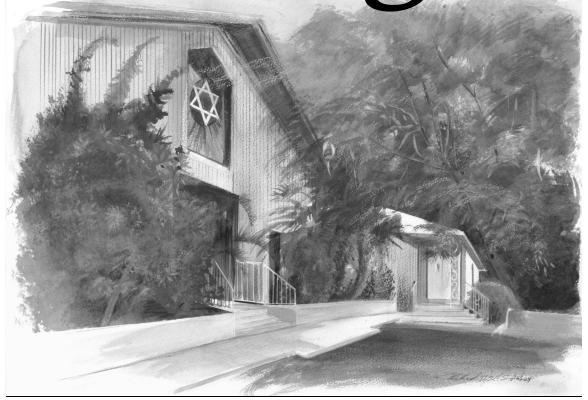
Chai-Lights



June, July and August 2014 3 Sivan - 5 Elul 5774

Photo Gallery - page 22 Yom HaShoah at KJCC - page 33 Shavuot and Tikkun Leil Shavuot - page 38

## June 2014

## 3 Sivan - 2 Tammuz

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Erev Shavuot	4 Men's Club Game Night 7:30 p.m.	5	6 Ken Atlas SteveBarbara Smith Steve & Carol Steinbock Erica & Ron Garrett Yizkor Service 6:30 dinner	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.	9	10	11	12	Steve Steinbock  Steve & Jan  Hartz	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20 Sy Gelbard & Gloria Avner	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 6:30 Service	28
29	30	Italicized na	te leaders of Frid mes are Oneg spo Friday at 8:00 p. where noted.	nsors. Ser-	July 4 Erica Lieberman -Garrett Shabbabecue 6:00 Pauline's 99th	

## 2014 - 2015 Officers and Board

## President

Bernard Ginsberg

#### **Executive Vice President** Sam Vinicur

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Barbara Knowles

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#### Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford

#### **CHAI-LIGHTS** is the

monthly publication of the

#### Keys Jewish Community Center P.O. Box 1332

Tavernier, Florida 33070 chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Bernard Ginsberg

We have a lot to be thankful for at the KICC. This past week, the synagogue was presented with a \$5.000 check from Sisterhood brought in by their conscientious fundraising. Thanks are due to Barbara Knowles and all the ladies of Sisterhood.

We saw in April the presentation of the Joel Cohen Fellowship Award to Yardena Kamely, a fitting tribute to her long years of service to KICC, educating both our children and adults and teaching all of us more about the difficult subject of the Holocaust. No one could deserve the honor more. Our other morah (teacher), Gloria, was just the honoree at our Women's Seder, another greatly deserved reward and recognition of her vital work as Ritual Chair.

We have also had a resignation from a hard-to-replace synagogue position because of other commitments. Sam Vinicur will no longer be continuing as editor and publisher of Chai-Lights. He has taken our little newsletter up to professional magazine quality over his years of dedicated service, but now it's time for someone else to come forward. Please let me know if you have the commitment and ability to try your hand as editor.

Sisterhood is planning a dinner to go with services on Friday June 6th. Services that



night will also include Yizkor for Shavuot and a Tikkun Leil Shavuot learning session after the Oneg as is traditional for this complex and multi-faceted holiday.

On Friday July 4th we will celebrate a truly unique KICC tradition, the "Shabba-be-que," an evening barbeque with hot dogs and hamburgers (some vegetarian, too!) before services, in honor of American Independence Day and Pauline Roller's 99th birthday.

Planning is starting even now by the Officers and Directors so that we will have very beautiful High Holiday services. We have engaged a new cantor, Paul Goldstein, Chazzan Goldstein was trained in the conservative tradition. His wonderful voice and spirit will surely match Rabbi Agler's spiritual gifts to give all of us a totally uplifting experience.

Note that the Holidays come late in September this vear. Please let me know vour preferences for services, as we want to reflect the desires of the Congregation. Should we have more Hebrew or more English? More singing or more prose readings? Shorter or longer services? Anything you think we should add back in or cut out? We need input from everyone.

With love. Bernie

## Nosh

## See You in September

As is our custom, the June issue you're holding is officially the June/July/August issue. We publish Chai-Lights ten times a year, skipping the slow summer months. The next issue you'll see will be September, preparing for High Holidays and the beginning of KICC's new season. Our email will still work, of course, so you're welcome to send photos or articles or comments. They just won't appear until the September issue. Here's to a happy and healthy summer for all.

## Todah Rabah to Rabbi Agler

On Saturday morning, May 17th, thirty KJCC members and friends gathered for this season's last Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Agler. As always, we were inspired, stimulated, challenged, and elevated by his teaching, the discussion, and the service itself. There is some magic in the combination of informality, sincerity, intelligence and humor that are infused in each of Rabbi Agler's learning sessions. For those who come regularly, there is a cumulative effect. Anticipation and enjoyment grow stronger with each service. Rabbi Agler assures us that he will begin monthly Shabbat morning services again after the High Holy Days. We are immensely grateful. - Gloria

## **Oneg Sponsors for Summer 2014**

June 6th - Steve & Barbara Smith for Carrie Smith's birthday.

June 6th - Steve & Carol Steinbock for their anniversary.

June 6th - Erica & Ron Garrett for their anniversary. June I 3th - Steve & Jan Hartz for their anniversary. July 4th - Men's Club for Shababaque

July 18th - Steve & Barbara Smith for Brian Smith's birthday.

August 15th - Richard & Barbara Knowles for their anniversary.

#### Meet our New Cantor

5775 will be a new year for the KJCC in more ways than one. Our team at the helm will have a new addition. We have thanked Cantor Halpern for his many years of service, wishing him and his family well in all their endeavors. The Ritual Committee, after serious searching and interviewing, has hired a new cantor. We think you will be pleased. Meet Hazzan Paul Goldstein, who will be working with Rabbi Agler to bring us into the Days of Awe with serious kavanah and ruach for a deep and meaningful experience.

Cantor Paul's voice is a powerful baritone, thrilling, clear, and traditional enough to feel like

home. He will stir you and add his love of chanting Torah and Tefillah to the mix of Rabbi Agler's dynamic service-leading and interactive teaching style. For the past three years, Cantor Goldstein has been Kol Bo (Spiritual Leader, acting as both cantor and rabbi) at Temple Ohev Shalom in New Tampa, Florida, and for the three years before that



Cantor Paul Goldstein

he was Hazzan at Congregation B'nai Israel in St. Petersburg. He led High Holiday Services for five years at Temple Beth-El in Syracuse, New York, served as Ritual Director at Beth Torah in North Miami Beach, and received his Master's of Sacred Music and Diploma of Hazzan at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1996. We feel fortunate that Hazzan Paul has returned to his roots in South Florida with his wife Cynthia and son lason, who will be joining us for the Days of Awe.

When your dues package arrives in August, please show your support with the generosity you have shown in the past and make a special additional donation to the Rabbi/Cantor Fund. (Especially those of you who in our survey said you would support having both.) We will all be grateful.

-Gloria

## June Birthdays

2nd	
	, .
2nd	Barbara Osder
3rd	Elanor Forbes
3rd	
4th	
4th	
5th	
5th	
6th	
6th	
6th	
7th	
7th	,
8th	
9th	
12th	
13th	Jeff Miller
13th	Israel Mayk
13th	Justin Greenbaum
I4th	lennifer Nobil
I5th	
I5th	
16th	
17th	
17th	Leo Haviv
17th18th	Leo Haviv Kim Haviv
17th    18th    18th	Leo Haviv Kim Haviv Amelia Kasinof
17th	Kim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy Schmidt
17th	Leo HavivKim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey Klein
17th	Leo HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey KleinSam Janowitz
17th	Leo HavivKim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey KleinSam JanowitzRoberta Chester
17th	Leo HavivKim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey KleinSam JanowitzRoberta ChesterRobil
17th	Leo HavivKim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey KleinSam JanowitzRoberta ChesterRoberta ChesterSteve Levine
17th	Leo HavivKim HavivAmelia KasinofJudy SchmidtHarvey KleinSam JanowitzRoberta ChesterTaryn NobilSteve LevineDale Chasteen
17th	Leo Haviv

## **June Anniversaries**

	Y	ears
lst	Jim & Rita Williams	30
lst	Joel Bernard & Joan Stark	
5th	Stephen & Carol Steinbock	
5th	Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Ron Garrett	
7th	Richard & Sheila Steinberg	55
8th	Stephan & Jane Friedman	18
I0th	Mark & Sofy Wasser	
llth	Medina & Carl Roy	
I2th	William & Donna Bolton	
I2th	Steven & Jan Hartz	38
I2th	Harvey & Beverly Robins	
I4th	Harvey & Joan Kay	
19th	Richard & Mindy Agler	
20th	Milton & Joan Wohl	
21st	Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake	
23rd	Stuart & Lauren Sax	
24th	Robert & Heide Werthamer	
25th	Herbert & Elinor Grossman	
28th	Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble	45
28th	Wes & Rita Conklin	

## KJCC Painting to be Part of Exhibit

The Keys History and Discovery Center will be exhibiting a large collection of privately owned artwork by the late Florida Keys artist Millard Wells this month, in conjunction with Millard Wells Day events being organized by the Morada Bay Arts and Cultural District. His original watercolor painting of the formal front of the KICC, seen in miniature each month on the front cover of Chai-Lights, will be part of the exhibit. Ron Levy originated the idea of commissioning the painting to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Beth Kaminstein and the Sisterhood made it happen and donated the painting to the synagogue. The exhibit of Millard Wells works opens on June 19th and runs through August 10th.

-Gloria

## CATHY KAPLAN SISTERHOOD KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

P.O. Box 116 · Tavernier, FL · 33070

May 4, 2014

To the KJCC Board of Directors:

KJCC Sisterhood and the 2014 Women's Seder Steering Committee are proud to present a portion of their *Tikkun Olam* Fund to the Keys Jewish Community Center.

The over-riding goals of our Seder are twofold: to promote strong bonds among the women of KJCC and their friends through creative activity and meaningful ritual, and to raise money to donate to groups making a positive difference in children's and family lives. We do this in our Jewish community, the larger community, and the world.

We are happy to present a check of \$276.80 to the KJCC Scholarship Fund. We will also be sending \$500.00 to the Talia Agler Girls' Shelter in Nairobi, Kenya, and \$250 to Wesley House, an important provider of family services in Monroe County.

Sincerely, Barbara Knowles, President of Sisterhood

Beth Kaminstein, Gloria Avner, Lee Schur, Erica Leiberman-Garrett and Joyce Peckman, Women's Seder Steering Committee Members

	July Anniversaries	
		Years
2nd	Douglas & Rozi Graham	10
9th	Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly	4
12th	Jason & Debbie Madnick	19
24th	Dick & Rita Bromwich	40
30th	Andrew & Randi Grant	25

## The Shabba-be-cue on July 4th

It's now a KJCC summer tradition: on the closest Friday to July 4th, we have a cookout/barbecue (hence the term Shabba-be-cue) for all who are still here. It's one of the few big social events we do in the summer. July 4th is also, much more importantly, Pauline Roller's birthday. This year will be her 99th. She's bringing lots of family. Please contact Bernie or Barbara to let them know you'll be there to join in the eating and celebrating.

## July Birthdays

	Chely Markowitz
	Jennifer Gilson
lst	Nelson Chester
lst	Patti Gross
lst	Alex Hudson
	Elissa A. Denker
	Rabbi Ed Rosenthal
	Max Finkelstein
	Michael Kaufman
	Pauline Roller
	Mindy Rosenthal
	Joyce Peckman
I Oth	Lindsay Gould
	Steven Hartz
12th	Rebecca M. Schur
	Richard Steinberg
	Dot Brooking
	David Gross
	Paul Eric Bernstein
Tul	Danna Levy
	Dailia Levy Robert Werthamer
	Foster Davidson
1/tn	Shira Listman
	Luzviminda Levine
	Carol Laskin
	Roosmary Benowitz
	Joshua Samuel Bernstein
	Arlington Garrett
	Linda Perloff
	Brian Smith
	Carrie Temkin
	Alan Markowitz
	Lance Royce Kaufman
	Carol Field
27th	Marc Bloom
27th	Stephanie LaMarche
27th	Rachael Bloom
	Lila E. Juenger
29th	Bruce Boruszak
	Mary Lee Singer
29th	Candy Stanlake
	Molly Bloom
	Drew Nobil

## August Birthdays

lst	Nicholas Rivera
2nd	Marc S. Field
4th	Jessica Forman
5th	Nissan Mayk
9th	Delia Grace Smith
9th	Eric Freundlich
10th	Emma Feig
10th	Rozi Graham
10th	Barbara Smith
13th	Stephan L. Friedman
	Gina Moritz
I4th	Heide Werthamer
15th	Danielle Zinner
15th	Patricia Isenberg
16th	Alan Lindenbaum
16th	Tom Brennan
16th	Alison Thompson
19th	Pamela Friedman
20th	Amanda Nobil
21st	Rachel Zinner
23rd	Dave Mont
24th	Carl McNew
26th	Mikhaela Bitton
27th	Jaimee Marshall
27th	Judy Greenman
28th	Evan Stuart
30th	Sue Ann Weihl
30th	Robert Temkin
31st	lvy Blumenfeld

## **August Anniversaries**

		Years
7th	Larry & Dorothy Wolfe	57
15th	Paul & Susan Roberts	46
I5th	Richard & Barbara Knowles	15
l 6th	Ira & Shirley Stein	56
17th	Stephen & Marsha Harris	13
21st	Jeff & Lisa Miller	37
22nd	Franklin & Judy Greenman	32
27th	Israel & Nissan Mayk	42
	•	

## A Very Special Friday service on June 6th

The Friday evening Shabbat service on June 6th, beginning at 8:00, will have four important parts. First, it's erev Shabbat. (Jews don't keep the Sabbath...Sabbath keeps the lews, right?) But that particular evening we will also have the Yizkor associated with Shavuot, and a two-part celebration of Shavuot itself. It all begins at 6:30, with a dairy dinner. (It could only be dairy on Shavuot. The donation for members is \$10. for non-members \$15. And, yes, you're welcome to bring friends and family and anyone else interested in not only a great meal but also to learn more about the many-faceted holiday that is Shavuot.)

Then after services we'll re-assemble in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall for Tikkun Leil Shavuot. What's that? Well, if you've attended any of Rabbi Agler's Saturday Torah services, you'll remember him talking often about one of his favorite lewish ideas: ge-oolah (or geulah), meaning redemption. But it isn't redemption as the secular world thinks of it. He speaks of it in the very specific lewish way: it comes not from anything in your heart but almost exclusively through your actions. The same goes for the Jewish idea of Tikkun Olam, the healing (or, in a way, redemption) of the world. It is what we DO that determines whether the mitzvot are followed and therefore the mystical process of healing takes at least a small step forward.

So what will go on that night during Tikkun Leil Shavuot? Well, we'll eat lots of dairy, including cheesecake. We'll read from the Book of Ruth. We'll discuss the many aspects of this holiday that the rabbis say is when the escaping Israelites actually became the Jewish people. (For more detailed information about Shavuot and the dinner, see the articles beginning on page 38 and the ad on page 14.)

## Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

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

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

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

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

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YAHRZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES, **BOOKPLATES** for siddurim: Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-393-1205.

JNF TREES IN ISRAEL: A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Linda Kaplan, 305-396-7000. CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-393-1205, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual rates.

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

## In Memoriam Stummer 2014

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Samuel Segal William Owen Esther R. Cohn By Paul & Barbara Bernstein By Nancy L. Cohn By Nancy L. Cohn <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Lois Owen Louis R. Coltman Leo Finklestein By Nancy L. Cohn By Barnet O. Coltman By Max & Mildred Finklestein <><><> <><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Moniek Gelbard Erik S. Persoff Samuel Schneider By Sy A. Gelbard By Lynn Nobil By Maryon Gould <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Saul Elson Lucy Kaufman Celestina Bravo-Mendez By Mrs. Marty Graham By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ruth Rosen Emilia Mendez Arthur Klimpl By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael & Lorena Kaufman By Michael Klimpl <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Esther Kwalick** Bill Kwalick William Saul Kerman By Teresa Kwalick By Teresa Kwalick By Jonathan & Arlene Line <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Florence C. Kerman Carl C. Reiff Dale Gerber By Jonathan & Arlene Line By Rick & Roberta McNew By Dave Mont & Georgia Landau

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## In Memoriam Summer 2014

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Leslie Peckman **Ben Horwitz** Sidney Stark By Joyce Peckman By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark By Pauline Roller <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Harold Rosenthal Robert L. Cline Milton Lang By Skip Rose By Ed & Mindy Rosenthal By Meredith A. Cline <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Jan Finer Beth Schulberg Rose Goldberg By Stuart & Lauren Sax By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Susan W. Goldberg <><><><><> <><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Leonard Tobin** Jason Grossman Wally Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Andrew M. Tobin By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Beulah Grossman Irma Weihl Rose Fine By Sam & Leslie Janowitz By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe By Alfred & Sue Ann Weihl <><><><> <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Rose Graff Rosenfeld Leon Kirschenbaum Irwin Kwalick By Morton & Gene Silverman By Medina Roy By Teresa Kwalick 000000000000 <><><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Paula Travers Morris Rose** Leo Finklestein By Max & Mildred Finklestein By Michele & Ed Riley By Skip Rose

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# In Memory Of Summer 2014

In Memory Of

Chai-Lights June, July and August 2014 II

In Memory Of

**Aaron Schmidt Phyliss Bloom** Abraham L. Blumenfeld By Judith Schmidt By Marc Bloom By Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Jack L. Sachs **Ruth Richardson** Sam Fabian By Morton & Gene Silverman By Meredith A. Cline By Martin S. Fabian <><><><> <><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Mollie Z. Cohen S. Marshall Gorson Max Gould By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Janice Gorson By Maryon Gould <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Milton Swartz Margaret Isenberg Sydney Emsig By George & Muriel Swartz By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs By Patricia Isenberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Seymour Werthamer Les Reitman Otto Kluger By Robert & Heide Werthamer By Marshall & Myra Kaplan By Nancy Kluger <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Joseph Wasser Fred Ross **Bob Freundlich** By Mark & Sofy Wasser By Joyce Peckman By Linda Perloff <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Seymour H. Levin Frank Stanley Sachs Morgan Rowen By Sanford & Nancy Yankow By Joseph & Susan Sachs By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><>

## ⊙n Memoriam &ummer 2014

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Franne Alter Harvey Kelman Sylvia Sachs By Barry Alter By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By Morton & Gene Silverman <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Gary W. Cohn Stanley H. Klipper **Bernard Solas** By Nancy L. Cohn By Mary Lee Singer By Elaine Solas <><><> <><><><> <><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Dorothy Schafer** Ben Steinbock **Mack Swartz** By Barry & Natalie Dorf By Stephen & Carol Steinbock By George & Muriel Swartz <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Ida Estrin Alfred Eichler Jeanette Gould By Maryon Gould By Lillian Tallent By Judith Weber <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Margaux Rene Grossman Frieda Feinberg Henrietta Zinner By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe By Stuart Grossman By Donald Zinner <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Shirley Lieberman** Meyer G. Cohen **James Nobil** By Erica Lieberman-Garrett By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Isaac Cohen Pardo **Erwin Wainer** Erik S. Persoff By Stanley & Jenny Margulies By Richard & Sheila Steinberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg <><><><> <><><><> <><><><>

Chai-Lights June, July and August 2014

## ⊗n Memoriam Summr 2014

In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Isaac Berman Priscilla Leshin Joel Reed Baker By Sylvia Berman By Joan Boruszak By Joseph & Susan Sachs <><><><><> <><><><> 000000000000 In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Selma Smith** Sandra Kanarek **Robert Davidson** By Wes & Rita Conklin By Foster Davidson & Carol Laskin By Steven & Barbara Smith <><><><> <><><><> <><><><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Samuel Wainer **Harriet Feinberg** Jesse Ginsberg By Arthur Feinberg By Bernard Ginsberg By Richard & Sheila Steinberg 000000000000 <><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Richard Gould Ralph Tallent Henry Kirschenbaum By Maryon Gould By Marilyn Greenbaum By Lillian Tallent <><><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Jim Nobil Chanoch Levy Eva Raub By Yardena Kamely By Harvey & Judith Klein By Lynn Nobil 0000000000000 <><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of **Max Lieberman** Billie Kornbloom **Howard Shutan** By Erica Lieberman-Garrett By Stuart & Lauren Sax By Erica Lieberman-Garrett <><><><> <><><><><> <><><><> In Memory Of In Memory Of In Memory Of Martha Schulberg **Dorothy Marmar** Gizella Reiff By Alan & Elaine Schulberg By David & Pamela Marmar By Rick & Roberta McNew

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## Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

General Fund In Honor of Cole, Ronald love offering speedy and complete recovery

- Stu Sax

speedy and complete Hudson, Fred & Beth

recovery - Stu Sax

Sisterhood

Boruszak, Joan

General Fund In Memory of Facchini, Penny Elaine & Gerald Hirsch Peckman, Joyce Carmel Catanese Carmel Catanese Pollack, Joel & Linda

In Honor of Meditation Garden Gitin, David tree - Gloria Avner Scholarship Fund

Sisterhood - Women's Seder

**Yahrzeits** In Memory of Dorf, Barry & Natalie **Emanuel Schafer** Kaplan, Marshall & Myra Gertrude Kaplan Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Morris Kornbloom Roberts, Paul & Susan Rabbi Milton Greenwald Schur, Lee **Bob Schur** Temkin, Robert Phillip Temkin

Yahrzeit Plagues

Harris, Stephen & Marsha Lee Harris

## How Certain Contributions to KICC Can Instantly **Become Permanent, Living Memorials**

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 treasures 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 KICC 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; an outdoor plague is included in the price.

## Sisterhood Barbara Knowles

Cummer is almost here, which also means many of our KICC friends and family are gone. We eagerly look forward to welcoming them back home next season.

For the most part, the second-night Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club went flawlessly. Steve Hartz, Gloria Avner, David Gitin, Steve Steinbock and everyone else who contributed to our Haggadah services were terrific. The food was, as always, plentiful and great. Kudos and many thanks to Gene Silverman, who helped me immensely every step of the way. The only way to hold an event at the Islamorada Fishing Club is to be a member there, so we thank Mort and Gene Silverman for being our sponsors.

My meaning, when I stated that "for the most part" everything went great, is that the KICC got charged for no-shows or for cancellations made on the same day of the event. (IFC had already ordered the food and drink for these people.) So we had to pay for an extra ten people who weren't there. These extra charges caused us to throw money away unnecessarily.

So in the future, all reservations will have to be pre-paid: people can then choose whether to show up or not. Cancellations can be accepted, but must be at least 48 hours ahead of time for us not to be responsible for the per-person charges.

Sisterhood's last meeting was held on May 4th at 11:30, and we had our annual luncheon at the Pilot House. I had invited Bernie. Sam and Marc Bloom since too few Sisterhood women ended up coming. Shortly after Bernie arrived, I presented him - a result of a year's hard work by Sisterhood - with a check to KICC for \$5.000.00. Needless to sav. Bernie was pleasantly surprised.

On June 6th, the Temple will be hosting a Tikkun Leil Shavuot dinner. Erica Garrett and Gloria Avner are the contacts for this. The cost is \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non-



members.

I am including below the prayer I recited at the last Sisterhood Meeting, as it says a lot about what Sisterhood means to me:

## Sisterhood Prayer

God, we ask You to sanctify and bless this group of women as we come together as a Sisterhood. Grant us the capacity to love and to learn and be open to new ideas. Enable us to share with others both in heart and mind. May You help us to fulfill and use all our abilities as we continue to do mitzvot. Give us the strength and courage to accomplish the hopes, dreams and goals of our organization. Please help us to find the way to be better women and to be strong enough to help our synagogue and our community in every possible way. Give us patience and understanding and instill in us knowledge and energy so that we may help others. Help quide us as we travel along on our journeys. Help us to understand, lead and respect each other. Thank you, God, for helping us to become the women we are, and the women we will become. Watch over us and keep us safe. Give us the strength to endure each day in good health and happiness. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help others. Please give us the strength to make a difference.

Please grant us: The wisdom to lead; The patience to listen: The compassion to feel: The tolerance to understand; The courage to chanae.

We ask for Your strength and guidance in achieving our goals for the good of our community.

In closing, Sisterhood will meet again on July 8th at 6 p.m. for a planning meeting. I will be providing pizza and salad for all who attend. I hope everyone has a great summer!!  $\diamond$ 



# TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT SHABBAT DINNER

We have been wandering in the desert for 49 days. Omer counting is over and it is time to receive the Torah

Let's make up for our ancestors who nearly slept through the great moment.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot is the widespread custom of studying Torah on Shavuot night until dawn

(or maybe until 10:00 pm). And we'll have a great Dairy meal before our services and Yizkor.

JOIN US on FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH, 6:30PM,



SHAVUOT

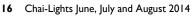
CELEBRATION

DAIRY DINNER, SERVICES, YIZKOR, DISCUSSION OF MEGILLAT RUTH, RECEIVE THE TORAH

## Contacts:

Erica-hippiejap@hotmail.com Gloria-geetavner@gmail.com to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Donation: Members \$10 NonMembers \$15 Children 12 and under @ no charge



## YEDA VETORASHA Yardena Kamely



## A Search for Jewish Roots - Researching Family Genealogy

Inusim, meaning "coerced ones" or forced ones," are Jews who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will and in most cases forcibly converted to another religion. We read about Anusim after the forced conversion to Christianity of Ashkenazi Jews in Germany at the end of the 11th century. Rashi, who lived during this period, noted the issue of Anusim in his complex and revered legal opinions. Several centuries later, the mass forced conversion of Sephardi Jews followed. These were Jews of the 15th and 16th centuries with long histories in Spain and Portugal (which together form Iberia, known as Sepharad in Hebrew). Sephardic Anusim are also referred to as "Conversos," meaning converts to Christianity in Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan and Ladino. Conversos suffered discrimination, harassment and suspicion from both the community they were leaving and the one they were joining. Christians and Jews both called them tornadizo (renegade). They did not have legal equality and were attacked in occasional pogroms during times of high social tension as during an epidemic or after an earthquake.

"New Christian" (cristiano nuevo in Spanish) was a term used to refer to Iberian Muslims and lews who converted to Roman Catholicism, and their baptized descendants. The term, not one of warmth or welcome, was used by the 'Old Christians' of Iberia who wanted to distinguish themselves from Conversos. They also used other derogatory names for the converting groups, such as Moriscos for Moors and Marranos for lews. Throughout the Middle Ages, Jews and Mus lims converted to Christianity, often because

of physical, economic, and social pressures. In the 14th century there was increasing pressure against lews, including riots like the one of 1391 in Seville. These riots caused the destruction of lewish communities and led to many conversions that continued through the 15th century. Portugal was not much affected by the waves of riots and many New Christians fled from Spain to Portugal. After the expulsion of the Jewish population from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497, the remaining lewish population in Iberia became officially Christian.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, some Conversos migrated to the Americas, to New Spain (North and Central America) and Peru (South America), where they believed that they would be able to live without persecution. From urban México, there was a migration of Conversos into the Nuevo México Province (today the U.S. state of New Mexico) during the 18th century. An article in 1990 in The New York Times stated that about 1,500 Hispanic families in northern New Mexico had Jewish backgrounds. Large numbers of Conversos, however, remained in Spain and Portugal, despite the large emigration and the fate of many victims of the Inquisition. The New Christians of Portugal, for a few years, had the privilege of being allowed to sell their real estate as well as to leave the country with their families and their property. Many, taking advantage of this, left for North Africa and Turkey. Many New Christians migrated to London, from which their families later left for Brazil, where Conversos had settled at an early date, and to other colonies of the Americas. Migrations to Constantinople and

Greece's Thessaloniki - where many Jewish refugees had settled after the expulsion from Spain, as well as Italy, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria, plus Vienna and Timişoara (in today's Rumania) - continued to the middle of the 18th century.

Many of the *Conversos, New Christians, Marranos* and their descendants, known by the Hebrew term *Bnei Anusim* (the children of *Anusim*), remained behind, where they continued to conserve their Jewish identity and to practice Jewish tradition in secret, hiding from

the brutal persecution of the Inquisition. One of the most famous examples was the converted Jews from Palma de Mallorca, still known today by the name *chuetas* ("pigs," which is also the translation of *Marranos*). Many of the New Christians

Above, Bnei Anusim Jews in Tarapoto in the Amazon. At left, Incan Bnei Anusim in Peru celebrate the lighting of Chanukah candles. The photo below is of the Incan Bnei Anusim synagogue.

in Portugal made great efforts to remain loyal to their Jewish roots, passing down the faith and practices of their ancestors to the next generations. And while many had to pay a heavy price for conserving Judaism, many others somehow succeeded in preserving their Jewish identity. Perhaps the most famous example was the community of Belmonte, in northern Portugal, where some 150 Bnei Anusim were restored to the Jewish people two decades ago by a rabbinical court sent from Israel.

When the doors to the New World were opened in the 16th and 17th centuries, Brazil came to play an important role for the *Bnei Anusim*. They looked for ways to distance themselves from Iberia, where the Inquisition was heaviest, and so they joined the colonization and development of the new continent. Brazil offered the possibility of a new life, and the hope of one day returning to the faith of their ancestors. But the long arm of the Inqui-

sition reached America and continued to persecute the *Bnei Anusim*, hunting down those accused of secretly practicing Judaism and re-

maining faithful to the laws of the Torah, especially after Portugal asserted full control of Brazil from the Dutch in 1654. But even the cruelty and ruthless efficiency of the Inquisitors could not fully deter the *Anusim* from being practicing Jews. Thousands of families, especially in the interior of northern Brazil, continued to preserve Jewish rituals and traditions.

Today, descendants of *Bnei Anusim* throughout Spain, Portugal and South America are searching for their Jewish roots. Family stories form an important part of a per-

son's identity - stories about love, childhood dreams, friendship, hardships, triumphs, and the ongoing journey that is life. These stories come to represent a chain that bonds generations and become invaluable to their family's collective identity. A growing number of these descendants are looking to reconnect with the Jewish people and return to the faith that was taken away from their forefathers five centuries ago.

While researching in the Beth Am library for my KJCC lecture series about The Jewish Golden Age in Spain during the Islamic Empire, looking for literature on famous Jewish figures and their family stories, the librarian

took a book from the shelf and told me to read it. assuring me that it would be of interest for my lecture about the Jews of Spain. That same evening I started reading this small book and could not stop turning the pages, fascinated by the story of a woman's search for her Converso Jewish roots. The book, "My 15

Grandmothers," by Genie Milgrom (2012) is about her search to find the proof that her family's ancestors in Spain were Bnei Anusim.

Genie Milgrom grew up in a devout Roman Catholic family with no idea of her hidden lewish past. Her grandparents emigrated from Spain, first to Havana, Cuba, and then, after Castro's takeover, to Miami when Milgrom was five years old. When she was seven. she attended a summer camp where she met her first Jewish friend. "I was drawn to her like a firefly to light," Milgrom says. "She fascinated me and I stuck to her like glue." During the school year. Genie sought out any connection she could find to lews and ludaism. "It was inexplicable," she adds. "It made no sense, but I felt more at home with the

occasional lew I met than I did inside a church." At the university, she met another Jewish friend, her interest in Judaism grew, and she took classes in theology and paid special attention to the Jewish topics. She married very young, and only after 16 years of marriage and a divorce did she resume her interest and studies in Judaism. "I began to devour volumes of Jewish books," she says, "on the holidays, marriage, Shabbat, philosophy - anything I could get my hands on." She started visiting synagogues for the first time. Eventually she converted to Judaism, her family not understanding why or what had moved her to walk that path. And then something

incredible happened. It was a Friday, and Milgrom's mother was on the phone. "Your grandmother has passed away." she said. Genie asked her mother to please hold the burial until Sundav. rather than do it on the Sabbath when Genie could not attend, but her mother was insistent. "In our family

tradition, we must do the burial immediately!" This struck Genie

as strange. The tradition of burying someone as soon as possible is not a Catholic one, but a Jewish custom.

The day after the funeral, Genie's mother produced a box that Milgrom's grandmother had specified be delivered to her granddaughter only upon her death. Genie opened the box and inside was a Star of David earring and a Hamsa pendant. "At that moment, I said to myself 'holy moley!'" Genie recalls. "My grandmother must have been a Marrano." Other memories suddenly began to make sense. With these clues, Genie Milgrom began a search that would last more than a decade to trace back her Jewish roots. It is a fascinating story.  $\diamond$ 



Bnei Anusim Jews in Colombia, South America.



## World Jewish Report Medina Roy



#### **Un-Cancelled**

An exhibit entitled "The People, the Book, the Land: The 3,500-year Relationship Between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel," was originally scheduled to open at UNESCO's (United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture) Paris headquarters in January 2014. The event was cancelled due to protests from Arab states. That cancellation brought swift and strong condemnation by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and other Jewish organizations. WJC President Ronald S. Lauder called the action "an outrageous political manipulation of a cultural event." UNESCO has recently announced that the program has been rescheduled and will now open on June 11th. (World Jewry Digest, April/May 2014)

#### 1482 Torah

At an auction in Paris on April 30th, a 15th century Torah produced in Bologna, Italy sold for \$3.87 million, the highest price ever paid for any Hebrew-language book. Three buyers attempted to outbid each other by telephone during the sale. According to Christie's auction house, the book is "in exceptionally fresh condition." Three 16th and 17th century signatures at the end of the book confirm its age. indicating that the scroll was housed in an Italian library until at least the mid-17th century. Christie's listing said, "The volume represents the very first appearance of all five books of the Pentateuch as well as the first to which vocalization and cantillation marks have been added." (www.tabletmag.com, 5-2-14)

#### A (Famous) Tree Grows in D.C.

Thanks to Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Florida), a three-foot sapling grown from the original horse chestnut tree in Amsterdam that Anne Frank saw

and wrote about while she and her family hid in the attic for two years, was planted on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC at the end of April. At the planting ceremony, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, who is Jewish, recited in English the shehecheyanu, the ancient Hebrew prayer that celebrates special occasions. (So he couldn't have brushed up on his Hebrew for the occasion?) The sapling is among eleven taken from the original tree, which fell during a storm in 2010. Several have been planted in the United States, including at New York's "Ground Zero." Boston Common in Massachusetts, the Holocaust Memorial Center in Michigan and the Southern Cayuga School District in New York. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 5-1-14)

#### Spielberg Does it Again

Acclaimed filmmaker and director Steven Spielberg is forming the Center for Advanced Genocide Research at the University of Southern California. Its primary focus will be "to investigate the conditions leading to genocides and how to intervene in time to prevent such mass violence and slaughter." Twenty years ago, following the release of his Oscar-winning film "Schindler's List," Spielberg founded Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation (now known as the USC Shoah Foundation) at the same university. The Shoah Foundation has grown and now contains some 52,000 testimonies, dealing primarily with the Holocaust but also including some eyewitness accounts of the 1994 Rwandan Tutsi genocide and the 1937 Naniing massacre. Material on the Armenian and Cambodian genocides will be added to the archives this year. The foundation also provides numerous educational programs. (The Forward, 4/26/14)

#### **Another Spielberg Story**

Steven Spielberg has signed on to produce a film adaptation of David Kertzer's 1998 book, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara. The book tells the true story of Edgardo, a six -year-old Jewish boy taken by Church authorities from his family's home in Bologna, Italy in 1858, and brought to a monastery in Rome. The boy was seized based on a rumor that he had received an emergency baptism by the family's illiterate housemaid because he was gravely ill. At that time in the Papal States, it was illegal for non-Catholics to raise Catholic children; if baptized, the boy, considered to then be a Catholic in the eyes of the Church, would no longer be allowed to remain in the home of his Jewish family. Edgardo was taken in by Pope Pius IX and raised as a Catholic. He remained a Catholic as an adult and ultimately was ordained a priest. The boy's parents tried to regain custody of their son but failed. They refused to convert to Catholicism in order to get him back. Playwright Tony Kushner (also Jewish) - who previously worked with Spielberg on the films "Munich" and "Lincoln," both Academy-Award nominees - is said to be on board to write the script. Kertzer's book isn't the first depiction of Edgardo's strange case. In December 2013, a painting of the same name by 19th century German-Jewish painter Moritz Daniel Oppenheim was sold at Sotheby's for more than \$400,000 to a private American collector. (www.tabletmag.com, 4-29-14)

### Technically, He was Jewish

Mary O'Connor Ward, sister of Cardinal John O'Connor, the late archbishop of New York, recently discovered through genealogical research that their mother, Dorothy Gumple O'Connor, was born lewish but converted to Catholicism when she was nineteen before she met and married their father. According to halacha (Jewish law), anyone born to a Jewish mother is considered a Jew. In addition, it seems a genealogist has found that the cardinal's maternal grandfather was a rabbi in Bridgeport. Connecticut and that he may have been the local kosher butcher and perhaps even the shochet, a person trained and li-

censed to slaughter animals as directed by Jewish law. Ward does not know whether her brother, who died in 2000 at the age of 80, knew that their mother had been born lewish. The cardinal had deep connections with New York's Jewish community and was a close friend of the late New York City mayor Ed Koch, with whom he co-authored a book. O'Connor often said that Jews were Catholics' "elder brothers." He visited the Dachau concentration camp in 1975, was active in protest marches to free Soviet Jews in the late 1980s, and often joined lews in commemorating the Holocaust. O'Connor was a strong defender of Israel. In 1994 Pope John Paul II named him archbishop of New York. Koch went to the Vatican to witness his friend's elevation to cardinal in 1985. That same year O'Connor was quoted as saving that anti-Semitism is a sin. (www.tabletmag.com, 5-1-14 and the jewishweek.com, 5-6-14)

## A "Jewish" Lost & Found

Some five million people ride New York City's subways every day. According to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the subway system's "Lost & Found" is loaded with fascinating things New Yorkers leave behind. There are 1,696 "undergarments," 28,000 cell phones and a prosthetic leg. "We get false teeth almost every week," William Bonner, supervisor of the New York City Transit lost-and-found, said. There's even a "Jewish" category - 10 sets of tefillin. But there's good news. The MTA boasts a 60 percent return rate.

(www.tabletmag.com, 5-7-14)

#### In Memoriam

• Jacob Birnbaum, founder of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSI) who devoted his life to campaigning for Jewish causes, has died at the age of 88. Birnbaum was born in Germany. His father, Solomon, a Yiddish scholar, took the family to London when Hitler came to power. After World War II, the younger Birnbaum became involved in resettling what was left of eastern European Jewry. (He was inspired by his grandfather, Nathan Birnbaum, who coined the term "Zionism" in 1890.) Jacob

moved to New York in 1964 and, having witnessed firsthand the horrors of the Holocaust, began mobilizing students to put pressure on the Kremlin to stop oppressing Soviet lews. He took careful note of the successful tactics of the American Civil Rights movement and applied them to the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union. More than 1,000 students from Yeshiva University, Columbia, Stern College and other college campuses demonstrated outside the Soviet mission to the United States in a campaign to free the millions of Jews trapped in the Soviet Union. This protest began a world-wide movement that led to a modern Exodus and contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union. He insisted that every protest rally include posters that read "Let My People Go," the line from Exodus 9:1. He demanded free emigration, not just an easing of restrictions. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Soviet lews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union. Many moved to Israel. In 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives honored Birnbaum for his efforts on behalf of Soviet lews. (www.nvtimes.com, 4-19-14)

- Gary Becker, economist and a protégé of free-market advocate and economist Milton Friedman, died at the beginning of May. He was 83. Becker redefined the field of economics and applied its principles to a wide range of human behavior. His work won him the Nobel Prize in 1992. He used economic analysis to study subjects ranging from crime to discrimination, addiction, political influence, population and the family, to name a few. He got his doctorate in economics at the University of Chicago in 1955 and two years later published "The Economics of Discrimination." In his early career, leading economists guestioned the validity of his analysis of social problems. In 2011, he said that the United States needed to delay payment of retirement benefits because of huge budget deficits. He suggested that the U.S. Congress consider raising the age of retirement to 70 for people without disabilities. Becker later served as an economic adviser to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. (The Forward, 5-5-14)
- Al Feldstein, comic book writer, artist and long-time editor (29 years) of *Mad* maga-

zine, died at the end of April. He was 88. Feldstein worked at EC comics from 1948, but left comics to become editor of Mad in 1956, replacing founding editor Harvey Kurtzman. Feldstein gave the magazine its identity. He assembled a team that would define the magazine's irreverent tone -especially popular with teenagers - making it profitable and a commercial success with a satirical look at pop U.S. culture. He made Alfred E. Neuman, the freckled-faced, gap -toothed fictitious young man with the big ears the symbol of *Mad* magazine. Neuman became a household name with his slogan "What - me worry?" Feldstein was born in Brooklyn. He won a poster contest sponsored by the 1939 New York World's Fair. He attended the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan and later took classes at the Art Students League, Feldstein retired in 1984 and settled in Montana, where he focused on a career in wildlife and landscape painting, exhibiting his work in numerous galleries in the west. (www.nytimes.com, 5-1-14)

#### Did You Know...

- Eric Afriat, 45, of Montreal, missed both Passover seders at his mother's home in West Boca Raton, Florida because he was playing in the World Poker Tour/Seminole Hard Rock Poker Showdown in Hollywood, Florida. He considered quitting the tournament to attend the seders but decided to keep playing. He won the tournament and took home over a million dollars. (The Forward, 4-20-14)
- "The Red Tent," the 1997 best-selling novel by Anita Diamant, is being made into a fourhour miniseries by the Lifetime network. The book explores the lives of women in biblical times and is told through the voice of Dinah, the daughter of Leah and Jacob. (Not much is mentioned about Dinah in the Torah, other than the supposed rape thing, after which two of her brothers, Simeon and Levi, go crazy with revenge and kill the king and half the population of Shechem, but only after they've convinced all the adult males of Shechem to undergo circumcision and attack while they are still "sore.") The book gets its title from the place where women gather and share their stories during the times when they menstruate and give birth. (www.jta.org, 5-11-14)  $\Diamond$

## **Photo Gallery**

So here is the story – why, beyond the awe-inspiring beauty, I love night-blooming cactus. Twenty-five years ago, living in San Miguel d'Allende, I was traveling to small neighboring towns and cemeteries to visit "Dia de Los Muertos" celebrations. On a mission, I was gathering indigenous folk art for the gallery and stories about the holiday for my own fascination. There was a toy maker that I especially wanted to find, and I eventually tracked him down in a village an hour away. In his studio we talked, both of us using second languages, mine more halting then his. He was Otomi Indian, and when I asked how his people celebrated Day of the

Dead, when the veil between this world and the next is supposed to be thinnest, he said: "we don't." Surprise. I thought everyone in Mexico went on November 1st and 2nd to the cemeteries where their parents and loved ones were buried, pulled weeds, decorated the graves with mounds of yellow marigolds and burning candles, brought the loved ones their favorite food, drink, and cigarettes, had a picnic at midnight, sang songs, and got drunk. "Not the Otomi," he said. "We live, die, and bury our people on the rancho. When an Otomi dies, we dia a deep hole in the earth and bury our people standing up. When the hole is covered, we plant a special cactus. Months later, buds appear, and in the dark of night, a beautiful face-sized white flower

blooms. Then we know that our relative has come to visit. We sit with them." Seeing that flower last night in Steve's garden, before we left for the concert, when there were only buds, and three hours later, in total darkness, in

full bloom, was doubly moving. The cactus cutting came from a plant of Carol's mom Marianne. Has it been about been three months since she passed? They liked the story. Carol's mom must have been blessing Steve's retirement and their up-coming cruise:-)

-Gloria Avner

The gathering at right was taken April 26th at the Mandalay in Key Largo. They were all there for lunch to celebrate the birthdays of Susan Gordon and Linda Kaplan. And in the center, of course, was Pauline Roller, KJCC's number one party girl.



So Gloria and David pick up Steve and Carol to go to a concert. Steve's cactus looks normal. Upon their return the cactus looked like this, with magnificent white with-yellow blossoms. Gloria snapped the photographs.





Each year, the final event of Sisterhood's season is a luncheon, the last few years at the Pilot House in Key Largo. It's a way to say goodbye for the summer to all those who will soon head north. This year Barbara invited some y-chromosome types, since so few women said they were coming. But it all worked out. In the photo at bottom, Barbara hands KJCC prez Bernie Ginsberg a check for \$5,000, representing Sisterhood's fundraising for the past year. Bernie was both surprised and delighted, and very appreciative.



IN HONOR OF OUR FAMILY Past, present, and futur Joel and Linda Pollack





joint birthday on the I4th. (Bernie's older.) On the other side of the bemah, leading the singing, were Gloria and Jane Friedman, shown above left. In case you can't read the cake, it says (no graduate of cake-icing school was working at Publix that day, apparently) "Happy Birthday Bernie and Medina." That Sunday was also Mother's Day, so Carol Steinbock brought in two cakes that read "To Mothers With Love."

Friday's Oneg must not have been enough, so a group of us met at Num Thai on the 14th, the following Wednesday, to properly celebrate Bernie and Medina's actual birthday. (Don't forget, Bernie's older.)







The three photos at top are from the May 17th Shabbat morning service led by Rabbi Richard Agler, his last service until High Holidays in the fall. In the middle photo, Sisterhood president Barbara Knowles presents Rich and Mindy Agler with a check made out to the Talia Agler Girls Shelter of Nairobi, Kenya, part of this year's Tikkun Olam given from the Women's Seder proceeds.

Graduation Day, Pizza Party, Ice Cream Fest and laugh-riot-movie-with-a-message were all rolled into one celebration on Mav 18th at KICC. Students received Achievement Certificates, parents received certificates of appreciation, friends joined in and all were entertained by a lively movie about the excesses families can go to in the celebration of a Bar Mitzvah. The message that rites of passage are about more than impressing the neighbors was made with humor and warmth. We laughed, and at the end, when family ties were peaceably repaired, some of us cried. It was a great, though highly caloric, way to end the Keys Jewish Community Center Religious School Year. Thanks to all the grown-ups and young-at-heart (yes, we mean you, Pauline) who joined teachers, students and honorary zaydeh, President Bernie Ginsberg, to honor a year of Jewish learning.

-Gloria

Over a dozen parents and school supporters (or maybe it was the pizza, popcorn and a movie?) were there on a Sunday morning. All the students received their school certificates. And Bernie got to kvell a little to see another example of his teach-Judaismwith-laughter-and-joy concept working so beautifully. Our thanks again to Gloria for the photos.









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

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

# Mother's Day A Photo Album

In the photo at right, Gloria Avner, along with brother Mark (easy to see the resemblance, right?) stand behind their mother Bea just before lunch at her assisted living facility. (If you go online at some point to see the color version, you'll see that the napkins are all pink.) Gloria and Bea share a kiss and two long-stemmed red roses just below. In the photo below left, Susan Gordon poses with daughter Rose Marie in Tennessee. Daughter has a

full-time teaching job, so that's where mother went so they could spend the day together.



At left, looking serene and wise with years, is Bianka Kirschenbaum, Medina Roy's mother, who is actually two months older than our Pauline. Yes, of course Medina was there; she took the picture.

I was too busy kvelling to do much photography. It was beyond wonderful..the first time in a dozen vears that I have been with both sons on Mother's Day...plus my step -mom and 4/6 of my grand kids. My cousin, stepbrother and sister and all of my step-nieces and nephews were there. Eliana met a whole side of the family she didn't know

existed....Representing the KICC were Susan Ellner, Nissan and Israel Mayk, and Shyella, Amit, Liati and Doron plus children. (Bea is in Enaland.)

No photos of Becca... she was either too busy with babies or friends. or upstairs collapsing afterwards. The mohel was great, a Chabadnik with ten children and many years of experience. He was able to auickly rock the baby to sleep after the event. Another rabbi corralled every available male relative, including my stepbrother and cousin and Becca's dad, into laying tefillin for the first time since their bar mitzvahs. There were about 150 people, many from the community, who for the past five months have been bringing food and helping care for Libby.

-lovce Peckman







The top two photos were taken at the Mother's Day brunch at Islamorada Fishing Club. At left, of course, are Mort and Gene Silverman. Gene's camera also captured Elaine & Alan Schulberg there, together with grandson Kyle and his wife.

Linda (& Joel) Pollack's sons — Jeff and Roy, who both live in Texas — made it back to Key Largo for Mother's Day. That's Jeff standing between Joel and Linda at top, and Roy sitting with Joel at right. Many of you will remember that Roy's son Will had his Bar Mitzvah at KJCC not very long ago.

## YIZKOR

## THE ORIGINS AND PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL JEWISH PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE.

by Joyce Peckman

Thavuot falls at the beginning of this month. We will celebrate the giving of the Torah, the arrival of first fruit, the end of Omer counting, and we will say Yizkor.

What do we know about this emotional memorial prayer, said four times each year and believed to have the power to spiritually elevate the souls of the departed?

Yizkor means "He will remember." According to lewish belief, although the departed can no longer perform good deeds, their souls can benefit from the prayers, actions and acts of charity that others perform

in their memory.

We recite Yizkor on four holidays: Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Pesach and Shavuot. Its origin is found in the Midrash Tanchuma: "Our practice is to remember the deceased on Yom Kippur by pledging charity on their behalf." The Midrash continues that when charity is pledged, the soul of the departed one "ascends as quickly as an arrow shot from a bow." Yizkor was quickly extended to the three pilgrimage festivals, which had the commandment of offering donations. It

likely became a formal part of the prayer service during the Crusades of the eleventh century, when many Jews were killed as filledwith-fervor Christian Crusaders made their way to the Holy Land. While the earliest mention of Yizkor can be found in the eleventhcentury Machzor Vitry, some scholars believe that Yizkor actually was created during the Maccabean period (around 165 B.C.E) when Judah Maccabee and his fellow soldiers prayed for their fallen comrades. (Source: Kolatch, Alfred J., "The Jewish Book of Why.")

It is acceptable to say Yizkor at home in privacy, but for reasons both ritual and social, it is far better to recite the prayer with a community. It is prayed silently, mentioning each relative by name, and committing (without a vow....think of Kol Nidre) to donate charity in their behalf. After the personal prayers, there are paragraphs for victims of the Holocaust and other martyrs, ending with "El Molay Rachamim" (God, full of compassion), which is recited at a burial or unveiling,

> and "Av Harachamim" (Father of compassion).

In most synagogues, children are asked to leave the sanctuary while Yizkor is recited. The reason, while partly to aid focus and decorum, is largely a superstitious one - it was thought to be bad luck for parents to have their children present while the prayer is said. Other synagogues do not ask people to leave, both because some of the mourners might be children and because watching others leave might actually enhance any mourner's feelings of isolation. Rabbi Dan Dorsch of Livingston, New Jersey wrote about this issue in the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* shortly after the death of his mother: "I was

able to take some comfort in knowing that I was not alone in my mourning, as for thirty minutes that day our sanctuary was transformed into a community of mourners... Seeing an entire room full of people in mourning, I realized that every person in that room at one point had stood in my shoes and could relate to the depths of my pain. Somehow, they had come out the other side, and so would I."

I hope that, like me, you will draw comfort and strength from the silent remembrances, the vows they inspire, and the friendship of our KJCC community. ◊

# Yom HaShoah

KICC observed Yom HaShoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day — at our Friday service on April 25th. The service was led by our standing Holocaust Committee: Chair Yardena Kamely plus Medina Roy and Muriel Swartz. Here is the text, spoken by Muriel for the committee, of the few special minutes of Holocaust commemoration that evening

y cousin Marian Felberbaum, a social studies teacher in North Brunswick. New Jersey, had a candle-lighting ceremony as part of the Holocaust Memorial she prepared with her 8th grade students for their community. Yardena and Medina agreed with me that we should also include such a ceremony in our Yom HaShoah observance. The three of us decided each candle would represent different segments of the population lost to us because of the mass murders of the Nazis. Here is the script we wrote:

Tonight we are asking some of the individuals who have given great devotion and dedication to our KJCC to light one of the memorial candles representing those lost to us during the Holocaust:

I ask Skip Rose to light a candle for the six million lews.

I ask Natalie Dorf to light the second candle for all the murdered political opponents, homosexuals, gypsies, and Jehovah Witnesses.

Lask Steve Friedman to light the third candle for the 1.5 million children stolen from us.

Lask Stan Margulies to light the fourth candle for all the rabbis, scholars, and learned individuals.

I ask Linda Kaplan to light the fifth candle for all the partisans, and for those who never had anyone to say Kaddish for them.

I ask Joe Shabathai to

light the sixth candle for all the Righteous Gentiles who at great risk to themselves and to

their families saved lews from certain death.

le also liked the idea that Marian



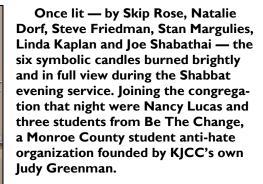
incorporated an honor to the Dutch people who were naturally inclined to "do the right thing." Here's the section from their script: "And who would want to forget the Dutch: A people Righteous Among the Nations? The Dutch helped save

so many lews during the Holocaust that often a Remembrance Evening will include vases of yellow tulips to honor the people of the Netherlands for their moral courage and goodness in a time when there was little of it."

A few years ago we began displaying yellow tulips on the

bema during our Yom HaShoah observance. Usually Yardena explains the significance of the tulips. Tonight she won't have to. >





As we have for several years, KJCC sponsored the bus that carried Be The Change students from all across Monroe County to Barry University's annual Holocaust Symposium. Once there they get to meet, listen to the stories of and speak with living survivors of the Holocaust. After the service, the three students brought by Nancy — Sacha Franks, Dylan Knauer, and David Diaz — addressed KJCC in the David Kamely classroom to describe their experiences. That's Nancy on the far left, below, beside Sacha, Dylan, David and KJCC Holocaust Committee members Yardena Kamely, Medina Roy and Muriel Swartz.

## Holocaust Remembrance, Be the Change and the KICC

by Nancy Lucas, M.Ed. Be the Change Upper Keys Prevention Coordinator

(Ed note: As the leader of the KICC-sponsored bus trip to the Holocaust Symposium, we asked Nancy to share some thoughts about the trip and program with KJCC members.)

Created through a partnership of the Keys Jewish Community Center and Be the Change of the Florida Keys, this year's student Holocaust Remembrance exhibit received very good reviews from members of the Upper Keys community. "People said they liked this display better than previous years because it showed the students participating," said Key Largo Library Branch Manager Paulette Sullivan. The Library also posted pictures of the display on their Facebook page.

The display's journey began on Friday, April 25th, when the KJCC commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day during and after services. After that the Be the Change student project went to the Islamorada Library for display through Wednesday, May 7th. From May 7th-17th it was displayed at the Key Largo Library. As it has for years, the KJCC had once again sponsored the Be the Change trip to Miami's Barry University in March for the annual Holocaust symposium, where Keys students meet Holocaust survivors in person. The visual display, created by the students and the KICC Holocaust Committee and hung on several of KICC's professional display boards, is a community-education extension of that deeply personal experience. In all, the display received an estimated 1,600 views in person and 834 views from Facebook posts made by Be the Change.

Three Be the Change students also attended the Friday, April 25th Yom HaShoah commemoration at KJCC. After the remembrance ceremony in the KJCC sanctuary, KJCC members and guests moved to the David Kamely classroom, where Coral Shores High School sophomores Sacha Franks and Dylan Knauer and Freshman David Diaz shared how they worked to end racism and hate this school year through Challenge Day, the Holocaust Student Awareness Day at Barry University and Peacelam in Tallahassee.

Knauer presented a video he created that captured student and teacher reflection after the Holocaust symposium. Sophomore Sacha Franks opened the student presentation at the KJCC quoting author, Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." Sacha talked to KICC about her experience at the Holocaust Symposium with the survivors. As the only student from Coral Shores with a grandparent who survived the Holocaust, she had braved the podium in front of almost 600 students to thank the survivors for sharing their stories. (What she didn't say that night was that on the KJCC-sponsored bus ride home, she had tenderly shared intimate details about her grandmother: her marriage in a concentration camp, her journey through three different camps, and then liberation. Her husband died in Auschwitz, and she had been the sole survivor of her extended family.)

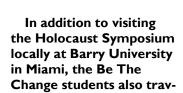
KICC President Bernard Ginsberg, M.D. thanked the students and addressed the audience saying: "We all worry a little about the state of education these days, and how much important history our young people are learning. But after listening to the sensitive, thoughtful presentations by the three of you I'm confident that we'll be in very good hands when your generation takes over."

Holocaust Committee Chair Yardena Kamely congratulated the students for their professionalism and passion, then said, "And now you are the messengers. This is only the beginning of your work. You must continue to share this story for future generations." >

As noted by Nancy, part of the student project this year was to themselves create the Holocaust Remembrance Display that would be shown at Coral Shores High School and also be in residence for a while at both libraries in the Upper Keys, Key Largo and Islamorada. If those display panels look familiar, they should; to create the display, the students used four of KJCC's professional (and very versatile) trade show

display panels. The strip
at the bottom center reads
"This project was created
by the Be The Change
students at Coral Shores High
School thanks to the

generous support of the Keys Jewish Community Center."



eled to PeaceJam in Tallahassee, a program where Nobel Laureates mentor young people in making the world a more peaceful place. The students pose with Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, above.

The photo at bottom shows the assembled Monroe County group at Barry's Holocaust Symposium. At left, Sacha Franks, the

only student who is descended from a Holocaust survivor, shows a photo of the grandmother she had just spoken about in front of 600 people.



## Travels With Seymour: Part II

by Sy Gelbard

(Note: The text here might lead one to conclude that right now Sv is sitting in Ecuador perhaps at some expatriate bar, with that afternoon's thunderstorm quickly gathering in the distance, a piano tinkling in the background and a mysterious woman smoking languidly at the next table — and sending us dispatches. But no. Even the part below written in the present tense was actually written several weeks ago. He's here now, with us, safe and sound. I could have changed all the verbs, but it has a nice sense of immediacy and intimacy the way it was written. - Ed.)

**T** was in the Galápagos Islands of Ecuador

last week and had some amazing experiences. Among other activities. I dove near one of the Islands and have footage of enormous schools of fish, white-tipped sharks, the obligatory turtle and imagery of a sea lion coming right at me and then veering away. Thrilling stuff!

For those who may have forgotten their history, Charles Darwin formulated his Theory of Evolution on his observations while in the Galápagos Islands because the remoteness of this area served as a perfect

laboratory to study various species unaffected by external influences.

(Though incredibly remote, some "fringe" scholars - perhaps the kind who wear tzitzit believe that Darwin also found a few yarmulkas, thus perpetuating the idea that we lews have been everywhere and at all times.)

After Galápagos I flew to the capital, Quito, and found it to be much like other cities in Latin America, with beautiful Spanish Colonial architecture and charming people.

However, Quito sits high in the Andes at near 10,000 feet and I got a taste of what altitude sickness is all about. Lethargy, swollen extremities and extreme lack of appetite are common symptoms. Maybe it was part of having insufficient oxygen that led me to think up a business model to present on Shark Tank: A weight-control vacation sending planeloads of corpulent people to spend several weeks in Quito, Ecuador with the bvline of: "Reduce your own Equator." As I said, it might have been a lack of oxygen.

I also visited the Chabad rabbi in Quito and had a very interesting and fulfilling discussion with him.



the usual cast of characters like monkeys, toucans, tarantulas, piranha and Wi-Fi:). I have descended in altitude by about 8,000 feet and my appetite is back.

I am probably one neighborhood away from guys with bones in their noses and who go food shopping with blowguns. I'll stay right where I am for the next few days. thanks.

I think it was Michael Crichton in his personal experiences with travel, who said that "travel is one-half running away from, and one-half running towards, something."

Having traveled so extensively and so voraciously, I'm still trying to figure out those percentages. ◊

## Shavuot – Agricultural, Spiritual, Milchik

C havuot, which translates literally as "weeks." did not receive much attention in the ancient rabbinic literature. No tractate about it appears in the Talmud. All of its laws are contained in one paragraph of the Shulchan Arukh. This is interesting, since it is one of the three Pilgrimage festivals, when Judeans were expected to travel to Jerusalem to bring crop offerings to the Temple. But today there are many aspects to the celebration of this holiday. It may have begun as strictly an agricultural holiday, but today it is infused with many levels of significance, especially because it is believed to be the moment when, with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the raataa wanderina Hebrews, only a few short weeks ago slaves in Egypt, became the nation of Israel and a major player in world history.

### The Agricultural Origins

In Israel, Shavuot is the holiday celebrating the spring harvest season. Even in Biblical times it was a harvest festival. It was known as *Chag HaBikkurim*—literally, holiday of the first fruits—to ancient farmers, who would, in a gesture of thanksgiving, take to the Temple sacrifices of the seven farmed edibles of Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

Farmers would begin their spring harvests with the barley crop at Passover. The harvest would continue for seven weeks (there is much more to come about this notion of seven weeks and its many-layered meanings) as other crops and fruits would ripen. Watching carefully, the farmer would tie a ribbon around the branch of each type of fruit as it emerged. The ribbon marked each as bikkurim—first fruit—not to be eaten, but offered in sacrifice.

At Shavuot farmers would gather the bikkurim into baskets and take them to Jerusalem, where they would be eaten. Farmers living close to Jerusalem would bring fresh fruit; those who had to travel long distances would bring dried raisins and figs.

### Giving of the Torah

According to the Torah, it took the Hebrews exactly 49 days (seven weeks) to depart Egypt, traverse the Sea of Reeds, wander the Sinai Desert and finally arrive at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Leviticus 23:21 commands "and you shall proclaim that day (the next day, the fiftieth day) to be a holy convocation." That day is Shavuot.

So, here they were, at the foot of Mt. Sinai. The desert was arid, and barren. The mountain, though, was lush and green, covered with grass, flowers and trees. On the third of Sivan, Moses was told to prepare his people for God's descent and visit. On the sixth. three days later, the people were awakened by thunder and lightning. The mountain was shrouded in dark clouds. Sounds of the ram's horn, the Shofar, were heard across the desert. The earth began to shake. Then a voice came out of the clouds, as God spoke. And on this day, Shavuot, the sixth of Sivan, the rabbis calculate that God gave the Ten Commandments to the Jewish people. Which is why Shavuot is also known as Zeman Matan Torateinu, the Season of the Giving of Our

### **Observing Shavuot**

Many traditions and customs associated with Shavuot are based on legends and stories describing the astounding events said to have taken place at Mt. Sinai. (Just imagine yourself there, a hungry, confused, probably pretty cranky and footsore escaped slave, and witnessing such things.)

According to tradition, everyone actually overslept on the morning of God's visit. To compensate for this astounding communal faux pas, Jews have stayed awake ever since from dawn to dusk on Erev Shavuot, reading and studying Torah and Talmud. This custom is called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, the Restoration of Shavuot Eve, and symbolizes Jewish com-

mitment to the Torah and to always be awake and ready to receive it.

Most of the more mystical Shavuot practices stemmed from the sixteenth-century group living in Tzfat under the guidance of Isaac Luria. In addition to symbolic apologia for their ancestors at Mt. Sinai, the mystics believed that at midnight the heavens open and are receptive to the prayers of those commemorating the revelation of the Ten Commandments, Moroccan lews believed that staying up quaranteed you life for the next vear.

It is actually the *giving* of the Torah that matters. The entire holiday is referred to as the time of the *giving* of the Torah. We are said to receive it every day; we are constantly in the process of receiving it. But this is the one time it was aiven, a moment to always be celebrated. Passover may have freed us from physical bondage, but the giving of the Torah seven weeks later freed us from bondage to idolatry and spiritual darkness.

Shavuot is also the end of the 49 days of the counting of the Omer. As there are seven days in any week, and the seventh day is Shabbat, the number seven (seven times seven, remember, is 49) has major significance in Jewish measurement of time. Each seventh year is called a Shemitah, or sabbatical, year. After seven such cycles (that multiple again) comes a Yovel, or Jubilee, year.

From the legend that the Israelites, when being given the Torah, found Mt. Sinai to be green and abloom, has come the tradition to decorate Jewish homes and synagogues at Shavuot with green tree branches and flowers. Some synagogues decorate their Torah scrolls with wreaths of roses. This was apparently an ancient custom, because Haman complained to King Achashverosh about such an observance among the lews. There was once a custom to actually bring trees into the synagogue, but that practice was squelched by the Vilna Gaon, who derided it as being chukot haGoyim, meaning "adopting the customs of the gentiles." (Hanukkah bush, anyone?)

In many synagogues, particularly Ashkenazi, the Book of Ruth is read during morning Shavuot services. There are many explanations for this, none definitive. The most common is that Ruth (Judaism's most famous convert, with Elizabeth Taylor getting honorable mention) came to Israel, following her mother-in-law Naomi ("whither you go, I will go..."), at the time of Shavuot. Some say her acceptance of the Jewish faith was analogous to the Jewish people accepting God's Torah. Still others say that it is because Ruth was the great, great grandmother of King David, who it is believed was born and died on Shavuot.

#### Shavuot and Dairy

One of the most enduring customs of Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods. The most common explanation is because it was at Mt. Sinai that lews were first given the dietary laws and, now obligated to follow its teachings, realized that they could not properly prepare meat or their utensils there. So they ate dairy instead.

But food is involved here, so naturally other explanations abound. It is said that baby Moses was placed in the river on the sixth of Sivan (the future Shavuot) and found by Pharaoh's daughter. It is also said that Moses refused to nurse from an Egyptian woman, which led to his sister Miriam's suggestion that Yocheved, his birth mother, be brought in as his wet nurse. Moses, who was to eventually teach all of Israel the tenets of the Torah, could not drink mother's milk from a non-Jew. So the day is commemorated with dairy dishes.

Some believe that this stems from the Torah (given on Shavuot, remember), which speaks in Exodus of a land flowing with "milk and honey." Others say it's because at Sinai the Israelites were as innocent as newborns, whose food, of course, is milk. Some sage noticed that the initials of the four Hebrew words in Numbers 28:26, where the sacrificial meal offering for Shavuot is described, spell mei chalav ("from milk"), which suggests that dairy is the intended food for the festival. Mystics have noted that the *gematria*, the numerical value, of the word chalav (milk) is 40, the number of days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments and

other teachings. And that Mt. Sinai itself has eight names, one of which is gavnunim, because its appearance resembles that of cheese, which in Hebrew is a'vinah.

So when Shavuot comes in a few days, remember that it celebrates the harvest and our gratitude for it, and the end of counting the Omer, and that it's one of the three Pilgrimage festivals, and that you can decorate your house and shul and Torah with greenery and flowers, and that it represents the giving of the Torah, the single act that essentially created the lewish people.

And then, quilt-free for the only time all year, help yourself to a large, spiritual wedge of cheesecake. &

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot 5774

by Gloria Avner

ncient Israel's economy was based pri-**M** marily on agriculture. On a purely physical level, the "waves" of grain were offered up every day from Passover to Shavuot as sacrifices in the Temple. But is that the whole story? Of course it isn't. We are talking about Judaism. We take the physical and through it reveal the metaphysical, unearthing everdeeper layers of meaning.

Though *omer* is the proper name of a dry measure, similar to a barrel or basket by which grain was measured, the specific word in Hebrew for measure is mida (plural: midot); the same word is used to describe personal character traits or emotional attributes. Isn't our ancestral language wonderful?

The word s'fira (plural: s'firot) also has two meanings. We are familiar with the "counting" definition, but listen to what the famous 16th century Kabbalist RaMak said: "Sefirah means both 'mispar,' or number, and 'sipur,' as in story telling. A third root is 'sapir,' or sapphire, a brightly shining translucent crystal. By this root/route, we come to the meaning of 'emanation,' light from a source of illumination."

According to our little booklet, "counting

sefirot illuminates the different aspects of our emotional lives. The days of sefirah tell us a story—the story of our souls. The spectrum of human experience divides into seven emotions and qualities, known in plural as sefirot. Each of these in turn divides into seven again, making a total of forty-nine."

Here is a very basic description of the seven emotional attributes:

Chesed: Lovingkindness, benevolence; Gevurah: Justice, discipline, restraint, awe; Tiferet: Beauty and harmony; compassion; Netzach: Endurance: fortitude. ambition: Hod: Humility, splendor;

Yesod: Bonding, foundation;

Malchut: Mobility, sovereignty, leadership (feminine aspect).

Each person when created is given a certain measure of each attribute, which determines the person's particular personality. It is his or her spiritual work to refine these midot/sefirot.

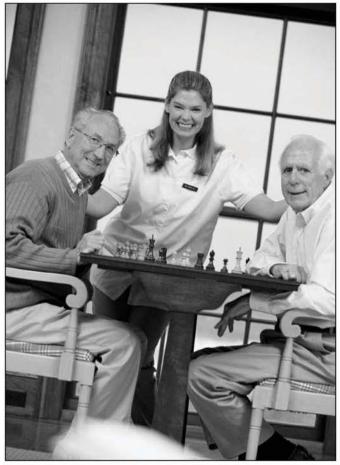
Let's take advantage of these days of counting. They come to a close on Tuesday. the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. We will have completed our 49 days of wandering and introspection. Our feet may be tired but we must keep our minds alert. We do not want to be caught, as some were in the desert, sleeping when the Torah is given to us. The mystical tradition, begun in Tzfat in the 16th century, says we are to stay up studying Torah all night. We call it "Tikkun Leil Shavuot" (repair on the night of Shavuot). We can keep the shul open as long as students wish to study. Maybe we could reach midnight. Our goal as we prepare to receive the Torah is to achieve unity of purpose and communal harmony.

Come to KICC services on Friday. June 6th and celebrate Shavuot with mishpocha. We will listen to the Shofar, read commandments from the Torah, and read from the Book of Ruth, Bernie will lead our Torah discussion aroup.

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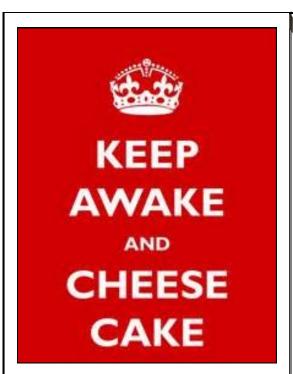
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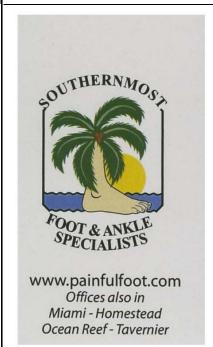
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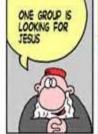
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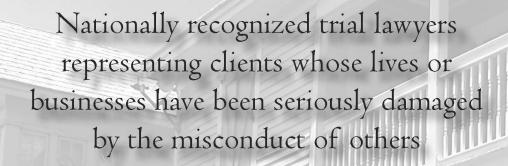
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