Goldman
 18th Sage Indy Leofsky
 19th Matt Hesterman-Kutz
 20th Roosmary Benowitz

August

4th Eric Greenstein
 4th Jessica Forman
 8th Hank Ryan Casey
 8th Sean Kaufman
 9th Arnold Klein
 9th Delia Grace Smith
 9th Eric Freundlich
 10th Barbara Smith
 10th Emma Feig
 13th Gina Moritz
 13th Stephan Friedman
 14th Joey Lindenbaum
 15th Danielle Zinner
 15th Patricia Isenberg
 16th Alan Lindenbaum
 16th Alison Thompson
 17th Tina Klein
 19th Pamela Friedman
 20th Amanda Nobil
 20th Eran Tromer
 20th Loni Padden
 21st..... Rachel Zinner
 22nd..... Murray Blitzter
 26th Mikhaela Bitton
 30th Robert Temkin
 31st..... Brynn Borisoff

In Memoriam – June 2022

David Gitin

By Gloria Avner

Leo Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer &
Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Louis R. Coltman

By Barnet O. Coltman

Bea Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg

Yolanda Haviv

By Leo Haviv

Max Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Ruth Rosen

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Rose Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Esther R. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Sam Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Sharon Grossinger

By Gary & Laurie Grossinger

Andrew Hutchison

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Lucy Kaufman

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Emilia Mendez

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Samuel Segal

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Lois Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn

Moshe Sages

By Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

Irwin Grossinger

By Gary & Laurie Grossinger

Samuel Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Celestina Bravo-Mendez

By Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Arthur Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Jacob Maxwell Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Leslie Peckman

By Joyce Peckman

Milton Lang

By Skip Rose

Norman James Schuman

By Adam & Judy Starr

Mark White

By Susan White

Leo Wolynetz

By Erica Lieberman Garrett

Morris Rose

By Skip Rose

Carl Roy

By Medina Roy

Candi Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock

Rose Fine

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Fred Doellefeld

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Jean Shaw

By Skip Rose

Jan Finer

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Leonard Tobin

By Andrew M. Tobin

In Memoriam – July 2022

Jack Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Laura Bofshever

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

Ronald Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Margaret Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg

Miriam Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Leon Kirschenbaum

By Medina Roy

Beth Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Nettie Goodman

By Gloria Avner

William Owen

By Nancy L. Cohn

Jacob Ratchik

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Les Reitman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Fred Ross

By Joyce Peckman

Frank Stanley Sachs

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Alan Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Abraham L. Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

In Memoriam – July 2022 Cont.

John Carson

By Scott & Sharon Greenstein

Dorothy Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Otto Kluger

By Nancy Kluger

Harold Rosenthal

By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal

Morgan Rowen

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Harvey Kelman

By Elaine Schulberg

Stanley H. Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

Mollie Z. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Milton Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

Henrietta Zinner

By Donald Zinner

Manya Starr

By Adam & Judy Starr

Ben Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock

Alfred Eichler

By Judith Weber

Wally Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Mack Swartz

By George & Muriel Swartz

Frieda Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memoriam – August 2022

Sunny Andracchio

By Zoe Berk-Moshe

Ralph Bofshever

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

Mr. Jacob Ephraim Brush

By James Brush

Ethel Feinberg

By Hanna David

Sheldon David Horowitz

By Beth Horowitz

Shirley Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman Garrett

Mollie Lawent

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Isaac Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Priscilla Leshin

By Joan Boruszak

Gary W. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Jesse Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg

Chanoch Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Billie Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman Garrett

Burton Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Sidney Stark

By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Dick Bromwich

By Rita Bromwich

Sandra Kanarek

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Henry Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Shlomo Kaboli

By Yardena Kamely

Max Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman Garrett

Isaac Cohen Pardo

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Josephine Margulies

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Howard Shutan

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Olga Schuman

By Adam & Judy Starr

Erwin Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Chanoch Shiloh

By Jan Price

Martha Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Meyer G. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Albert White

By Susan White

Joel Reed Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Tom Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

Samuel Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



Sisterhood Book Club



Congregation Ohr HaYam

~ Books and dates for the coming months ~

We have changed to **Tuesdays** ~

Please Note Date, Location, and Book Changes

Tuesday, May 31, 2022, ~ Hotel Moscow by Talia Carner at Joyce Peckman's house

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 ~ The Last Kings of Shanghai by Jonathan Kaufman

Tuesday, July 26, 2022 ~ The Paperbark Shoe by Goldie Goldbloom



Story of an American woman, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, who travels to Russia shortly after the fall of communism, and finds herself embroiled in a perilous mafia conspiracy that could irrevocably destroy her life.



The extraordinary forgotten history of two Jewish families who helped transform China into a global economic powerhouse.



A beautiful and mesmerizing book. Reading it is like slipping inside the skin of one Gin Toad, an albino who accepts a marriage proposal from an abusive husband, moves to a farm in the Australian outback, becomes a wife and mother, and then falls in love.

We will Zoom and meet in person. An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.

Let us know if you would like to host a meeting.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman



It felt so good to be back in our KJCC Social hall on Friday April 15th, celebrating Passover together, live & in person. The evening truly felt just as the flyer read: The KJCC Sisterhood first night *Mishpacha* Seder. It was like a large family gathering of 35 extended family members, sitting around the table, enjoying our Passover Seder. Thank you to all of the leaders of the Seder; to Susan Gordon who organized the service, President Ken Atlas, Executive V. President Michael Kaufman, Joe Shabathai, Gloria Avner & Erica Lieberman Garrett. It was delightful to see our youngest 'family members' Sean, Madison & Benjamin enthusiastically running in search of the hidden *afikoman*. Once it was found, they continued to play 'hide & seek' with it for the remainder of the evening! Lily Padden, one of our newest KJCC members and soon-to-be Bat Mitzvah, did an absolutely beautiful job chanting the four questions. As usual, Erica expertly organized the meal. She brought in a professional Chef who prepared a fabulous chicken dinner as the main entrée. Barbara & Richard Knowles made their famous and most delicious matzo ball chicken soup. It was enjoyed by all, but we missed Barb & Richard who were not able to attend. Although we had three very competent kitchen staff, I had difficulty coercing Erica to get out of the kitchen when it was time to present the Joel S. Cohen Fellowship Award. The expression of extreme surprise on her face was priceless once she realized that she was this year's recipient. Well deserved, Erica! We look forward to many more *Mishpacha* Seders together in the years to come.

May Day became Sisterhood Ladies Day at Hobo's. Sixteen of us had a lively lunch on their patio under the awning. The weather was perfect and the food and conversation delightful. After our meal, we were able to hold a discussion over the din of the fans. The consensus was – getting together is wonderful.

We are planning our first potluck dinner in two years, in celebration of Shavuot. It only seems right. This is the holiday when we read the story of Ruth, the brave and faithful young woman who became the ancestor of King David. Just as she persevered under hardship to find her strength and faith, so do we at KJCC Sisterhood find ways to not only survive, but to grow. (Our delicious potlucks can cause waistlines to grow too, but there will be plenty of salads and other healthy choices.) Contact Joyce at joycepeckman@gmail.com or 732-447-5225 to RSVP and coordinate your dairy or vegetarian contribution.

The Domestic Abuse Shelter and MARC were the grateful recipients of a large donation of clothing, toys and linens as a result of our collection. Donna Bolton organized the bags and made the time to meet Jasmine, the Upper Keys Advocate for the shelter, who thanked us for our efforts.

The women of the KJCC Sisterhood will be planning some wonderful events as we approach the High Holidays, so please stay tuned.

May everyone enjoy the summer season, wherever it may take you! ◇



KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam

Shabbabaque

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

PLACE: KJCC

**TIME: 6:00 P.M. HAMBURGERS,
HOT DOGS AND SIDES
7:30 P.M. SERVICES**

COME, EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY



CONTACT ERICA TO
RESERVE YOUR SPOT.
HIPPIEJAP@HOTMAIL.COM;
305-393-1162



**SPONSORED BY LYNN NOBIL IN MEMORY OF HER PARENTS,
JOEL AND SARAH COHEN**

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



Rough, Yes, But They're Happy

Most of us know that the United Nations continually condemns Israel and singles her out with more negative resolutions than any other nation. But here's a bit of positive news coming from the U.N. According to the "World Happiness Report," a project of the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Israel is the 9th happiest country in the world. In recent years, the Jewish state has moved slowly up the rankings, going from number 14 in 2020 to number 11 in 2021. The report, now in its tenth year, factors in "a country's GDP, social support, life expectancy, 'freedom to make life choices,' citizen generosity and perceptions of corruption into its ranking." Each country's response to COVID-19 was also a factor this year in the ranking and Israel was one of the first countries to successfully vaccinate a large percentage of its population. The report noted that "Deaths from COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021 have been markedly lower in those countries with higher trust in public institutions and where inequality is lower." As in past rankings, cold European countries held their spots at the top of the list. Finland ranked as the happiest country in the world for the fifth consecutive year. Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland placed in the top four. The only other countries ahead of Israel are also European, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden and Norway. (www.jpost.com, 3-18-22)

Postal Service Honors Jewish Author

A new series of Forever stamps has recently been issued by the U.S. Postal Service to honor Shel Silverstein, prolific Jewish author and illustrator who died in 1999. (Unless you haven't had children or if you've been living in a cave all

these years, Silverstein was a beloved children's book author, poet, illustrator, playwright, and songwriter - he wrote the 1969 Johnny Cash hit, "A Boy Named Sue." His books have been translated into more than 47 languages and have sold more than 20 million copies.)

The postage stamps commemorate what some claim to be his most famous book, "The Giving Tree," which tells the story of the relationship between a boy and a tree.

Silverstein was born in 1930 to a middle-class Jewish family in Chicago and started drawing and writing at a young age, drawing his first cartoons for adult readers (which led to work for Playboy Magazine) when he was a GI in Japan and Korea. He lived in Key West and died there when he was 68. (Go to any public library and borrow Silverstein's children's books, "Where the Sidewalk Ends" and "A Light in The Attic." And take a look at "The Giving Tree," or any other children's books by him. Trust me, you'll want to own your own copies.) (www.timesofisrael.com, 4-11-22)

Zak the Baker

Zak Stern. His name is synonymous with some of the best fresh-baked bread in South Florida. And now, Zak Stern - the Zak in "Zak the Baker" - is being recognized as one of the best in the country. He has been named a finalist for a James Beard award, a prestigious award honoring those who toil in the most creative levels of the food industry. Stern was born and raised in South Miami and has twice previously been named a semifinalist in the Outstanding Baker category (2017 and 2018) for the kosher bakery he started in Wynwood. At that time, he was baking naturally leavened sourdough loaves

out of his house and selling them at farmer's markets. Now his breads are available throughout Whole Foods markets all over South Florida. This is the first time Stern has made it to be one of the five finalists. Winners will be announced June 13th in Chicago at an event that's known as the Oscars of the food world. (www.apnews.com, 3-27-22)

The Next Ken Burns Documentary

Tentatively scheduled to air September 18-20 on PBS, renowned Emmy-award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns is working on a three-part miniseries exploring America's relationship to the Holocaust. The series is co-directed and co-produced by Burns and his longtime collaborators Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein. According to Burns, the series "dispels the competing myths that Americans either were ignorant of what was happening to Jews in Europe, or that they merely looked on with callous indifference." He stated that the series would be about immigration and who is an American and who is not. Like all of his projects, this documentary has taken years to complete. "Our latest film is one of the most important we've worked on," Burns said. Burns has previously explored the Holocaust in his films. He worked on the 2016 documentary "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War," which followed American Unitarian minister Waitsill Sharp and his wife Martha in their mission to save Jewish refugees in Europe. (www.jta.org, 4-11-22)

Righting a Wrong

When Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, professor of Jewish history at Yeshiva University, visited a cemetery for U.S. soldiers in Normandy in 2014, he noticed that most of the graves seemed to have Christian symbols. Why were there no graves of Jewish soldiers? That question resulted in a non-profit project called Operation Benjamin, which tracks down the graves of Jewish U.S. servicemen mistakenly buried under crosses and replaces the headstones with those bearing the Star of David. So far, the project has replaced the headstones of nineteen U.S. Jewish servicemen. The group does not take money from the families of the dead soldiers; rather, it solicits donations through its website. The organization works with the American

Battle Monuments Commission, the government agency responsible for graves that are overseas. Schacter explained that mistakes were often made in the chaos during war. Also, many Jewish soldiers often removed the letter "H" from their dog tags that identified them as "Hebrew" in the event they fell into Nazi hands. Currently, Operation Benjamin is working on another 22 names. "These Jews died so we could remain alive - and free," Schacter said. "Remembering them for who they were is the least we can do. Being involved in this *chesed shel emet*, a true kindness, is a matter of *hakarot hatov*, recognizing the good they did for us, and being appreciative of their sacrifices." (www.jpost.com, 5-3-22)

Caring for the Righteous

Millions of Ukrainians had their lives changed forever after Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) was particularly concerned with fifteen of them. That's how many Ukrainians are still alive from the foundation's tally of "Righteous Gentiles," non-Jews who have been verified and recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, to have risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust 80 years ago. The foundation financially supports these non-Jews (along with medicine, home health aides, warm clothing and home heating fuel). The JFR had sent the first installment of \$1,000 in early February but realized that the elderly Ukrainian rescuers couldn't wait until later in the year to receive their next check. Stanlee Stahl, the foundation's executive vice president, and the organization's board members, quickly agreed to fast-track the rest of the year's funding - \$2,000 each - to the fifteen living Righteous in Ukraine. That decision led to a feverish scramble to transfer cash across international borders at a time of total chaos and at the same time attempt to verify that the individuals were still alive and that the money was going to the right place. All of the rescuers - one died in March of natural causes, most likely exacerbated by the Russian bombing - were contacted and within a short time had received the \$2,000 (equivalent to more than a month's salary for the average Ukrainian). "We have a responsibility on

behalf of the Jewish people to make sure that these Righteous Gentiles are taken care of in their time of need,” said Harvey Schulweis, the foundation’s chairman. The JFR was founded in the late 1980s and over the years it has financially supported 3,600 Righteous Gentiles in 34 countries. At its height, the organization supported 1,850 rescuers, a number that declines each year and now services 134 in 14 countries. (www.forward.com, 5-11-22)

In Memoriam

• Gerda Weissmann Klein, Holocaust survivor who became an author, humanitarian and subject of an Oscar-winning film, died in April. She was 97. During the liberation of the concentration camps, when Allied forces were quickly approaching, the Nazis barricaded Jews inside a barn, planting a time bomb outside. Gerda Weissmann was among those trapped in the barn. By a stroke of luck, a sudden rainstorm disconnected the bomb’s wiring. American forces found the barn and unlocked the door. Weissmann told the first rescuer she saw that she was Jewish. While he held the door open for her, he responded that he too, was Jewish. A few years after the war, the survivor and her liberator, U.S. Intelligence Officer Kurt Klein, were married in Paris. The couple later moved to the U.S. and Weissmann Klein became a naturalized citizen. She would go on to become a best-selling author of ten books, including her 1957 autobiography, “All But My Life,” which is often used as a text by Holocaust educators. (A copy of her book is available in the KJCC library and can be found in the Biography section (BIO). Decades later, her story became the basis of the 1995 HBO documentary, “One Survivor Remembers.” The film won both an Emmy and an Oscar. Director Kary Antholis’s intention was to have the film serve as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and also as an urgent call for action concerning the Bosnian and Rwandan genocides of the 1990s. Antholis said that Weissmann Klein was his perfect subject; a survivor “who could articulate in the present day both the horrors of the camps, the miraculous resilience of the human spirit, and a general plea for tolerance and common humanity.”

Kurt Klein died in 2002. In 2008, Weissmann

Klein, along with her granddaughter, founded Citizenship Counts, a nonprofit which aims to teach students across the country about civic rights and responsibilities. For this and other humanitarian work, President Barack Obama in 2011 awarded Weissmann Klein the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. (www.abcnews.go.com, 4-15-22)

• Vanda Semyonovna Obiedkova, 91, who survived Nazi roundups during the Holocaust, died in early April while sheltering in a cold basement in Mariupol, the southern city virtually obliterated by the Russians when they attacked Ukraine. Her death was reported by Chabad.org, which helped evacuate her family, among others, earlier that week.

Born in Mariupol, Obiedkova was ten years old when the Nazis arrived in the city and began rounding up the city’s Jews in 1941. The Nazis took away her mother. She managed to avoid the same fate by hiding in a basement. Later, she was detained on the outskirts of Mariupol but family friends convinced Nazis that she was Greek. Her non-Jewish father checked her into a hospital, where she remained until the city was liberated in 1943. In 1998, she gave testimony to Steven Spielberg’s USC Shoah Foundation, giving a full account of her Holocaust experience. When Russian bombardment began in March, Obiedkova and her family moved into the basement of a neighboring store with no water, heat or electricity. Mariupol had also been hit hard by the Russians back in 2014. At that time, Obiedkova and her family escaped with other members of the city’s Jewish community to a Chabad campground in Western Ukraine. (www.nbcnews.com, 4-27-22)

• Boris Romanchenko, a 96-year-old non-Jewish Holocaust survivor who lived through four different Nazi concentration camps, died in a Russian airstrike on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv at the end of March. His concentration camp uniforms bore a red triangle which was used for several non-Jewish categories. It likely indicated that he was either a political prisoner or a gentile who assisted Jews. Romanchenko was at home when his building was hit by Russian fire. (www.jta.org, 3-22-22) ◇



MAKE ART, NOT WAR

There is a group of artists in Israel that is fighting back against Anti-Semitism and hatred with chalk and sidewalk art. We've been asked to help make up an International group of 900 people who will do their best to counteract the 900 acts of violence perpetrated this year. Let's be part of this unique effort on Friday, Shavuot, the day we contracted, thousands of years ago, to take on the commandments and become the Jewish people. Think of what you'd like to say and we'll put it on long rolls of paper in our classroom. Show up to combat . . .

ART AGAINST HATE

**Meet on Friday afternoon, June 3, 2022, at KJCC
from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.**

Chalk and Markers will be our not so secret weapons.

All materials will be provided as well as guidance.

(You don't need to be an artist to do this):

Our SHAVUOT PROJECT

will BE DISPLAYED IN THE CLASSROOM

while we are having our Shavuot Dinner Friday Night



CHALK OVER HATE

**FIGHTING
ANTISEMITISM**

THROUGH PUBLIC

ART



artists4israel.org/chalk



If you have questions, call or write Gloria: geetavner@gmail.com

PHOTO GALLERY



Stan Margulies and Kathy Shabathai take part in our Yom Ha Shoah service, lighting a candle in memory of the one million Jewish children who were murdered.

We mark Yom HaShoah with a special service remembering the Holocaust, led by Medina Roy and Gloria Avner. Here Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon light a candle representing one million of the six million Jews who were murdered.



Ellie, granddaughter of Mindy and Rich Agler, is looking very grown up and regal.



Rich and grandson Jonah seem to be enjoying a good snack. Why am I in awe of this grown up boy? Because I am remembering Grandma Mindy knitting a whale blanket for him before he was born.



Kjcc sisterhood enjoys its last meeting of the season with a lovely luncheon at Hobo's restaurant. We're feeling happy and healthy. Nice to have Lainey, Linda Pollack's sister, with us for Linda's Birthday.



Of course a good bit of attention was being paid to food..



Erica even attracted a Buddy clone African Grey.



Erica and her nephew at the beginning of her family adventure in Portugal. Beautiful scenery, lots of cliffs and seashore.



Next time you're at live KJCC services, getting your Oneg treats in the schoolroom, please notice and welcome back the beautiful Women's Seder Tribute Cloth. Every panel, meaningfully decorated by KJCC artists, is custom created, most of them created by or under the guidance of Marcia Kreiman. We are grateful to have it back. Here's hoping we'll have the Seder back next year and recognize another woman for her good works and loving presence.



One of the best things about going back to live services is that it allows us to welcome visitors. On this first full night back we were able to reconnect with and support the memory and family of Pascal. We lit a Yahrzeit candle marking the second year.



Beth Kaminstein and daughter Brieze give the annual Scholarship award in Ron Levy's name.



Gloria tells Oshi (Oceana Gross) how proud we are of her as we present her with a KJCC Scholarship check at the High School Class of '22 award night while Susan Gordon and Joyce Peckman applaud.



Mikhaela Bitton, now back in the Keys and already in college, accepts a KJCC scholarship check from Gloria.

Harry Friedman, son of Jane and Steve, applied for and received a project support grant for creative engineering work he'll be doing this summer before his birthright trip. Can't wait to see photos of the completed device.



Medina has post service leading happiness. Actually we all did that night. It was so good to be sitting together "gam yachad."



Happy Yom HaAtzmaut!! The decor (by Susan Gordon of course), was appropriate blue and white and Stars of David, celebrating Israel's Independence Day. The containers of Pita, tzaziki sauce, hummus, salads and matzoh bark made for a festive Erev Shabbat. We were all happy to see each other in person. Thanks to Erica for organizing this comeback dinner.

Dave Feder's Birthday and Suzi and Dave's Anniversary spent generously at an Our Place in Paradise fundraiser for The Good Health Clinic

Happy Passover!



Always good to see Nettie and Jules Seder in person.



Lily Padden and Maddy Bloom show off their \$2 prizes for finding the afikomen.



Rabbi Zucker brings shmura (made kosher in 18 minutes) matzah to Art Itkin at the Rehab Center.



Keith and Joyce's grandkids find and burn the chametz, getting ready for Pesach.



Erica Lieberman Garrett is surprised and happy at our first night Seder to receive KJCC's highest honor for the hard work and leadership she has contributed over many years to the life of our shul.



Sean Kaufman drums while we sing DAYENU



Yay, we found the afikomen!

Change takes getting used to, even if it is a change back to what was once as normal as coffee after dinner. For two years we stayed away from the Sanctuary, the Ruth Richardson Social Hall and the classroom where we had overflowed for many a celebratory dinner. We stayed away from each other. We kept our doors locked and our Torah closed. But now, with a healthy nod to following vaccination status and mask protocols, we are back.

The smiles were so genuine as we wished one another Shabbat Shalom after services and gathered in the Social Hall for Kiddush and HaMotzi. We were all happy to be there. So were non-members who chose to be with us, including a father and son wishing to say Kaddish for the recently departed mother, and the father and grandfather of Pascal, a frequent and welcome visitor in better days. Pascal was to be honored in a 5K race the next day, with proceeds going to animal protection.



Book club had a well-attended meeting at Linda Pollack's home

Today

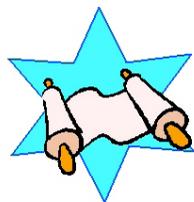
to Rabbi Agler

F O R D A V I D S A G A

KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam extends its thanks and congratulations to Rabbi Agler on the completion of his two year “lunch and learn” series focusing on the story of King David, a central figure in Jewish history. Meeting with members of the Congregation for approximately an hour a month on Zoom, Rabbi Agler took attendees on a scholarly journey through the books of Samuel from the rise of David and his conflicts with his predecessor, King Saul, up to the death of David. Along the way, using close textual analysis, Rabbi Agler pointed out the strengths of David as a warrior king guided by G-d and flaws of David as a ruthless and despotic leader. Throughout the series, members debated parallels between David and subsequent leaders throughout history, gaining important insights into the use and misuse of power. We are indebted to Rabbi Agler for this and his many other contributions to our congregational life and look forward to seeing him and Mindy at the High Holy Days. *Today Rabah!!*



KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam
Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood



SHAVUOT

Counting of the Omer is ending.

JOIN US at the KJCC on

Friday, June 3rd, at 6:00 P.M.

for a Shavuot Dairy Potluck Dinner Celebration.

Contact Joyce at

joycepeckman@gmail.com or

305-451-0665 to RSVP

and coordinate your dairy or veggie dish.

Shabbat and Yizkor Service

will follow at 7:30 P.M.



Sponsored by Michael and Lorena Kaufman

What does cheesecake have to do with Shavuot?

by Joyce Peckman

When I prepare a dvar (Torah Talk) I go to my computer and search ideas from Rabbi Sacks , Chabad or reform.org. But if we are talking food, I go immediately to JamieGeller.com. Jamie Geller, sometimes called “the Kosher Rachel Ray” is a celebrity chef and author of “Quick and Kosher,” the only kosher cookbook better than “Recipes From The Rock” (which is still available from KJCC Sisterhood for only \$20).

Jamie explains how after the countdown to the seders, another type of countdown begins– the Omer! Immediately following Passover, for 49 days, or 7 weeks, the Jewish people wait and count the days until the date when they were given the Torah on Mount Sinai. This date is Shavuot – the Feast of Weeks, called both the Festival of the Giving of Torah and the Festival of the First Fruits since Shavuot commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Holy Temple.

The rabbis have been discussing the tradition of eating dairy on Shavuot since the 13th century. Apparently, they didn’t know its origins either. Many reasons are given:

1. With the giving of the Torah, suddenly the laws of keeping kosher were in effect, especially separating milk and meat. However, the Torah was given on Shabbat, when it would be impossible to kasher (make kosher) all the pots and pans, or cook kosher food, so they ate what was available – dairy.
2. Milk = Torah – Just like a mother gives milk to nourish a newborn baby, the Torah is the spiritual nourishment of the Jews.
3. In Hebrew, the word for milk is halav: Its numerical value in gematria is 40, which is a significant number in the Torah (40 years in the desert; Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Torah..).
4. In Numbers 28:26 the children of Israel are told to bring “a new meal offering to G-d on your Shavuot.” The first three letters of those Hebrew words are the letters that make the word “halav” or milk.

5. The Israelites were on their way to a “land flowing with milk and honey.”

6. The simplest explanation is probably a practical one. The Shavuot festival falls in the calving season in Europe and Russia when there is a large amount of surplus milk. Since it did not keep well, especially in an age before refrigeration, most milk was made into butter and cheese. After the custom arose, our ancestors invented the beautiful explanations we have seen above.

We will honor this custom at our pre-Shavuot dinner on June 3rd. If you haven’t yet decided what to bring to this potluck event, may I suggest you consult “Recipes From The Rock”, which has blintz soufle (p.61), zucchini quiche (p.68), cheese-dill kugel (p.69) sweet cheese kugel (p.71) and more. Or go to jamiiegeller.com and get lost in a world of food. ◇

Count Zischka’s Best Ever Cheesecake



Crust:

- 3 Tbs. Sugar
- 3 Tbs. Butter (melted)
- 15 Lorna Doones (Shortbread Cookies)
- Mix cookies and sugar, stir in butter
- Bake 8–10 min. – 350 degrees

Cake:

- 3 Pkgs. Cream Cheese (Softened)
 - 1 ¼ Cup Sugar
 - ½ Cup Sour Cream
 - 2 Tbs. Flour
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 Tbs. Vanilla Extract
- Mix cream cheese, sugar, sour cream and flour, beat at medium speed until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla extract, and mix well. Bake 10 min. at 425
Reduce heat to 250,
Bake 55 min. or until center appears set.

The Changing Face of Shavuot

(And How the Yizkors Came to Be)

By Gloria Avner

Let's face it. With the possible exception of Georgia Landau, Linda Perloff, Mort Silverman, and Steve Steinbock, we are not agricultural people anymore. We haven't been for a long time. Even if we had "*bikkurim*" or "first fruits" for offerings, there has been no authorized holy place to bring our fruits for sacrifice since the destruction of the second temple about 2000 years ago.

Here are some post-*Pesach* questions to ponder. How is it that our holidays and observance are so closely linked? One eight-day ritual is barely begun when we start our preparation for the next. By the end of the second day of *Pesach* we are already counting *Omer*, sheaves of barley grain, for the seven "weeks" leading up to *Shavuot*. When we are finished counting *Omer*, it will be time for sacrificing the *Bikkurim*, "first fruits," of harvest season. Finally, on the second day of *Shavuot*, comes the fourth and final *Yizkor* of our ceremonial year.

How are these events connected? After years of organizing KJCC's ritual events and holy days, I was sure there were never more than three or four weeks a year without a holiday or fast or feast to be observed (and that's not counting *Shabbat*). It could make a person dizzy.

The passage from *Pesach* to *Shavuot* was always connected, but a yearlong proliferation of holiday events such as KJCC celebrates may not always have been the case (and definitely was not called for in the *Torah*). In fact, prior to exile in the diaspora, there may only have been two ceremonial seasons. Both would have been related to the necessities of farming.

The first would have been the ceremonial season beginning with *Rosh HaSahanah*, through the 10 Days of Awe, ending with *Yom Kippur* and the

first *Yizkor*. This ten-day period, not unlike the *Pesach* period, was followed almost immediately by another multi-day celebration, this time the harvest celebration of *Sukkot*, again celebrating "fruits," an eight-day joyous observance capped by *Simchat Torah* and *Shemini Atzeret*, the day on which we hold our second *Yizkor* memorial service of the year.

Here comes the season in which we pray for rain and dew to nourish our crops. Six months later comes the second season, the one that heralds Spring. On the full moon of *Nissan* we celebrate our passage from slavery to freedom with eight days of *Passover*. This would have heralded the planting season along with all associations with new growth and transformation. On the last day, a third *Yizkor* service is held in the memory of our parents and grandparents.

Seven weeks later *Shavuot* arrives and the final celebration before the hard work of harvest takes place. On the second day of *Shavuot*, here in the diaspora, the fourth and last *Yizkor* service of the year is observed. In Israel, founded with strong agricultural roots by *kibbutzim* making the deserts bloom, people still celebrate with singing, dancing and flower displays. In Temple days, the farmers would leave Jerusalem after bringing their sacrifices and go home, back to their fields.

We won't go home. Like many congregations, we will focus on another face of *Shavuot*, the giving of the *Torah* on Mount Sinai, the metaphorical signing of the contract between us, the newly forged Jewish People and *Adonai*. "As God promises us rain and sun in proper season, we agree to honor the *Mitzvot* and be a "light to the nations The covenant is sealed.

On the morning scheduled for presentation we will not fall asleep as our ancestors nearly did. With the possibility of some dairy induced

carb-drowsiness (see the flier on p. and save the date--May 22), our congregants will be fully awake, having a Torah study session after a shared meal, a Shabbat Service and a *Yizkor* Service. Ah, we come back to *Yizkor*, a ceremony begun a mere thousand years ago.

Read the words inside the box to learn more of *Yizkor*'s origins. They are not so very ancient. But why is *Yizkor* relevant to the holidays it follows?

Think about *Bikkurim*, the fruits. They were sacrifices, gifts to God. It is the custom when honoring our departed to give charity or *tzedakah* in their names. That will be our sacrifice, in somber times and happy ones. Grateful for the teachings and the nourishment our parents gave us, it becomes obvious that we are their fruit, giving of ourselves, our good deeds, remembrances, and *Tzedakah*, in their names, so that others may thrive. ◇



— *The Origin of Yizkor* —

*The custom of reciting *Yizkor* on the solemn holiday of Yom Kippur began in Germany in the eleventh century following the devastation of Rhineland Jewry during the Crusades, a trauma that was exacerbated in the fourteenth century when Jews were butchered because non-Jews were convinced that they caused the Black Plague. It was originally a personal family prayer recited to remember their dead, but it soon became a prayer recited within a community in synagogues on Yom Kippur.

The custom of reciting *Yizkor* spread eastward very quickly and Polish Jews supplemented it with a prayer remembering the Jewish victims of the 1648 Cossack massacre under the leadership of Bogdan Chmielnicki. The Polish Jews also extended the recital of *Yizkor* beyond the sole recitation on Yom Kippur to the last days of the three festivals Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

**(quoted from a book review by Israel Drazin of "May God Remember," edited by Rabbi Dr. Lawrence J. Hoffman)*

— *The Prayer* —

May God remember the soul of my beloved _____ who has passed to his/her eternal rest. I pledge charity in his/her name and pray that his/her soul be kept among the immortal souls of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah and all the righteous men and women in heaven. Amen.



In loving memory of Rabbi Steven Sager

In loving memory of Rabbi Steven Sager, Master teacher of Rabbis, great friend to the Aglers and a much treasured visitor and teacher to us here at KJCC, Congregation Ohr HaYam. We offer deep condolences to Sabina and her family. We can still hear his voice reading Amichai to us. His memory already is, and will continue to be, a blessing.

MY FATHER WAS GOD AND DID NOT KNOW IT

My father was God and did not know it. He gave me
the ten commandments neither in thunder nor in fury, neither in fire nor in cloud
but in gentleness and in love. He added caresses and added kind words
adding, "I beg you," and "please." He sang keep and remember

in a single melody and he pleaded and cried quietly between one commandment and the next:

Don't take your God's name in vain; don't take it, not in vain.

I beg you, don't bear false witness against your neighbor. He hugged me tightly and whispered in my ear

Don't steal. Don't commit adultery. Don't murder. And he put the palms of his open hands
on my head with the Yom Kippur blessing. Honor, love, in order that your days might be long on the earth.

And my father's voice was white like the hair on his head.

Later, he turned his face to me one last time
like on the day he died in my arms and said, "I want to add
two to the ten commandments:

The eleventh commandment: Don't change.

The twelfth commandment: You must surely change.

So said my father and then he turned from me and went off
disappearing into his strange distances.

Yehuda Amichai translated by Rabbi Steven Sager

VISITING ISRAEL WITH JNF PART 2 • NEGEV AND ARAVA

By Joyce Peckman

Heading through the Negev, south of the Dead Sea, we entered the part of the Negev called the Arava. Much of the drive seems like moonscape, yet this fascinating region was once a valuable center of trade, and today produces most of its dates and 60% of Israel's export of fresh vegetables. To the east are the Edom mountains of Jordan; at its southern tip is Eilat, a small city at the tip of the Red Sea with Jordan's much larger port city of Aqaba to the east, Egypt to the west and the mountains of Saudi Arabia in the distant southwest. Isrotel is a major Israeli upscale hotel chain, with several in Eilat. We stayed at Agamim Isrotel, justifiably famed for its gorgeous, bounteous breakfast and dinner buffets.

The next morning, we traveled about 30 minutes north of Eilat to Grofit, the Red Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center, a JNF project that serves special needs children and adults. It has been found that when on a horse, a person's hips, muscle tone

and inner core are strengthened. The rhythm of the horse's gait helps many processes in the brain, including body awareness and balance.

Specially trained horses and volunteers work with children and adults who have severe cerebral palsy or debilitating injuries, who gain not only skills, but immense joy at their upright mobility. Autistic children respond to the horse and therapist, overcoming fear and learning to laugh. This is therapy that changes lives. I just learned that they are also serving young refugees from the Ukraine. At Grofit we planted a tree in memory of JNF volunteers.

In Timna Park among the dramatic Arava hills, we visited "King Solomon's mines", where copper was extracted during the time of Solomon, but also long before then by the Egyptians. Once part of an ancient desert trade route, Timna is near the new Ramon airport and boasts a beautiful JNF sponsored visitor center and lots of dramatic walking and biking trails. For thousands of years, copper ore was extracted from narrow holes and tunnels dug into the ground, smashed to dust and then smelted on the spot. You can imagine the heat under which the slaves worked. But we were there in February, and the weather was delightful for climbing the magnificent rock formations. We returned exhausted and ready for that elegant dinner buffet.



Tziporim park bird release.



Tziporim Park bird Sanctuary with Eilat in the background.



Dr. Solowey & son Nadav with Methuselah

The next morning breakfast was late, because at 6:45 a.m. we were on a bus headed for the “Tziporim Park” International Bird Sanctuary.

We were met by a 19-year-old aspiring conservationist who was doing a year of service before his term in the army. We learned that Eilat is a crucial stop for over 500 million birds migrating from Northern Europe and Russia to Africa. Israel lies between the Mediterranean and the deserts of Jordan, where they cannot land. They



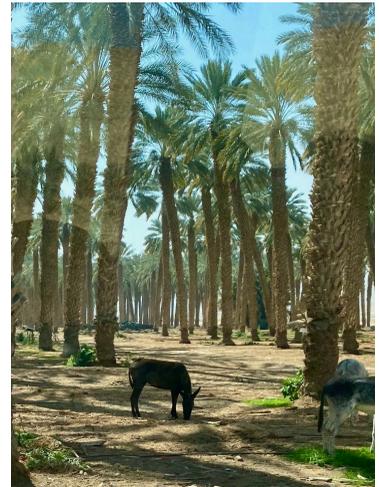
Tree planting at Riding Academy

stop in Eilat, the only location providing safe flying and resting space to rest and build up reserves of fat before attempting the three-day non-stop flight a mile high over the Sahara. Much of Eilat’s natural habitat has become urbanized, but JNF stepped in, recovered degraded land and planted native trees. JNF works with city planners, the armed forces and scientists in neighboring countries to protect the birds. At the International sanctuary some are caught and banded to help scientific studies. I “helped” release a tiny banded cheepchack, named for its song. We saw flamingoes, kingfishers, kites, cormorants in the water, and dozens of martins flying over our heads.

We returned to a sumptuous breakfast and then back into the Arava desert to Kibbutz Keturah.

You may have heard of “Methuselah,” the date palm grown from ancient seeds. Keturah is its home.

We were greeted by Dr. Elaine Solowey’s son Nadav, who explained his mother’s incredible work. Among the ancient treasures found Masada’s clay jars in 1963 were some two thousand-year-old date palm seeds. Dr. Solowey, working in The Arava Institute, was able to germinate one and planted it on Tu b’Shevat, 2005. In 2008 the young “Methuselah” was added to the Guinness book of world records as the world’s oldest date palm. This specimen of a formerly extinct variety was sadly found to be a male. But



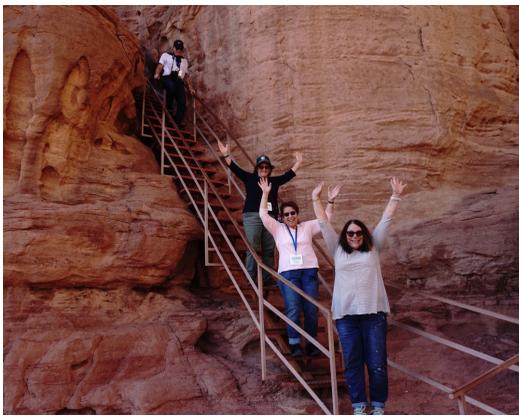
Donkeys at Kibbutz Keturah

other even more ancient date seeds were found in Qumran. This time Dr. Solowey was able to germinate three plants, one of which was female. The seedling was named Hannah and pollinated with seeds from Methuselah. In Sept 2020, dates were harvested.

Dr. Solowey then came out to proudly show us her greenhouse, featuring twenty young date trees from the seeds harvested from Hannah, and to tell us about her latest work, searching for valuable crops that could be grown with less water. Argan



Climbing in Timna



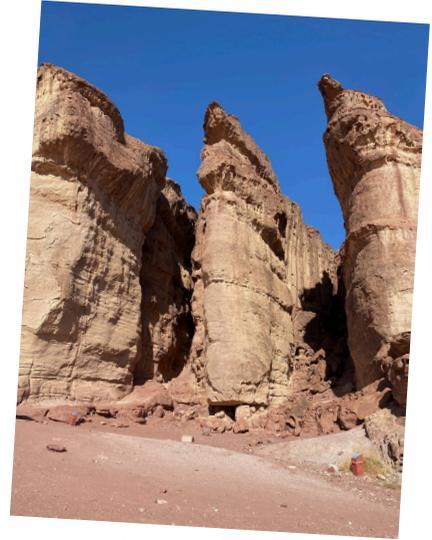
Timna Descent - leading is Donelle, my roomie from Chicago, then my friend Miriam, and behind me is Mike from Boynton

oil, rich in antioxidants and vitamin E, is prized for its use in revitalizing hair and skin. The kibbutz is now growing argan trees and creating less labor-intensive ways of

producing the oil. They are also growing marula trees. In the mahogany family, marula can produce 1000 lbs. of fruit per tree and uses 10% of the water needed for dates. Its antioxidant oil is prized for cosmetics, and Amarula liqueur, tasting like Amaretto, is made from the fruit. Dr. Solowey also has created a shelter garden for nearly extinct plants such as the anti-inflammatory Balm of Gilead and the air-cleansing Boswellia, known biblically as frankincense.

The chief product of Kibbutz Keturah is Madjool dates, which they sell around the world, even to Arab countries. Donkeys do the weeding between the trees. On the grounds of the kibbutz is a room leased to Denmark – in which dates are packaged, labeled “product of Denmark” and shipped out. There are many kibbutzim and moshavim in the Arava (Southern District) of the Negev which use reclaimed and desalinated water in the most efficient ways possible to grow much of Israel’s produce.

Those who choose to make their home in the Negev thrive in the sometimes harsh, starkly beautiful rural environment that brings the joys and challenges of nature directly into their lives. ◇



Timna - Solomon's Pillars



TALIA AGLER GIRLS SHELTER

10 Years of Saving & Enriching Girls' Lives

By Mindy Agler

In April, Rich and I, and our niece Eve, were able to visit the Talia Agler Girls' Shelter (TAGS) for the first time since before the pandemic. We were so grateful to get back there, and to share the excitement as the girls moved from their rented home of the last few years in to their new, permanent, home! (see photos 1-5)

The new home offers not only a sense of stability and purpose, it is spacious enough to include several bedrooms, several bathrooms, *all*

with running water, and a reading room, library, and resource center! Edith Murogo, the founder, CEO, and official "Mum" of the shelter, also has a vision of opening up the library to children from the neighborhood, helping to integrate TAGS girls into a more normal life, and giving them an opportunity to give back to the community.

The ability to purchase the home began with a gift of \$130,000 from a friend of TAGS. A second gift of \$125,000 made it possible to move in, with an agreement to raise the additional \$245,000 before August of 2023 to complete the purchase.



Photos 1-5



Photos 6-9

All contributions, large or small, to the building fund are welcomed!

Rich, Eve, and I had some time to feed giraffes at The Giraffe Centre <https://www.giraffecentre.org/> and to take a short safari through Nairobi National Park <http://www.kws.go.ke/parks/nairobi-national-park>. (see photos 6-9)

April 9th would have been Tali's 36th birthday. We celebrated her with a fundraising walk through Karura Forest with dozens of TAGS' supporters. It was a beautiful day and I can't think of a better way to spend her birthday! (see photos 10-12)

The girls also had the opportunity to go to



Photos 10-12



I also made a good friend at our AirBnB.

camp, thanks to Erin Shattuck, a member of Spirit and Truth Ministries of the Keys. (Erin also participated in the walk, and is pictured on the left in photo 11.) Erin raised the funds for the adventure, and the church very generously supplemented what she needed. Erin is a dynamo, full of energy, compassion, and joy. She put together a wonderful program for the girls, who are rarely able to leave the shelter except to go to school. This was a 3-day trip to the "country," to a campsite on a river, with tubing, a moonlight hike, and kayaking though a waterfall. The girls were given a journal to record their thoughts and feelings every day,

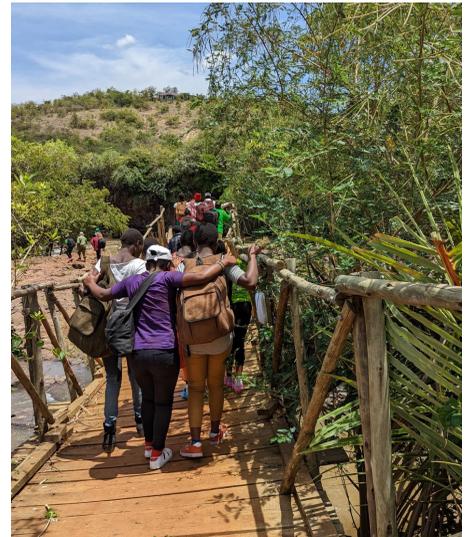
and also had a photo shoot, which made each of them feel special! I wish we could share pictures from the shoot; the girls' smiles were so wide and beautiful! (see photos 13-16)

We spent our final afternoon at the office of the Centre for Domestic Training and Development, the parent organization of TAGS, with Edith and her amazing staff. We got an update on current projects as well as plans for sustainability and growth. It was a productive afternoon. (see photos 17-18)

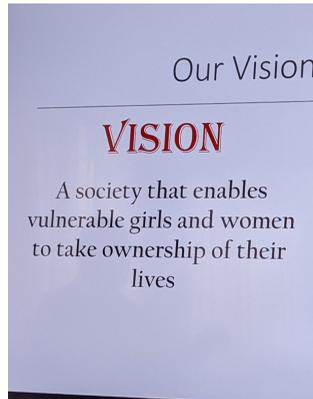
And finally, I want to end with a photo I took of a "matatu" on the streets of Nairobi. The matatus are private buses that shuttle people around the

city, and they are vibrant and crowded and chaotic—often filled not only with people but with chickens! They crowd the streets and own the roads with their aggressive driving, but they keep the city moving. This one made me think of all of you!

Thank you to Sisterhood for supporting us through the Women's Seder, even when it didn't happen—we're so grateful! And thank you now for taking the time to "visit" along with us through Chai Lights! (And stay tuned—we are beginning to put together a trip to Nairobi to visit TAGS, explore Nairobi, and go on safari!) ◇



Photos 13-16



Photos 17-18



Photo 19

Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day)

In 1949 and 1950, the first two years after the declaration of the State, memorial services for soldiers who fell in the 1947–1949 war were held on Independence Day. Services at military cemeteries were coordinated between the Israeli Defense Forces and the Ministry of Defense. A concern arose, expressed by families of fallen soldiers, to establish a separate memorial day observance distinct from the festive celebrations of national independence. In response, and in light of public debate on the issue, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion – also serving as Minister of Defense – established in January 1951 the “Public Council for Soldiers’ Commemoration”. This council recommended establishing the 4th of Iyyar, the day preceding Independence Day, as the “General Memorial Day for the Heroes of the War of Independence”. This proposal won government approval that same year.

Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) is the national remembrance day observed in Israel for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel’s armed forces. As of Yom HaZikaron 2022, that number was 24,068. Since its inception Yom HaZikaron also remembers Israel’s terror victims; as of 2022 they number 3,190.

The day opens with a siren the preceding evening at 20:00 (8:00 pm), given that in the Hebrew calendar system, a day begins at sunset. The siren is heard all over the country and lasts for one minute, during which Israelis stop everything, including

driving on highways, and stand in silence, commemorating the fallen and showing respect.

Yom HaZikaron differs from America’s Memorial Day in that, by law, all places of entertainment are closed on the eve of Yom HaZikaron, and broadcasting and educational bodies note the solemnity of the day. Regular television programs cease for the day, and the names and ranks of every soldier who died for Israel are displayed in a 24-hour television broadcast. Memorial candles are lit in homes, army camps, schools, synagogues, and public places, and flags are lowered to half-mast. Throughout the day, serving and retired military personnel serve as honor guards at war memorials throughout the country, and the families of the fallen participate in memorial ceremonies at military cemeteries.

A two-minute siren is sounded at 11:00 AM the following morning, which marks the opening of the official memorial ceremonies and private remembrance gatherings at each cemetery where soldiers are buried.

Many Israelis visit the resting places of loved ones throughout the day.

National memorial services are held in the presence of Israel’s top leadership and military personnel.

Many traditional and religious Jews say prayers for the souls of the fallen soldiers on Yom HaZikaron. Special prayers prescribed by the Israeli rabbinate are recited. These include the recital of Psalm 9: “For the leader, on the death of the son,” and Psalm 144: “Blessed be the Lord, My Rock, who traineth my hands for war and my fingers for battle” in addition to memorial

prayers for the dead. The official ceremony to mark the opening of the day takes place at the Western Wall.

The day officially draws to a close at sundown (between 19:00 and 20:00; 7-8 PM), in a ceremony at the national military cemetery on Mount Herzl, marking the start of Israel's Independence Day, when the flag of Israel is returned to full mast.

Scheduling Yom HaZikaron right before Independence Day (Yom HaAtzmaut) is intended to remind people of the price paid for independence and of what was achieved with the soldiers' sacrifice. This transition shows the importance of this day among Israelis, most of whom have served in the armed forces, or have a connection with people who were killed during their military service. A special Kaddish and El Male Rachamim are recited on Yom HaZikaron. You can hear the special rendition of El Male Rachamim here: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=el+male+rachamim+yom+hazikaron&FORM=AWVR>

O God, full of mercy, Who dwells on high, grant proper rest in the wings of the Divine Presence in the lofty level of the holy and the pure ones, who shine like the glow of the firmament for the souls of the men and women of the Israel Defense Forces who met their deaths in the wars of Israel, in action of defense, retaliation and se-

curity, while fulfilling their missions and during their service, and to the souls of all the fighters of the underground organizations and the fighting units in the nation's battles, and all the men and women of the intelligence community and the security and police forces who gave their lives in the sanctification of Gods Name and, with the help of the God of the armies of Israel, brought about the rebirth of the nation and the state and the redemption of the Land and the City of God, as well as all those who were murdered, in Israel and abroad, by murderers of the terrorist organizations, by virtue of our prayers for the ascent of their souls. May the Merciful One therefore shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity; and may He bind their souls in the Bond of Life. The Lord is their heritage, Eden their place of rest. May they repose in peace in their resting places, may their merit reflect on all of Israel, and may they meet their destiny in the End of Days. Now let us respond: Amen.

Here is a link to Shlomi Shabbat singing with orphans of the Israel Defense Force. It has subtitles in English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4Yc8ubFlxw> This is one of the major prices Israel pays for its wars. Consider supporting an orphan.





Reverse Tashlich October 2, 2022

Reverse Tashlich is a little under five months away, so I am reaching out in hopes that Keys Jewish Community Center will be joining Tikkun HaYam, and Jews around the world, for our 5th Annual Reverse Tashlich. This year the Jewish community will come together to clean their local environments on October 2nd, 2022. We appreciate your participation last year, and hope to have you and the Keys Jewish Community Center join us again this year.

— Shayna Cohen & Rabbi Ed Rosenthal



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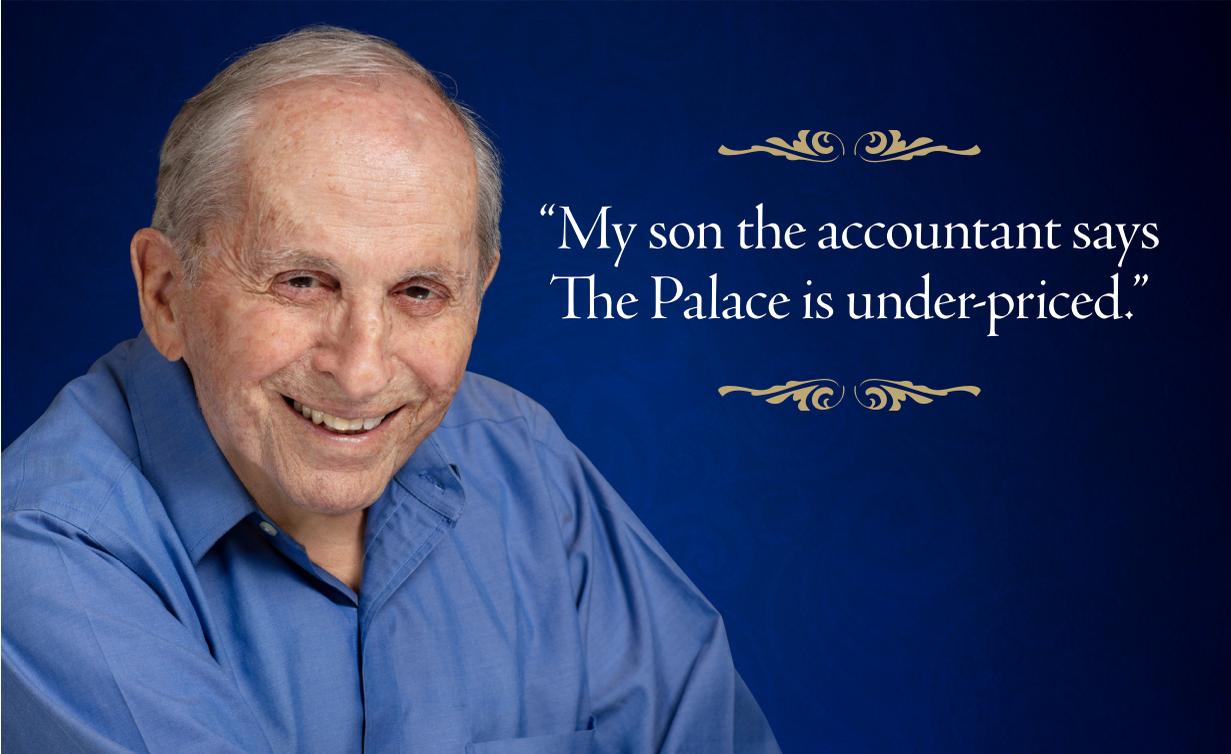
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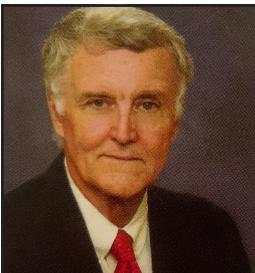
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