

Chai~Lights



April 1 - May 31, 2021

19 Nissan — 20 Sivan , 5781

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Looking Ahead to Shavuot – page 26

“A Musing on Gratitude” by Mindy Agler – page 30

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

April 1 - May 31, 2021

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 APR	2 Laurie Blum <i>Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum, Jules & Nettie Seder</i>	3
4 Last day of Pesach Sisterhood meeting 10am	5 Drop-in chat 2pm	6	7	8 Yom HaShoah	9 Janis Remer & Joyce Peckman & Medina Roy <i>Max Finklestein & Janis Remer</i>	10
11 KJCC board meeting 10am	12 Drop-in chat 2pm	13	14	15 Israel Independence Day	16 Beth Hayden <i>Al & Sylvia Rimm Stuart & Lauren Sax</i>	17 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler -The David Saga 12:30pm
18	19 Drop-in chat 2pm	20	21	22	23 Steve Hartz <i>Susan Gordon</i>	24
25	26 Book Club 12:30pm Drop-in chat 2pm	27	28	29	30 Lag B'Omer Yardena Kamely <i>Barney Colman Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz</i>	1 MAY
2	3 Drop-in chat 2pm	4	5 Rabbi Rosenthal: "Reincarnation? - A Jewish Perspective" 7:30pm	6	7 Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton <i>Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum</i>	8 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler -The David Saga 12:30pm
9 Mothers' Day KJCC board meeting 10am	10 Drop-in chat 2pm	11	12	13	14 Laurie Blum <i>Susan Gordon</i>	15
16	17 Shavuot Drop-in chat 2pm	18 Shavuot	19 Janis Remer: Medicare and Medigap 7:30pm	20	21 Susan Gordon <i>Marshall & Myra Kaplan</i>	22
23	24 Book Club 12:30pm Drop-in chat 2pm	25	26	27	28 Susan Ellner & Gloria Avner <i>Beth Hayden</i>	29
30	31 Memorial Day Drop-in chat 2pm					

2020 - 2021 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

President

Joyce Peckman

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman



As I endeavor to write this President's message, I am engaged with preparing for Passover – cleaning, sorting, discarding, purchasing – and doing it in a community where we are the only Jewish presence for many miles. There is no supermarket aisle dedicated to Kosher for Passover items. We can't even take for granted matzo and Manischewitz wine. We are grateful for a miniscule corner display. That small Passover display at the supermarket is there only because we at KJCC are still a presence in the Keys.

Please take notice of the previous paragraph. It begins with "I" and ends with "we." Last year shortly before Passover, KJCC was abruptly shut down. The weekly gatherings were halted, and solitude became the watchword. But as Jews, we can't do religion alone. "I" has to become "we." We reached out to each other. We learned how to Zoom, shared information during weekly emails, and maintained our group identity. We held a virtual seder so that nobody had to celebrate alone.

Although the Pesach seders will be over when you receive this, we will still be in the middle of Passover, which lasts through Sunday, April 4th. Yizkor will be included in our April 2nd Friday night service, which will also commemorate Yom HaShoah. Passover is unique among Jewish holidays. It is about family gatherings rather than shul attendance. We eat and talk

about our foundational history and values. Passover rituals are created specifically to bring adults and children together and to elicit questions from everyone so that we can search for answers together. In many ways, the traditions we witness around the Passover table define our identity as Jews. Our challenge is to keep that energy alive through the coming months until the High Holy Days bring a new burst of activity.

"We" are all the members of KJCC who step up to do the job. Our amazing board members are joined by others. Barney Colman helps keep our financial books straight. Many of you are putting forth effort towards our upcoming cookbook. Yardena Kamely, Janis Remer and Susan Ellner help lead services. Rabbi Rich Agler provides Shabbat "Lunch and Learn." Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Mindy Agler and Janis Remer will be sharing their expertise for Wednesday evening Adult Ed offerings. Laura Goodman is joining our Sunshine/Caring Kehillah committee, along with Laurie Blum, Susan Gordon and Hannah David, reaching out to check that our members are ok. "We" includes you, dear reader. You don't have to know Hebrew or even carry a tune to help lead a service or make phone calls. You may have a skill that you can share through Adult Ed. So call, join us on zoom, ask questions and keep making "us" a strong KJCC family. ◇

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

All activities are on Zoom until further notice. Look for more details in the latest edition of Chai-lights or the Tuesday message to members.

Every Monday	2pm Drop-in chat
Friday, April 2	7:30pm Shabbat and Yizkor Services led by Laurie Blum
Sunday, April 4	10am Sisterhood meeting
Friday, April 9	7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Janis Remer and Joyce Peckman Yom HaShoah Commemoration led by Medina Roy
Sunday, April 11	10am KJCC board meeting
Friday, April 16	7:30pm Shabbat Services & Yom Hazikaron Commemoration led by Beth Hayden
Saturday, April 17	12:30pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler – The David Saga
Friday, April 23	7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Steve Hartz
Monday, April 26	12:30pm Book Club
Friday, April 30	7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Yardena Kamely
Wednesday, May 5	7:30pm Rabbi Ed Rosenthal will discuss “Reincarnation? – A Jewish Perspective”
Friday, May 7	7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton
Saturday, May 8	12:30pm Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler – The David Saga
Sunday, May 9	10am KJCC Board meeting
Friday, May 14	7:30pm Shabbat and Yizkor Services led by Laurie Blum
Wednesday, May 19	7:30pm Janis Remer will discuss Medicare and Medigap
Friday, May 21	7:30pm Shabbat Services led by Susan Gordon
Monday, May 24	12:30pm Book Club
Friday, May 30	7:30pm Shabbat Services

NOSH

The David Saga with Rabbi Agler

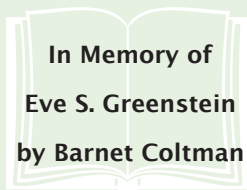
Saturdays, April 17 and May 8, at 12:30 p.m. It's complicated. Those two words conjure up a stew of images, both historical and melodramatic. The David Saga, as far in the past as it is, could easily fit in today's news magazines, tabloids, political podcasts or evening talking heads analysts. You won't want to miss the next two sessions of "Lunch and Learn" with Rabbi Richard Agler, our Scholar Emeritus, as he helps us walk through the minefields of adultery, murder, war and political manipulation by the writer of our greatest psalms and love songs: "Doveed, Melech Yisrael." No need to read ahead. Just come and enjoy the excellent conversation.

Rabbi Ed Talks Reincarnation

There are some wonderful Adult Education special events coming up in May. On Wednesday evening,, May 5, (all Wednesday events are at 7:30 PM), Rabbi Ed Rosenthal will return to provide enlightenment on the topic of "Reincarnation". Who knew? This is not a well-known subject among Jews, so tune in and find out what Judaism teaches about this. We will all learn something we did not previously know. You asked for it – and here it is. See poster for details on p. 12.

Yizkor and Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

Sunday, May 16th, 7:30 p.m. Laurie Blum, co-chair of Ritual Committee, will lead the last Yizkor Remembrance Service of this Jewish year, followed by a talk from Dr. Bernard Ginsberg on his and one of our favorite Jewish woman-centered stories you, the tale of Ruth, the faithful convert who gives us through her lineage of grandchildren, King David. Don't be caught sleeping when the Torah is being handed to us amid thunder and lightning and we are being "chosen." See poster on p. 26 for details.



Medicare Questions and Answers

On Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. Janis Remer will present a special program on Medicare Supplement Plans and Medicare policies. Janis has worked with Medicare for years and is expert in knowing the programs and possibilities. If you have a particular question you would like her to address, please send to Beth Hayden at hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net. This will be a virtual presentation of great interest to our members. Many thanks to Janis.

The Possibility of Concerts

As we enter the fall, Adult Education Chair Beth Hayden hopes to open our educational series with a lecture/recital featuring works by Brahms, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. We will be eager listeners, Beth. Thank you.◇

Oneg Sponsors

- Apr. 2 Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum**
Memory of Janet Blum
Jules & Nettie Seder
55th Anniversary
- Apr. 9 Max Finklestein & Janis Remer**
Engagement
- Apr. 16 Al & Sylvia Rimm**
Anniversary
Stuart & Lauren Sax
Lauren's Birthday
- Apr. 23 Susan Gordon**
Birthday
- Apr. 30 Barney Coltman**
Birthday
Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz
Anniversary
- May 7 Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum**
Gary's birthday
- May 14 Susan Gordon**
Rose Marie Casey's 30th Birthday
- May 21 Marshall & Myra Kaplan**
Anniversary
- May 28 Beth Hayden**
Ollie's 14th birthday

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 or DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights or annually in our KJCC Directory. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for annual rates.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call 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 & ROCKS, 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through 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 specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

JANUARY – MARCH, 2021

Yahrzeit

Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Honor / Memory of

Morris Feinberg
Samuel Wolfe
Maxine Feinberg

Karyn Zoren

Al Roller

David & Pamela Marmar

Samuel Marmar

Melvin & Joyce Ruthen

Al Roller

Nadine Thompson

Herbert Frankel

Medina Roy

Bianka Kischenbaum

Michael Krissel

Joseph Krissel
Shirley Krissel

Marilyn Rapp

Russ Rolnick

Frank & Gerri Emkey

Leroy Weisberg

Miltra Sheinker

Warren Sheinker

Lillian Tallent

Ida Tallent

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Janet Blum
Anne Bernstein

Patricia Isenberg

Harry Phillips

Frank Rose

Cissie Lang

Adam & Judy Starr

Alexandra Starr

Joan Boruszak

Baruch Epstein

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Arlene Sugarman
Margolis

Linda Pollack

Joel Pollack

Stephen Steinbock

Theresa Steinbock

Frank & Gerri Emkey

Alex Perl
Gertrude Weisberg

Joyce Peckman

Purim-Keys to be the Change

Sisterhood

Purim-Keys to be the Change

Ken Atlas

Purim-Keys to be the Change

Steve & Jan Hartz

Purim-Keys to be the Change

SISTERHOOD DONATIONS

Oneg Sponsorship

Patricia Isenberg

In Honor / Memory of

Birthday of Hannah Feig

Medina Roy

Memory of Carl Roy

Gary Margolis
& Laurie Blum

Aaron Stross Bar Mitzvah

Joyce Peckman

Birthdays of Grandchildren

Jane Friedman

Birthday

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Memory of Janet Blum

Jules & Nettie Seder

55th Anniversary

Max Finklestein & Janis Remer

Engagement

Stuart & Lauren Sax

Lauren's birthday

Al & Sylvia Rimm

Anniversary

Susan Gordon

Birthday

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Gary's birthday

Susan Gordon

Rose Marie Casey's 30th birthday

Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Anniversary

Beth Hayden

Ollie's 14th birthday

Barney Coltman

Birthday

Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz

Anniversary

Joyce Peckman

Birthday

Bookplate

Barney Coltman

Eve Greenstein
Ellyn Coltman

Dinners

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Future dinner

Kasino, Steve & Amelia

Future dinner

Tzddakah

Gloria Avner

Purim-Keys to be the Change

Gary Margolis &
Laurie Blum

Purim-Keys to be the Change

Unrestricted

Orlando Quesada

In Memory of Maria Quesada

Medina Roy

April Birthdays

3rd	Justin L. Lebofsky	18th	Jennifer Garrett
4th	Larry Weber	18th	Lauren Sax
4th	Lauren Lane	19th	Augie Moss
4th	Thomas Brodie	20th	Jonathan Nobil
5th	Jon Tainow	22nd	Susan Temkin
9th	David Feder	24th	Lynn Nobil
12th	Richard Knowles	24th	Susan Gordon
13th	Eve Knowles	25th	Shirley Stein
13th	Samantha Lebofsky	26th	Maryann Boruszak
13th	Sylvia Rimm	28th	Joni Sages Dandrea
15th	Rachel Roth	29th	David Goldfinger
15th	Toby Bofshever	29th	Linda Pollack
16th	Alfred Rimm	30th	Jason Sherman
16th	Dave Jacob VanArtsdalen	30th	Joel Roth
17th	Katie Greenman	30th	Rachel Barrett
17th	Susan Ellner		

April Anniversaries

3rd	Jules & Nettie Seder	55	25th	William Fusco & Melissa Katz-Fusco	22
10th	Stuart & Geri Smith	56	25th	Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder	25
18th	Susan White	17	29th	David Paul & Wendy Morris	4
19th	Barat & Rosemary Barefoot	35	30th	Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz	14

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 bemah 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."

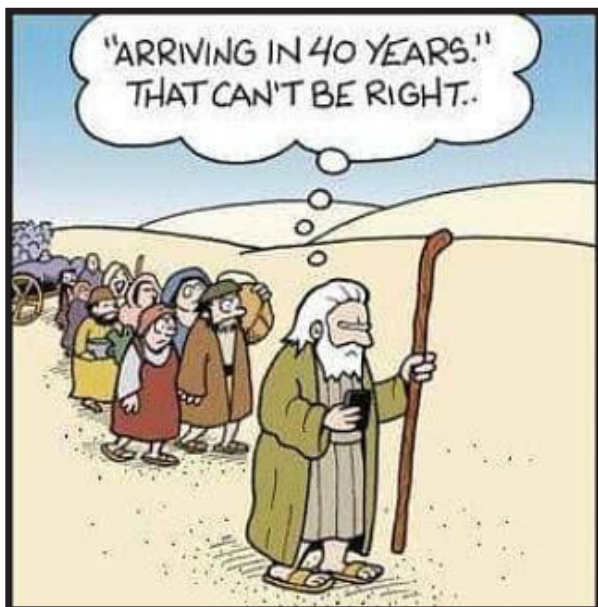
Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate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

May Birthdays

1st.....	Cheryl Margulies	15th	Paul R. Schur
2nd.....	Barney Coltman	18th	Jaime Brennan
4th	Laura Leigh Tallent	19th	Jonathon Hodgson
5th	Marissa Stein	21st.....	Jerry Herson
5th	Richard Palacino	22nd.....	Sharon Repka
7th	Murray Rapoport	23rd	Jenny Margulies
7th	Skyler Bella Strasser	23rd	Jules Seder
8th	Kelley Greenman	23rd	Nettie Seder
8th	Sidney Boruszak	23rd	Rita Williams
9th	Camden James Hudson	25th	Matthew Birnbaum
9th	Gary Margolis	27th	Alan Beth
9th	Reid Schur	27th	Jeffrey Pollack
11th	Richard Agler	27th	Joan Boruszak
11th	Sheila R. Steinberg	28th	Mary Roth
12th	Madelyn Ruby Pollack	29th	Liati Mayk
12th	Nyan Feder	29th	Nancy Zinner
13th	Rose Marie Casey	29th	Robin Forman
14th	Bernie Ginsberg	31st.....	Robert Sherman
14th	John Temkin	31st.....	Wes Conklin
14th	Medina Roy		

May Anniversaries

14th Alan & Chely Markowitz..... 20



Shabbat Service Leaders

April 2	Laurie Blum (Yizkor)
April 9	Joyce Peckman & Janis Remer, Medina Roy
April 16	Beth Hayden
April 23	Steve Hartz
April 30	Yardena Kamely
May 7	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton
May 14:	Laurie Blum (Yizkor)
May 21	Susan Gordon & Bernard Ginsberg
May 28	Susan Ellner & Gloria Avner

In Memoriam – April 2021

Sylvia Agler

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Clara Bloom

By Marc Bloom

George Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

Nat Feldblum

By Marc Bloom

Ellen Coltman

By Barnett O. Coltman

Dr. Joel Pollack

By Linda Pollack

Becky Kanowsky

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Alex Perl

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Louise Folks Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Barbara Linda Hayes

By Jane Friedman

Frances Wolfe

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Sally Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Bill Gordon

By Susan Gordon

Belle Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Cantor Alex Chapin

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Amalia Kahn

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

Esther Jacobs

By Lawrence Jacobs

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

By Joan P. Wohl

Nathan Klein

By Harvey & Judith Klein

Marilyn Janet Barr

By Michael Klimpl

Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

Helen Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Joseph Lempel

By Linda Pincus

Baruch Epstein

By Joan Boruszak

Erwin Moss

By Linda Pollack

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

Gertrude Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Mrs. Trudy Roth

By Joel & Mary Roth

Sam Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Carmel Catanese

By Jane Friedman

Richard Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Morris Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Sumner Berenson

By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson

Claire Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Rose Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Stella Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

Ida S. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz

Charles Kram

By Sanford Yankow

Fred Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Hilda Mazur

By Sanford Yankow

In Memoriam – May 2021

Carol Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agle

Irwin Grossinger

By Gary & Laurie Grossinger

Carl Roy

By Medina Roy

Neil H. Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

Max Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Lilyan Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Sam Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Max Margulies

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Norman James Schuman

By Adam & Judy Starr

Barbara S. Gould

By Joe Gould & Marla Berenson

Rene Rose

By Skip Rose

Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

Rose Herson

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

Leo Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

Leo Wolynetz

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Esther R. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Maryann Sandusky

By Skip Rose

Bea Ginsberg

By Bernard Ginsberg

Benjamin Weber

By Judith Weber

Rose Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Morris Moshe Grossman

By Stuart Grossman

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

Charles S. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Morris Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Susan Cimkowski

By Stephen Steinbock

Leo Finklestein

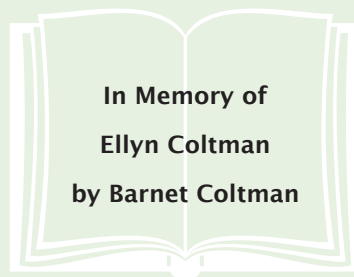
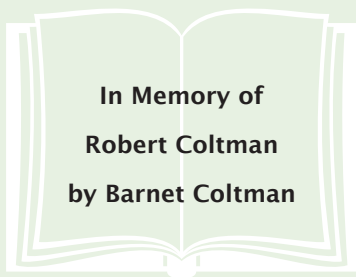
By Max Finklestein

Leslie Peckman

By Joyce Peckman

Martha Greenberg

By Larry & Dorothy



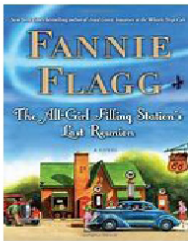


Sisterhood Book Club

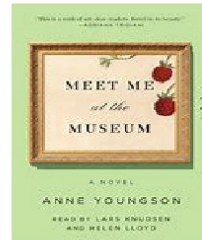
~ Books and dates for the coming two months ~
Meetings will be at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
until further notice ~

April 26, 2021 ~ *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg

May 24, 2021 ~ *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson



*A combination of comedy,
mystery, wisdom, and charm.
Fabulous, fun-loving, spanning
decades and generations*



*An epistolary novel consisting of
letters between a farm wife
living in England and a Danish
museum curator*

Email Joyce (joycepeckman@gmail.com) before the meeting date to let her know you will be attending and she will send you an invitation to Zoom.

SISTERHOOD

Beth Hayden



Shalom uvracha, Sisterhood met again in February and Sisterhood conducted the Erev Shabbat service on February 12th. We had a lovely email from one KJCC member encouraging us to do more services. Sisterhood will consider that request. Jane Friedman volunteered to run a Hamantaschen workshop February 24th at 2 PM prior to Purim. The workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all; hopefully the home-made Hamantaschen enriched the holiday. Thanks to Jane for her energy and cooking skills. Jane also kept the Tu b'shvat spirit alive by planting a young coffee bush on KJCC grounds. Sisterhood held discussions about the Women's Seder and Passover First Night Seder (which has replaced the former second-night Community Seder). The consensus of those in attendance was, reluctantly, to forego both events in light of the current situation. By the time you read this, hopefully you will have been in attendance at the Ritual/Sisterhood virtual Seder conducted the evening of March 27th. Sisterhood has also cooperated with Rabbi Zucker to order kosher l'Pesach meals for anyone who wanted them. Linda Pollack completed entering more than 200 recipes for the KJCC Sisterhood Cookbook. The cookbook is now undergoing a final proof before submission to the publisher. Officers were installed at the February meeting; there were no changes in serving officers: Beth Hayden, President, Susan Gordon, Vice-President, Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Treasurer, Hannah David, Corresponding Secretary. Sisterhood, however, is in dire need of a recording secretary – if you think you might be able to help us out, please let me know at 305 773-0067 or hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net. Prior to Pesach and prior to receiving this issue of Chai-Lights, Erica Lieberman-Garrett will have conducted a workshop on what you need for your Seder Plate. People have different ideas as to what to use and where it goes, depending on community and family practices. This workshop

will have answered all your questions. Or at least, most of them. And don't forget, Erica is your contact for sponsoring an Oneg. Check with her to see what dates are available. Sisterhood will meet again on Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 10 AM by Zoom. It has been very gratifying to see KJCC members being vaccinated against Covid. As we increase the number of vaccinations we will eventually arrive at "herd immunity". Compared to the time that has passed, that day is not so far off. Possibly in the fall some manner of limited in person gatherings can occur. In the meantime, do not let your guard down and continue to protect yourself. We need all our members well and healthy for the day when we can, once again, enjoy each other in person.
– B'shalom, Beth ◇





**Presentation by
Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
Reincarnation?**

Wednesday May 5, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Life is Always Lovelier the Second Time Around.

We've always been told that Judaism is a religion of life and, unlike some other religions, we're not concerned with what happens after we die.

Reincarnation? That's not a Jewish concept. It's Buddhist or Hindu or Druze, but not ours.

Really? Join Rabbi Ed Rosenthal for a fascinating examination of what Judaism really says about the mysteries of what happens after we die.

**Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
Executive Director/Campus Rabbi
Hillels of the Florida Suncoast**

Zoom invitations will be sent prior to the presentation.

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



Honoring Dr. Fauci

Dr. Anthony Fauci, our nation's top infectious disease specialist and the White House's chief medical advisor, was recently awarded a prize worth \$1 million from an Israeli foundation. He received the award for "courageously defending science in the face of uninformed opposition during the challenging COVID crisis." The prize is awarded by the Dan David Foundation, which was founded by the late Romanian-Israeli philanthropist of the same name. The award honors scientists, researchers and cultural figures for achievement in their fields. The foundation also noted Dr. Fauci's work during the AIDS crisis, commending "his exceptional contribution to HIV research" in the 1980s. (www.israel21c.org, 2-17-21)

Delicious? Really?

Aleph Farms, an Israeli company, recently announced that it had produced the world's first "slaughter-free steak" by using a mixture of real cow cells and 3-D printing technology. The company said it tastes like "a delicious, tender, juicy rib-eye steak you'd buy from the butcher." The company received assistance from faculty at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. This bio-printing phenomenon takes live cells and replicates them to mimic a natural organism or product. Aleph Farms is partnering with Mitsubishi, the international industrial giant, to bring its meat alternative to Japan. Last year, the world's first lab-grown meat restaurant opened in Tel Aviv. They served chicken made by a company call SuperMeat, and an Israeli rabbi certified that the product was kosher. (Okay, here's a question: how does one painlessly slit the throat of a chicken that was never, um, a chicken?) (www.jpost.com, 2-11-21)

And the Award Goes to...

In February, the 2021 Genesis Prize, known as the "Jewish Nobel," was awarded to Steven Spielberg. The award "honors extraordinary individuals for their outstanding professional achievement,

contribution to humanity, and commitment to Jewish values." The honor comes with a \$1 million prize, and past recipients (Michael Bloomberg, Natan Sharansky among others) have donated the proceeds to philanthropic causes. Regarding Spielberg, the foundation stated that "Key Jewish themes are often woven into his narratives: importance of identity and belonging, maintaining humanity in a ruthless world, caring for the other, and honoring the moral obligation to do the right thing." The foundation said that they were honoring the Oscar winner for "his extraordinary work to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and prevent future genocides through film, public advocacy and philanthropy." In 1994, Spielberg founded the USC Shoah Foundation, which has so far collected and preserved some 55,000 Holocaust survivor testimonies conducted in 65 countries and in 43 languages. He created the foundation following the wide acclaim he received for his 1993 film "Schindler's List." The Genesis Prize Foundation was created in 2013 by a group of Russian-Jewish philanthropists and is financed through a permanent endowment of \$100 million by the foundation. (www.haaretz.com, 2-11-21)

A Collaboration on PTSD Research?

In early February, a small group of Democrats and Republicans, including two Jewish military veterans, introduced a bill that would connect United States and Israeli researchers searching for a way to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD. The bill would establish a grant program for American universities and nonprofits to team up with Israeli counterparts to research the disorder. In the House of Representatives, the sponsors of the bill are Elaine Luria (D-VA), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Michael Waltz (R-FL) and Lee Zeldin (R-NY). Luria and Zeldin are Jewish and Houlahan's father is Jewish; all three are military veterans. Robert Menendez

(D- NJ) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) are the sponsors in the Senate. "Too many of our bravest men and women come home with invisible wounds from the trauma they experienced while fighting for our country," Luria said. "Congress can uphold its end of the promise by facilitating groundbreaking research to find treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder." Zeldin, who is the House Republicans' lead spokesman on issues pertaining to Israel, added, "It's estimated that 20 U.S. veterans per day take their own life, oftentimes due to the invisible wounds of war...Inspiring further research collaboration between our two nations will establish an international brain trust invaluable to the service members of both our great countries." (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-5-21)

Sounds Like Science Fiction. It's Not.

Israeli scientists have grown 250-cell embryos into mouse fetuses with fully formed organs using artificial wombs. The scientists say this groundbreaking method could lead to human gestation outside the womb. "We have grown hundreds of mice this way, in a method that has taken seven years to develop..." stem cell biologist Professor Jacob Hanna of the Weizmann Institute of Science said. "This could be relevant to other mammals including humans, though we acknowledge that there are ethical issues related to growing humans outside the body." Hanna said that his research can advance understanding of organ formation in mammals since it allows unprecedented views of the process unfolding, "unconstrained by the need to image the inside of the uterus." Scientists have been trying for decades to grow mammals outside the body but with very limited success. Hanna started with embryos consisting just of stem cells and watched with amazement as the organs of the mice – animals that have a speedy gestation of just nineteen days – grew in front of his eyes. "We took mouse embryos from the mother at day five of development, when they are just of 250-cells, and had them in the incubator from day five to day eleven, by which point they had grown all their organs. By day eleven they made their own blood and have a beating heart, a fully developed brain...It's gone from being a ball of cells to being an advanced fetus." The fetuses were healthy but

died at eleven days. Currently this is the longest they can develop in the artificial womb and they cannot be transplanted back into a mouse uterus. But Hanna is hoping to develop his technology to take mice to full term. "The key to our success is that we have developed this special incubator system in which each embryo is in a bottle with liquid and the bottle is spinning to ensure it doesn't attach to the side," Hanna continued, "The incubator creates all the right conditions for its development. What made this possible in the seven-year journey which has seen us develop the liquid, which really gives the embryo all the nutrients, hormones and sugars they need, and the incubator, a custom-made electronic device which controls gas concentration, pressure and temperature." (www.timesofisrael.com, 3-17-21)

In Memoriam

- David Mintz, inventor of Tofutti, the non-dairy product created primarily to appeal to observant Jews who would not mix meat and dairy products, died at the end of February. He was 89. Born and raised in the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) neighborhood of Williamsburg, NY, Mintz often sought the advice of the leader of the Hasidic movement, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Mintz sold mink stoles (say that five times) before deciding to open his prepared food stores. He eventually left the ultra-Orthodox community, but still saw a wide-open market for that circle. Reportedly, in 1972, he bought a gallon of tofu from a vendor in Chinatown and created tofu-filled cookies, cakes, rugalach, and tuna casseroles, among other foods. But it took him many years to perfect his most popular creation, Tofutti ice cream, which became a staple in grocery stores nationwide (and on Shabbat tables after chicken dinners). Mintz tried several flavors and products that had Jewish influences, such as an apple-carrot- raisin tofu ice cream – the flavors of a traditional tsimmes served on Rosh HaShanah – and blintzes ("Mintz's Blintzes") stuffed with tofu ricotta, turning a beloved dairy dish into something that could be served with any kosher meat meal. (www.jewishpress.com, 3-4-21)
- Shlomo Hillel, who helped smuggle Iraqi Jewish immigrants into pre-state Palestine and then continued to bring more during the Jewish state's first years, died in February. He was 97.

Born in Baghdad, his family fled Iraq and went to pre-state British Mandate Palestine in the 1930s. His father had witnessed troops celebrating the massacre of hundreds of Assyrian Christians; seeing this activated his long, atavistic Jewish memory, which made him wonder whether Jews would be next. Mr. Hillel successfully accomplished at least four undercover operations in the pre-and post-state years to smuggle Iraqi Jews. He was responsible for the aliyah (immigration to Israel) of at least 120,000 Iraqi Jews and, as a result, saved the ancient community from total annihilation that would have followed when Saddam Hussein became dictator in the late 1960s and targeted them with persecution. (Today, there are less than 100 Jews remaining in Iraq.) "He came from a great generation...that fought with its hands for Israel's independence and its existence as a safe haven for the Jewish people," said Reuven Rivlin, Israel's president. In addition to all that Shlomo Hillel did in his critical role bringing Iraqi Jews to Israel, his life's work spanned Israel's birth and growth. He founded a kibbutz, was at various times a spy for the Mossad, a member of the Knesset, the Knesset speaker, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, member of the pre-state Haganah militia, and ambassador to a number of African countries. (www.nytimes.com, 2-21-21)

- George Shultz, praised by Jewish leaders for helping to free Soviet Jews, died recently at the age of 100. Thanks to efforts by Shultz and others, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev allowed all Jews to leave the USSR. Between 1986 and 2006, an estimated 1.6 million Jews and their spouses and relatives emigrated from the former Soviet Union. Some 61 percent settled in Israel. Shultz was a U.S. Marine, MIT Ph.D., and former head of the Business School at the University of Chicago. He went on to serve as Labor Secretary, Treasury Secretary and Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Richard Nixon. He then served as Secretary of State from 1982 to 1989 during the Reagan administration. He had a monumental impact on Jews worldwide. While serving as Secretary of State, Shultz repeatedly pressed Soviet leaders on the plight of Jews in the USSR, helping to keep it an American priority until Jews were allowed to leave freely.

Natan Sharansky, the most well-known Jewish refusenik, was freed from a Soviet prison in 1986 in part due to pressure by Shultz. (Sharansky and Shultz remained close friends until Shultz's death). Shultz said that his many encounters over the years with Soviet Jews was an inspiration and an illustration of "the importance of the human spirit and of never giving up." (www.forward.com, 2-11-21)

- Yaphet Kotto, the Black-Jewish actor who rose to fame as the villain in the 1970's James Bond film "Live and Let Die," and as an extraterrestrial stowaway in "Alien," died in March. He was 81. His debut as a professional actor was in the all-Black stage performance of "Othello" in Harlem in 1960. Kotto won an Emmy nomination for portraying Idi Amin in the TV movie "Raid on Entebbe," about the Israeli operation in 1976 to rescue dozens of Israelis held hostage on a plane hijacked by Palestinian terrorists. At the height of his fame, Kotto turned down the role of Captain Picard in "Star Trek: The Next generation," a decision he later came to regret. In his later years, he played in the TV police show "Homicide: Life on the Street." Kotto was born in New York to a Cameroonian immigrant father and a US Army nurse. His father immigrated to the US in the 1920s as an observant Jew who could speak Hebrew. Kotto said that his father's ancestors were African Jews who originated in the area of modern Israel and migrated through Egypt to Cameroon. His mother converted to Judaism before marrying his father. In a 2019 interview, Kotto talked about how Judaism "was a guiding force in his life." Had he not become an actor, Kotto believed that he probably would have become a rabbi. (www.timesofisrael.com, 3-16-21)

Did You Know...

- Shira Haas, the Israeli actress best known for her star performance in Netflix's smash hit series "Unorthodox," will portray Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir in "Lioness," an upcoming TV series. The program is based on the book of the same name by Francine Klagsbrun and will be produced by Barbra Streisand. No release date has been scheduled as of this writing. (www.forward.com, 3-1-21) ◇



Adult Ed Program

Presentation by
Janis Remer

UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE AND MEDIGAP

Wednesday May 19, 2021 7:30 p.m.
followed by Q & A

We welcome Janis as a new KJCC member with an extensive background in Medicare. Tune in for what you need to know from an expert.

- What is Medigap and who needs it?
- What are Medigap policies and terms?
- What are the different types of Medigap policies?
- What do Parts A and B cover?
- What steps are needed to buy Medigap policies?
- What is the best time to buy Medigap policies?
- Where can I find Medigap Resource Information?

If you have questions, please submit them two weeks prior to the presentation and Janis can address them during her talk.
Submit to Beth Hayden - hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net

Zoom invitations will be sent prior to the presentation.

PHOTO GALLERY

Thanks for letting us know what we are missing, Jan Price. Say hi to Luigi. We miss you both.



Jane bringing veggies to Burton's Food Bank.



Erica's Birthday Celebration.



Budding young artist Madison Bloom, daughter of Rachel, granddaughter of Marc Bloom, takes a course in Batik painting from Gloria Avner. Nice work, Maddy.



Gloria doesn't have pets anymore but this mermaid she painted has regular "story hours under the sea." The fish look forward to it.

Rabbi Agler enjoying a moment at last months David Saga “lunch and learn. We are getting a nice view of his back yard.



Erica led a beautiful Seder Plate tutorial. Buddy is mad he wasn't invited.



Carl Roy, Medina Roy's husband, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on March 2nd. The funeral was live-streamed and Medina and a few friends were able to watch it together since COVID prevented in-person attendance. The profound seriousness and respect in every step of this special group of soldiers, both men and women, and in every action, especially in the unfolding and folding of the flag, was extremely moving. Carl served in the Vietnam War, and was responsible for facilitating the miniature Memorial Wall Monument's brief and meaningful stay here in Key Largo some years ago. If anyone is interested in seeing a military funeral at Arlington, please contact Medina at hiitsmedee@gmail.com."

Medina wanted a special gift for the friend who had served with Carl who was able to attend the funeral in person. Medina found the image and Gloria translated it into a painting using soft chalk pastels.



For He will give this angels charge
concerning you, to guard you in
all your ways
Psalms 91:11

KJCC Companions of the Heart.

The beloved companions who were left out of last edition are ready for their closeups!

Kohengi, Ollie and Pumba on the couch

Most of our members have dogs for pets, quite a few have cats, several have birds, and Steve Steinbock has a lovely pond with gorgeous koi fish. Thanks for rounding out our KJCC menagerie, Steve. We've got land, air and sea (well, water anyway) covered.



Ollie competing in agility in Miami



Left: Pumba who has passed over the Rainbow Bridge
Below: Zap in his Keys house - Zap has also passed over the Rainbow Bridge



What a cutie. Steve Steinbock's walking companion and sister to Stuart and Lauren's beautiful pooch. Shayna is both a name and description (pretty in Yiddish).



Thinking optimistically, the time is getting closer to when we may begin to meet in person at our lovely but lonely shul. Whether it happens in July or September or 2022 is a question we cannot answer now, but we can refresh our memories on safety practices for when live events in the Sanctuary and Social Hall begin again. Thank you for sending this, Donna Bolton.

ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING

Miami-Dade Jewish Federation presented an active threat training seminar with Brad Orsini from the FBI as the guest speaker. He stressed that this information is applicable in any situation and showed us films and diagrams from actual cases, including shops, entertainment venues and synagogues.

The National Protocol Model is now **RUN---HIDE---FIGHT**

1. RUN

- Run as far as you can until you feel safe.
- Movement is important-DO NOT PLAY DEAD.
- Hide and hope is not a good plan.
- Know where the exits are located. Always keep exits clear.
- Leave ASAP. Do not worry about your possessions.
- If you can't run, hide.

2. HIDE

- If caught inside, lock the door
- Turn out the lights
- Get out of sight
- Put up a barrier so that the intruder cannot enter
- If you can't run or hide, fight.

3. FIGHT

- Fight with whatever you have on-hand:
Fire extinguishers, furniture, throwable items.
- Be prepared to fight for at least 120 seconds or more until help arrives.

**The commitment to action is very important.
Know where the panic button is located and how to use it.
Make sure someone calls 911.**

Practice drills are very important so that if anything ever happens, a person has a plan.
The body goes into fight-flight- freeze response. What was easy becomes difficult.
Be flexible. Decisive action is important.

Calm yourself – Breathe – Remember your plan

MEET SOME NEW LEADERS

Meet the new people who are stepping up in new ways. We knew certain things about them, and we are grateful for their volunteered abilities (Gary Margolis, for instance, Board member just entering his second year, makes a wonderfully autocratic King Ahashverosh and Jewish Jeopardy host. Laurie Blum we know as the most wonderful mother a blind puppy could have (puppy now can see! Yay!) She often leads thoughtfully original and moving services, from Shabbat to Yizkor to Healing Services. Recently she's accepted the positions of Recording Secretary for the KJCC board and Co-Chair of Ritual Committee. She has even created a new sub-committee under the rubric of Sunshine, affectionately called the Caring Kahillah. Let's learn some more about how they became these wonderfully caring people by reading their own words (we will be doing more of this; we want to know all of our mishpocha better):

Laurie Blum

I was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. While my family belonged to an orthodox shul, our observancy was more conservadox. A Jewish Day School opened the year I was entering the third grade. So my parents enrolled me. I was there through eighth grade and cherish the memories from those years. Our school was very small and our classes even smaller. Often two grades would be combined especially for Judaic studies and Hebrew. Yet, we were a close knit group, albeit like KJCC, from all different Judaic backgrounds. My youth group (NCSY), my school, and our shul were interconnected. My Jewish Day School environment brought with it a sense of community. While I had wanted to go to a yeshiva high school, my parents had other plans. While I never lost faith in G-d, unfortunately, that sense of community, organized religion, was lost for many years until about 2012. Gary and I were already living in Wisconsin and had had a courthouse wedding, when our shul hired a new rabbi. Prior to that, we were the once a year Jews...attending for High Holidays. That new rabbi was able to bring that sense of community back for me. So much so, we had him marry us in a Jewish ceremony. Not like it was planned, but he left for another congregation a month before we moved to the Keys. While we knew what Jewish life was like down here, we didn't realize how far away Miami actually is.



It took a while for me to feel that sense of connection to KJCC. Having our dog Jax get sick and pass away immediately followed by Hurricane Irma distanced me from KJCC because practical day to day matters needed to be addressed. Shortly before the pandemic, I once again started to feel that sense of community. So much so that when asked, I was honored to join the Board, and this year, became its recording secretary. In addition to finding myself on all sorts of committees, some of which I didn't even realize I was on, I also felt that starting the Caring Kehilah would be something that would benefit KJCC. For me, caring for our dogs and the work that I do for KJCC brings with it a sense of purpose that is priceless.

Gary Margolis

I grew up in Revere, Massachusetts (just northeast of Boston). My family belonged to a conservative shul; but was only casually observant. I'm not even sure we were members, prior to my getting semi-close to Bar-Mitzvah age. I attended Hebrew School for a couple of hours a week starting when I was 10 years old. That was at my local Jewish Community Center. Pretty much, we just attended synagogue on the High Holidays, ate matzah at Passover, and celebrated Hanukah instead of Christmas. We didn't keep kosher; and like most Bostonians I considered the local sports teams my religion more than Judaism.

I became a bit more involved while studying with the Rabbi for my Bar-Mitzvah lessons. My inner 13 year old is still absolutely certain that the prayers before the Haftarah were 10 or 15 minutes long; and the ones after the Haftarah were close to 30 minutes. It's a little difficult for the adult me to reconcile that with the few minutes they actually take when I hear them today. I joined AZA as a teenager; but that was for the social life. I attended shul 5 or 6 times a year; and that seemed to be about right for me.

I had often spent a few weeks each summer in northern Vermont with friends and relatives. And in my mid-30s, I finally decided to get out of the big city and move to northern Vermont. When I thought of it, I would try to find a local shul to go to for



Yom Kippur. In northern Vermont, local was pretty much anything within 100 miles. Then I met Laurie at a friend's wedding in Boston. And within a few months, I moved south to Wisconsin. We pretty much only went to shul for the High Holidays. And then as Laurie said, we found a sense of community when a new Rabbi arrived; and we enthusiastically went to synagogue weekly.

After about 15 years in Wisconsin, we figured out that I should have moved a bit further south than Wisconsin. Grassy Key in Marathon of course was the obvious choice for "a bit further south". We still wanted to continue a regular connection with a local shul. And thanks to my Vermont definition of "local", KJCC was the perfect choice. And now, Laurie and I are so happy and proud to be giving a little bit back to our KJCC family by serving on the Board.

Randy Klein-Gross

At my cousin's pre-wedding festivities, he introduced me as the second most interesting person in the world, after the Dos Equis guy. I never really thought about my life like that until he described me that way.

My Jewish life started at home Los Angeles in a conservative, kosher home where all holidays were celebrated with huge family

gatherings and lots of characters. Passover always involved props, intricate afikomen hiding places, and costumes. One year we were asked to come dressed as if you had been wandering in the desert for 40 years. Another year we opened the front door for Elijah and our dog walked in; we didn't even know she got out.

I attended Hebrew school three days a week at Adat Shalom synagogue in West LA as a

kid and then LA Hebrew High School at the University of Judaism throughout high school years. I was also active in USY and Jewish Teen Encounter, making some great friends along the way. My Jewish life was always important to me. When I went to grad school in San Francisco, I visited some amazing synagogues but they didn't feel like home.

For college, I went to Cal State University Northridge and earned a degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Sexuality. I was very involved in teaching about AIDS and safe sexual practices through program at school.

Grad school in San Francisco for Human Sexuality was an amazing experience. One of my best friends at grad school was a 60 year-old Roman Catholic priest from Ireland; you can imagine our interactions were interesting.

Towards my last year in SF, while starting my research for my dissertation, I went to a weightlifting meet to watch a cousin from Chicago. She won her weight class, I met her teammates and coach. I started dating one of her teammates who taught me a bit. Soon I was addicted. When I moved back to LA to write my dissertation, I found an Olympic coach and started training 6 days a week. Four years later, I found myself at 4th in the nation winning many competitions including the Collegiates in Shreveport, Louisiana. During the four years, I snuck away to learn to SCUBA dive, play on a co-ed Jewish softball league, lecture around the world on my dissertation, join a 20-something Shabbat dinner group and visit family without missing a workout.

When I moved back to West Los Angeles, I wanted to find other Jewish Singles who also liked SCUBA diving so I decided to start a Jewish Singles SCUBA diving group. I thought I would have about ten people to dive and travel with. I put a free ad in the Jewish Journal and within three months, there were 150, all asking where we are traveling to next. I quickly became a SCUBA travel expert.

While in Turks and Caicos, I met a blond, green-eyed, tan SCUBA instructor who complimented the modern Chai that I wore (Non-Jews usually thought it was lion). We



fell in love and after a hurricane hit Turks and Caicos, Tomar moved to Southern California. I became a scuba instructor. Tomar attended the College of Oceaneering to study the medical side of hard hat diving including earning his EMT and DMT certifications. We got engaged underwater, were married in San Diego and had the reception on a 3 level paddle boat. It was a huge affair and a great start to our lives together with family flying in from all corners of the earth.

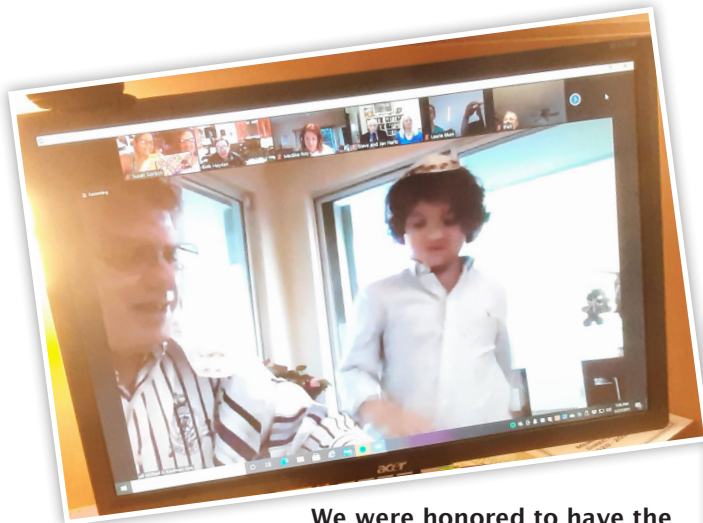
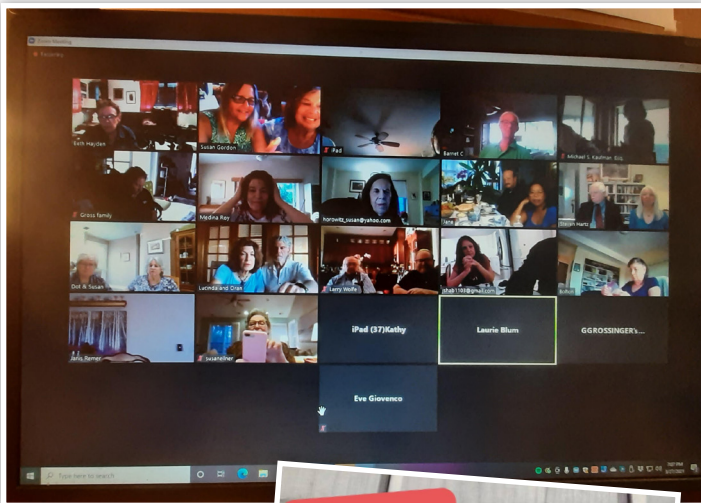
We soon had Jonah and then Oceana to complete our SCUBA family. Jewish holidays with Tomar's family complimented my family's so we had a lot of fun.

After 14 years in California, building our family and business, we needed a change. We sold just about everything. We knew we wanted a active synagogue, great schools, perfect diving and a super band program. Tomar had lived in Key Largo when he was fresh out of the Navy and had fond memories. The Upper Keys fit that bill so we made the move the summer before Jonah's Bar Mitzvah. We rented homes all around Key Largo before settling on a home in Tavernier.

I now am a manager at Divers Direct and make lionfish jewelry for a company I started three years ago. I am proud to be the newest board member of the KJCC and hope we can move forward together. ◇

PASSOVER

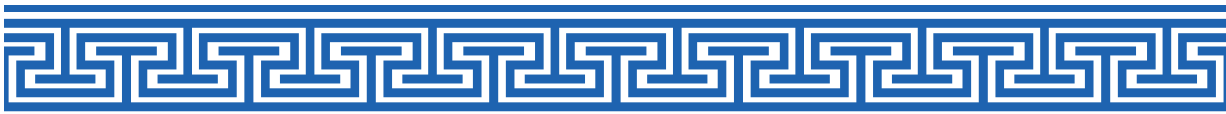
Here we are, a community that was able to gather and tell our story, with 30 attendees, almost all of whom stayed 'til the end, a group serious, joyful, cheery and a bit tipsy in equal measure. Just perfect. Even the dogs liked it and successfully found and fought over the afikomen. Singing traditional songs, led by Steve Hartz, Laurie Blum, Susan Gordon, Gloria Avner and Medina Roy was enjoyed and participated in by all. NEXT YEAR IN KEY LARGO (and live streaming).



We were honored to have the Kaufman family with us at our Seder and immensely proud of Sean for the way he stepped up and read the four questions. Well done , Sean. You are an important part of our congregation!



New use for Matzoh



Gloria invented a new culinary treat on the second night of Passover. Cover a piece of Kosher Israeli matzah with thin slices of your favorite cheese (pepper jack works great) and put it under a broiler for a few minutes until the cheese is melted (and before your smoke alarm goes off). Voila! Thin crust pizza for Passover. Mizzah!!

Jane Friedman's Seder table!



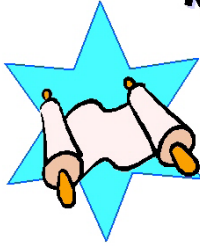
Seder plate with a beet (vegetarian alternative to shank bone). Thanks, Laurie)



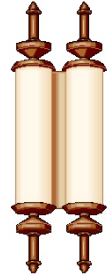
Susan Gordon and Gloria Avner have everything ready on their Seder table, looking forward to joining everyone at the largest Seder table our community has ever known. Virtual reality does have some advantages. We were extremely grateful for example, to have founding member Susan Horn and her partner Dot with us, happily participating from afar.



LOOKING AHEAD TO SHAVUOT



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER **SISTERHOOD** **TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**



Omer counting is over.

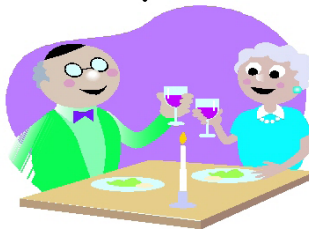
It is time to receive the Torah.

JOIN US on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 7:30 P.M.

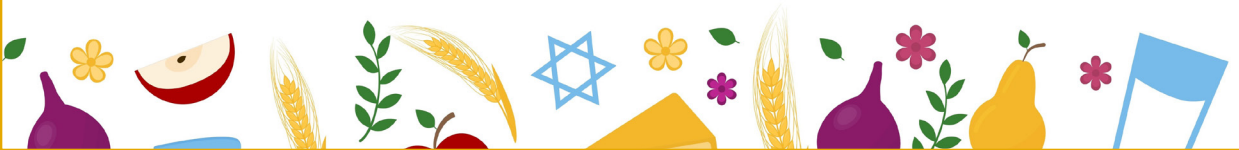
for a SHAVUOT CELEBRATION
and YIZKOR REMEMBRANCE SERVICE.

Dr. Bernard Ginsberg, centered on his favorite Jewish narrative, The Story of Ruth, the future great grandmother of our complex King David.

Yizkor Remembrance Service
will be led by Laurie Blum.



Zoom invitations will be sent out.



DAIRY RECIPES FOR SHAVUOT.

COLD HUNGARIAN SOUR CHERRY SOUP

- 3 c. cold water
- 1 scant c. sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cups pitted sour cherries, fresh or canned
- 1 T. arrowroot
- 2 T. cold water
- ½ c. heavy cream, chilled
- ½ c. dry red wine, chilled

In a 2-quart non-reactive saucepan combine the water, sugar and cinnamon stick. Bring to a boil and the cherries (if using canned cherries, cherries should be well drained). Partially cover and simmer over low heat for 35 to 40 minutes for fresh cherries and about 10 minutes for canned cherries. Remove the cinnamon stick. Mix the arrowroot and 2 tablespoons of cold water into a paste. Beat the paste into the cherry soup. Stir constantly with a wooden spoon, bringing the soup almost to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer about 10 minutes or until the soup turns clear and thickens. Pour into a shallow glass or stainless steel bowl and refrigerate until well chilled. Before serving, preferably in pre-chilled soup bowls, stir in the cream and wine. Serves 6.

Note: This wonderful soup is traditionally eaten by Hungarian Jews for Shavuot when sour cherries are ready for harvest. It can be served as an appetizer or even a dessert. It is quite rich, so serve in small portions. Sour cherries are occasionally found at Publix or can be ordered from Amazon.

CHEESECAKE (FROM LINDA PERLOFF)

Use NO LOWFAT ingredients

- 2 – 8 oz. packages of soft cream cheese
- 1 pound (2 cups) creamed cottage cheese
- 1 ½ cups of sugar (I use about ¼ cup less)
- 4 eggs slightly beaten
- 3 TBSP flour
- 3 TBSP cornstarch
- 1 ½ TBSP lemon juice
- 1 Tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup (¼ pound) melted unsalted butter
- 1 PT (2 cups, 16oz) sour cream

Topping ingredients:

- 1 Pint sour cream
- ¼ tsp. of lemon extract
- ¼ tsp. lemon juice
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- ¼ cup of sugar

Other ingredients

- Keebler vanilla wafers (they work best)

Directions: Preheat oven to 325 degrees

- Grease 9 Inch spring form pan
- Cover bottom of pan with whole vanilla wafers – Crush up more wafers to fill in the holes.
- In a large bowl at high speed beat cream cheese and cottage cheese till creamy and well combined. Gradually beat in sugar, then beat in the eggs till well blended
- At low speed beat in cornstarch, flour, lemon juice and vanilla
- Add melted butter and sour cream and beat just until smooth
- Pour ingredients into pan and bake 1 hour and 10 minutes or until firm around edges. I try not to open oven
- TURN OFF OVEN but do not open oven – Let stand for TWO hours in the oven
- After two hours take out cheesecake–
- Re-heat the oven to 450 degrees
- Spread topping mix evenly over middle of cake – leave a good edge – Bake for 5 minutes
- Remove from oven and refrigerate.



WHY A "TIKKUN LEIL" FOR SHAVUOT

According to Midrash, on the night before the Torah was given, the Jews went to sleep to be well rested for the big day ahead. Unfortunately, they failed to rise early, and Moses had to come to wake them up to meet God. The thunder and lightning were earth and eardrum shattering (Remember Rabbi Ed and that powerful moment of Shofar blowing some years ago!!)

To repair (tikkun) this flaw in our national character, religious Jews stay up all night to learn Torah (a practice begun by the mystics of Safed/Ts'fat in the 16th c.). Any subject may be learned, although Talmud, Mishnah and Torah typically top the list. In many communities, classes and lectures in the wee hours of the morning are offered for men and women. In Jerusalem, thousands of people

finish off the nighttime study session by walking on foot to the Kotel before dawn and joining the sunrise minyan there. This walk reminds us of Shavuot's status as one of the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals, when the entire Jewish nation living in the land of Israel journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate.

We may not take a long walk or stay until the truly wee hours, but we will do our best to make it past 10:00 p.m. with Dr. Bernie Ginsberg leading us in study of the book of Ruth (see poster on p. 25). Do try to have a goodly number of dairy desserts on hand so you can stay strong and well nourished. We are including a few recipes you might like to use in honor of God's promise to lead us to "the land flowing with milk and honey."

IF YOU EVER WONDERED . . . THE ORIGIN OF YIZKOR PRAYERS

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

The Yizkor 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.



Counting the Omer: A Jewish Renewal Perspective

Lucinda Kurtz & Jane Blumenthal

What is “Counting the Omer?” In biblical times, when the Israelites were an agricultural society, the people were commanded to bring an offering of their first harvest (Leviticus 23) and then to count 50 days and bring an offering from the second harvest. The 50th day coincided with the festival of Shavuot. The amount of the offering was a measure of grain known as the omer, and the period of 50 days of counting became over time to be known as Counting the Omer.

Why does this matter to our nonagricultural modern society, when most of us do not grow our own grain of any kind and have no idea how much grain is in an omer? Over time, the first offering came to be identified with Passover, the commemoration of our leaving slavery, and Shavuot, the time of the second offering, came to be identified with the giving of the Torah. The period of counting became a reenactment, on a spiritual plane, of the journey from Egypt to Sinai.

Still later, the Kabbalists associated various attributes of divine energy (sephiroth) with each week and each day of the week during this period, and this informs our practice today. The Tree of Life, the underlying foundational structure of Kabbalah,

has become central to the practice of counting the Omer. It gives us a way of understanding and exploring the flow of Divine Energy through us as human beings as we make this spiritual journey. The attributes are a suite of qualities and are difficult to name in one word, but can be understood as: lovingkindness, strength, balance, endurance, humility, creativity, and indwelling presence.

This time of special counting ushers in a period of introspection and spiritual preparation for receiving the Torah; it's a time of leaving “mitzrayim,” a place of limitation, boundaries, and restraint and moving into a place of greater freedom and expansiveness. Each day offers a specific combination of attributes and challenges for us as we explore the simultaneous tension and cohesion between two aspects of the Divine, the energy of the week and the energy of the day, that move within us.

As Susan Windle eloquently states in *Through the Gates*, “Counting the Omer the mystic’s way is more than a mental exercise. We set our intention, our kavannah, to the possibilities of waking up to the presence of the Divine in our ordinary lives.” ◇

Helpful Hints: A Recap of "Setting Boundaries and Codependence"

Adult Ed brought Mindy Agler and a wonderfully meaningful evening to us right before Passover. The timing was appropriate. After all, telling our story about escape from Egypt (Mitzraim in Hebrew, which also means "tight places") is metaphorically about freeing ourselves from what habits and behaviors restrict us and our own development as fully functional human beings. Thank you Mindy for sending us these reminders.

If you sometimes think you can change other people's behaviors, or you spend more time thinking about other people than about yourself, or you spend more time trying to take care of others than you do for yourself, you're not setting healthy boundaries with those other people.

It's healthy to care for yourself before you care for anyone else, to communicate with the other person in a way they can hear, to not stuff your feelings until you explode.

It's healthy to:

- Be assertive—say what you mean, but don't say it mean

- Use I statements to state your feelings and your wants/needs:
- "I feel _____ when you _____ because _____. I need you to _____."
- State consequences if you're sure you'll stick by them, and set boundaries and stick to them.

It's not healthy to:

Enable, accept, tolerate, nag, yell, scream, make threats you have no intention of keeping, bribe, do something for the person that they are capable of doing themselves.

Healthy boundaries are not about changing the other person—you don't have the power to do that—they're about taking care of yourself, about setting a good example of self-care, about not accepting the unacceptable, or tolerating the intolerable, and about not being the victim or the martyr.

Always remember:

God, Grant Me the Serenity
to Accept the People I Cannot Change,
the Courage to Change the Person I Can, and
the Wisdom to Know That Person is Me.



Gratitude

Strings: A Musing on Gratitude

By Mindy Agler

I wrote the following 2 years ago, 7 years after losing our daughter, Talia, of blessed memory. It is a musing on how my gratitude practice had changed since our loss. I hope you find it thought-provoking.

For years, I had a practice of praying every night, always starting by giving thanks for my husband, each of my children by name, family, health, home, peace, (when the country was not at war—I told you I’ve been doing this a long time), goodness, beauty, a long list of blessings that lulled me into a peaceful sleep.

And then after a cancer diagnosis, I began writing the list of “gratefuls” every night, putting it on paper, cementing it not only in my mind but also in the reality of ink in a journal. Years of lists, filling journal after journal after journal: “Thank You for Rich, Jesse, Tali, Sarah, family, friends, our health, home, goodness, beauty, laughter, love, dogs, my senses, my body, Creation.” Most nights all the same, with an occasional addition. Consciously practicing gratitude, making it an active verb in my life, determining to take nothing for granted.

And then we lost Tali. But I kept writing, in the beginning keeping the focus on gratitude, even the night after the accident, but as the days and weeks passed, slowly, then furiously, adding wider arcs of feelings, spilling them across the pages, with no form, smearing the ink with my tears, tearing the pages with pressure on the pen fueled by rage and pain, fantasizing about different outcomes, writing to her, about her, even from her,

And then, sprinkling bits of gratitude back in, filling journal after journal after journal with all the messiness of loss and healing.

And suddenly a blazing realization that all those entries in my thought or written gratitude lists had been made with strings attached. Thank you for Rich (and keep him safe and healthy), that parenthetical phrase sent to the heavens like a weather balloon, tethered from the end of

the “h” in his name to the God I was thanking, my thanks contingent on the continuation of my having him in my life, healthy, happy, by my side, my partner, my love. And so it was with each blessing on my list. Thank you for them, and please keep them happy and healthy and close.

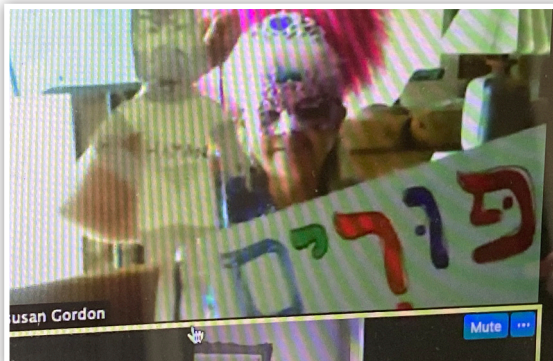
At that moment of realization and acknowledgement of the strings, my relationship with gratitude was fundamentally, completely, drastically, dramatically, and forever transformed. The strings were snipped, cut, severed with a blade so finely honed that there is no chance they will ever re-attach. The list now stands in a purer atmosphere. My sense of gratitude now is three-dimensional, a living, breathing entity, always before me, hovering, bouncing, skipping, floating on the wind, translucent, sparkling, filled with light and prisms, free of restraints, and eternal, in no danger of being snuffed out by change. The blessings I list are now headlined by the “givens” that used to be the focus: “Family, friends, health, home, goodness, beauty, laughter...” I keep the awareness of these blessings close to me throughout each day. But the written list has become specific to each day, and contains a minimum of three blessings. This serves to keep me mindful during the day, and to turn my focus from the hurts and challenges that could all too easily consume me. This practice keeps my eyes open so that I may see “Wherever I gaze, the bush burns unconsumed.” I am surrounded by blessings, and moved to note them. Tonight, I will include the black and white moth I spied on the porch, the doe and her 2 fawns I saw on my afternoon walk, and the cool air of the mountain.

And what of those strings that were cut? They litter the paths I have walked, with their different colors and textures, lengths and thicknesses, but I have no need of them and leave them where they fell. Perhaps a bird will find them, and weave them between twigs to make a nest. And perhaps I will see that nest and add it to my gratitude list for that day.

A look back at Purim



Everyone got into the act in our post Megillah reading game of Jewish Jeopardy. Gary Margolis (aka King Ahashverosh) did a terrific job as benevolent despotic host. Linda Pollack tied with Jeff Margulies for resident smarties.



No, not Zorro! Maybe a well-masked Morfechai?

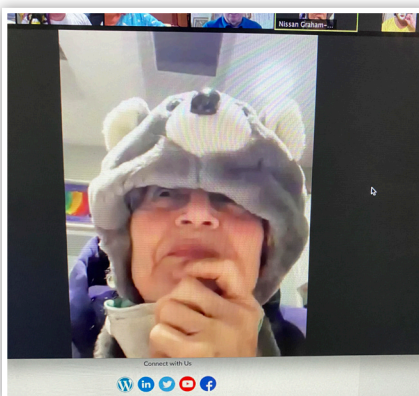




Yes, Yardená came to Purim as a bunny rabbit. Definitely a recyclable costume. The Zoom modality of interaction did nothing to damp down the high spirits of our spirited reading of the “ganza megillah” and the fiercely competitive game afterwards (great job hosting, King A, aka Gary Margolis, and reader of questions, Laurie Blum.



Medina's glasses once had a flamingo on them. She too did great at Jewish Jeopardy. What fun!



Welcome to Purim, teddy bear.



Always glad when people from away come to join us. Welcome, Linda Perloff.

Joyce Peckman almost ready to put “Haman's ears” in the oven.





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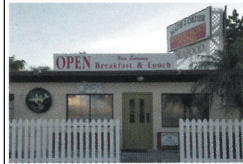
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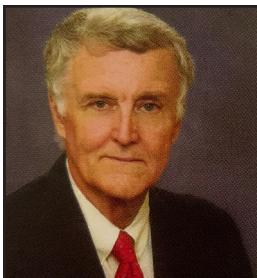


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