

# Chai~Lights



March 2016

21 Adar I - 21 Adar II 5776

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**Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Joyce Peckman and Art Itkin  <i>Steve Steinbock</i>	5 <b>Havdalah Shabbat Across America</b> 6:00 p.m. Pollack Home
6 <b>Sisterhood</b> 9:00 a.m. KJCC <b>Board Mtg.</b> 11:00 a.m.	7 Beth Kaminstein Pottery 6-8 p.m. her studio	8 Beth Kaminstein Pottery 12-2 p.m. her studio	9 <b>Itzhak Perlman Concert in Miami</b>	10	11 Joyce Peckman And Susan Ellner Sisterhood	12
13 <b>Holocaust Torah Celebration</b>  All day	14	15  <b>Beware, Caesar</b>	16	17	18 Erica Leiberman- Garrett & Mitch Harvey  <i>Elinor &amp; Herb Grossman</i>	19 <b>Rabbi Agler</b> Torah Learning 10:00 a.m.
20  Film night 7:00 p.m. At KJCC	21	22	23 <b>Purim Megillah Reading</b>  7:00 p.m.	24	25 Medina Roy Jayne Friedman Gloria Avner <i>Lee Schur</i> <i>Jane Friedman</i> <i>Kathy &amp; Joe</i> <i>Shabathai</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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## President's Message Sam Vinicur



So, just what is this thing called Torah, so intrinsically and emotionally associated with the people and religion we call the Children of Israel?

It seems, in form and material, a remnant of an ancient age, the kind of thing one might visit in an air-conditioned museum of cultural artifacts. And so it is. It's written in a language that, except for it, might never have awakened from its coma of some 2,200 years to become once again a vibrant, living voice by which children call their mothers and shopkeepers sell their wares and through which writers expose hidden truths of the human heart. It is not mass-produced, and never has been. The coterie of those permitted to create new copies is small, the rules under which they labor so strict that a new scroll and its roughly 300,000 letters is indistinguishable from one made over 800 years ago, when Maimonides served as physician to Saladin, the great Egyptian sultan and bane of the Crusaders.

We've heard all our lives about being the "chosen people." Yet the sages say that it was only in accepting the Torah that the twelve tribes were truly "chosen." We became a people, and inspired others, when the Torah's high purposes became ours.

Our stories imply that we

were first in the pursuit of social ideals, but history says otherwise. Hammurabi, the great king of ancient Babylonia, decreed his code of laws well before the birth of the man (from Ur, near Babylon) who became Abraham. That code described rules of fairness, and business honesty, and legal concepts such as "an eye for an eye." Perhaps Babylonia was a trial run for G-d. We'll never know. We do know that great empires and great cultures have disappeared, yet our Torah and its ideas live.

Translated, "Torah" doesn't mean "law." It means "instruction," or "guidance." The rules are secondary to the principles. Its passages are difficult, both to understand and to follow; truly brilliant and devoted people spend lifetimes seeking to plumb the meaning of those passages and unearth their deeper truths. There are reasons (tormenting us not among them) why we repeat the same teachings year after year.

So the thing we call Torah isn't really a thing at all, but a miraculous offering of ideas and ethics in the form of a thing. When we hold it we're embracing those ideas. When we open it we're opening ourselves. I hope you'll join us as we celebrate together the return of our precious, restored Holocaust Torah on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Nosh

## 2016 KJCC Scholarship Applications

If your child has been part of our KJCC Religious School, is graduating from high school this year, and has applied for acceptance to an institution of higher learning, we encourage you to go to our website: [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com). KJCC scholarship applications are now available. Click on the "School" button and scroll down to "eligibility requirements." If your child meets the requirements, download the application and return the completed form to us by April 1st. Decisions will be made by June and awards given out at the Coral Shores PAC before graduation. We wish our students well, love them, and take great pleasure in giving them an extra financial boost in their freshman year. Past recipients have made us very proud. For questions, call Gene Silverman, 954-562-0888.

## The Next Generation Grows

Stephanie Line Bittner, a member of KJCC's very first religious class, student of Michal Kameley and Bat Mitzvah celebrant here on July 29, 1994 (during a Shabbat service led by George Swartz), has recently given birth to her second son, whose name is Zayne. Our warm congratulations go out to Stephanie, her husband Jim and to her parents John and Arlene Line, long-time members and loyal supporters of KJCC.

### Oneg Sponsors for March 2016

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Steve Steinbock to celebrate his birthday.

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Medina Roy to honor Carl Roy's birthday.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Elinor and Herb Grossman to honor their family.

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Lee Schur and Jane Friedman to celebrate their birthdays. Joe and Kathy Shabathai in memory of Yakov Shabathai.

## Mariners Hospital Community Health Fair

On March 19th Mariners Hospital will be holding their Annual Community Health Fair featuring free health screenings for blood pressure, vision, glucose, hearing, osteoporosis, cholesterol, oral cancer and breast cancer. Appointments are not necessary for any screening. Fasting is not required for the cholesterol test. In addition, Mariners will partner with the National Kidney Foundation of Florida for a Kidney Early Evaluation Program.

Healthcare information will be available at booths staffed by hospital personnel and organizations such as the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County, AHEC, VNA & Hospice of the Florida Keys, Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, and SHINE. OneBlood will hold a blood drive. In addition there will be live entertainment and opportunities for lunch. Health fair registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Tassell Medical Arts Building on the Mariners campus, MM 91.5. For more information, please call 305-434-3000. Take care of yourself while having fun.

## March 19th Service and Torah Learning

Resident Scholar Rabbi Richard Agler is scheduled to lead a Shabbat service on March 19th, beginning at 10 a.m. Unlike Saturday morning services in many other *shuls*, this one will begin on time, and every minute will be worthwhile. There will be a short service along with always fascinating Torah learning.

## March 29th 7 p.m. Purim Megillah Reading

Share in the Purim celebration Wednesday evening as we read the entire story in English. Since partying on this night is a mitzvah, calories are forgiven; so enjoy ice cream sundaes along with fruit and beverage!

### Yartzeit Plaque

In loving memory of

**Martin Roaman**

6/1/1933 - 6/10/2008

## March Birthdays

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

## March Anniversaries

		Years
1st	<b>Jerry &amp; Sheila Olsen.....</b>	<b>57</b>
2nd	Joe Gould & Marla Berenson.....	20
7th	<b>Joseph &amp; Susan Sachs.....</b>	<b>51</b>
16th	Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	8
22nd	David & Patti Gross.....	19
24th	Joel & Toby Bofshever.....	48

### Childhood Photos Needed

Do you have a cute childhood photo of yourself? In preparation for our March 23 Purim Fest and Megillah reading, Medina Roy is collecting photos for a display. Please email them to her at: [hiitsmedee@gmail.com](mailto:hiitsmedee@gmail.com). (Yes, they'll need to be scanned and digitized first.) Then plan to join us at KJCC for a good time at 7 p.m. on Purim evening, Wednesday, March 23rd.

### Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory

**Leila J. Horne**

January 15, 1931 - February 10, 1991

### Itzhak Perlman Concert

There may be still some tickets available to the Itzhak Perlman concert "In the Fiddler's House" at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$86 each plus a \$4 handling fee. Log onto the Arsht Center website at [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org), group sales, and use Promo Code KJCC to order tickets. Contact Mitch Harvey for further information at [harveyaicp@yahoo.com](mailto:harveyaicp@yahoo.com).

### Yartzeit Plaque

In loving memory of

**Eileen Roaman**

3/11/1959 - 8/26/2013

## Welcome New Members

We are delighted to welcome three new member families to KJCC. Joining us are Jerry and Barbara Herson of Ocean Reef and Bethesda, MD, Suzanne Sigel and William Pomenti of Islamorada, along with their daughter Sydney (who is studying in Miami), and Terry Willner-Tainow and Jon Tainow of Tavernier. We are pleased that they chose to become part of our *mishpacha* and hope to see all of them often.

## The Scubi Jews Return

If you are around KJCC at the end of March, you may see lots of unusual activity. Ten students from Rabbi Ed Rosenthal's Hillel/Scubi Jews plan to bunk in the schoolroom from March 24-April 1st. The plan is for them to do service hours in our shul: helping Medina in the library, Steve in

the garden, and giving the social hall a fresh coat of paint. How fortunate we are to have a younger generation so generous with their time and energy.

## Shabbat Across America– March 5th

We will begin March with a special Havdalah evening in honor of Shabbat Across America, to be held at Linda Pollack's home, co-sponsored by Steve Steinbock, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5th. Please let Erica know if you will be joining us and what dish you can bring as we bid farewell to Shabbat, You can contact Erica Leiberman-Garrett at [hippiejap@hotmail.com](mailto:hippiejap@hotmail.com).

## Pre-Women's Seder Pottery

Sign up with Beth Kaminstein for Monday, March 7 at 6-8 p.m. or Tuesday, March 8 from 12-2 p.m. RSVP to [bethkaminstein@gmail.com](mailto:bethkaminstein@gmail.com).

## 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.

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

**KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:** Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation.

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

**CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH:** Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, to make your donation.

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

**LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE:** We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

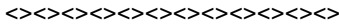
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

# *In Memoriam March 2016*

In Memory Of

**Harvey Roazen**

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Robert Kohlenbrener**

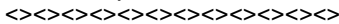
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

**Maurice Field**

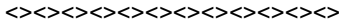
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

**Selma Elson**

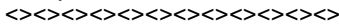
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Lillian Grant**

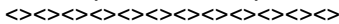
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

**David Harvey**

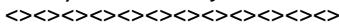
By Mitchell Harvey



In Memory Of

**Eleanor Sonn**

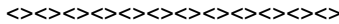
By Sam & Leslie Janowitz



In Memory Of

**Robert Berman**

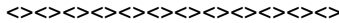
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Louis Abraham Weinstein**

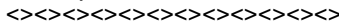
By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

**Harry Kaplan**

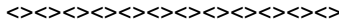
By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

**Lillian Melnick**

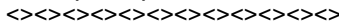
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

**Arlene R. Brenner**

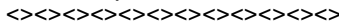
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Anna Horn**

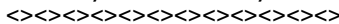
By Susan Horn



In Memory Of

**Rachamim Levy**

By Yardena Kamely



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Stanlake**

By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

**Hilda Dorf**

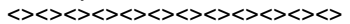
By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

**Maxine Kaplan**

By Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

**Stanley Bush**

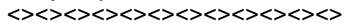
By Andrew & Randi Grant



In Memory Of

**Lee M. Harris**

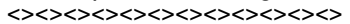
By Stephen & Marsha Harris



In Memory Of

**Harry Phillips**

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

**Monroe ( Monty) Kaplan**

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

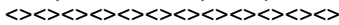


# *In Memoriam March 2016*

In Memory Of

**Luba Tuchman**

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

**Irving Line**

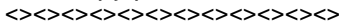
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

**Dorothy Ross**

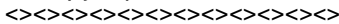
By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

**Leslie Allen Sachs**

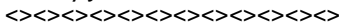
By Joseph & Susan Sachs



In Memory Of

**Isadore Seder**

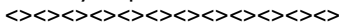
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

**Theresa Steinbock**

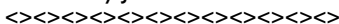
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Alice Weber**

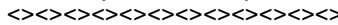
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Marian Rose Klimpl**

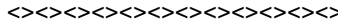
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

**Oscar Margulies**

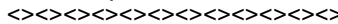
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

**Denise Moss**

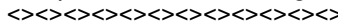
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

**Nate Schulberg**

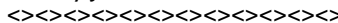
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

**Ida Seder**

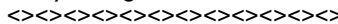
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

**Abe M. Reider**

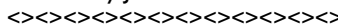
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Deborah Eichler**

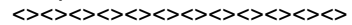
By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Samual Lieberman**

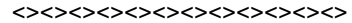
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Louis Weinstein**

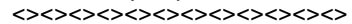
By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

**Cissie Rose Lang**

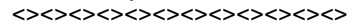
By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

**Esther Schur**

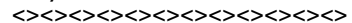
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**George B. Sachs**

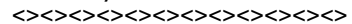
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

**Anne Temkin**

By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Rachamim Levy**

By Yardena Kamely

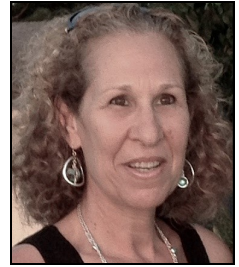




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## Sisterhood

### Erica Lieberman-Garrett



February is always a fun month at the KJCC. We began with a very productive Sisterhood meeting where we continued to plan our upcoming events and dinners, and transitioned into our new slate of officers. Beth Hayden will be handling our financial affairs as our new treasurer. Marsha Harris unfortunately had to resign after doing a wonderful job as secretary. We will need to have someone new stepping up to the task soon. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming more involved and helping out in any way.

After our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and the KJCC board meeting, we had the KJCC annual meeting and installation of new officers. I would like to personally thank Elinor Grossman and Nettie Seder who helped get the installation brunch ready. It was a big day with a lot of delicious food prepared by Sisterhood, and a celebration of my birthday as well. Susan Gordon made it extra special with her decorating talents, and the women who made all the food for our three meetings made my day easier. Thank you for all your help, especially Jane Friedman, who continues to shop and prepare healthy, scrumptious food for our gatherings.

We have just finished our annual fundraiser, The Jewish Food Extravaganza. This evening has become a well-attended event, much anticipated by our members as well as others from our community. Many people step up to make this a successful happening. I would like to thank the following people for preparing and donating the food for the event: Linda Perloff for her delicious cucumber salad and rugalah, Natalie and Barry Dorf for the fun hot dog stand, Steve Hartz for the knishes and kishka, Joyce Peckman for the kasha varnishkes, Jane Friedman for the green beans, Beth Hayden for the Sephardic touch with her Moroccan Tangine, and I made the chicken matza ball soup. Roberta McNew prepared the chopped liver, and Susan Gordon, and Gloria Avner prepared the brisket. All yummy!!

I would also like to thank the event underwriters: Linda Pollack, David Goldfinger, Susan Ellner, Lee Schur, The Kaufmans and Terri Trainor, as well as Gene Silverman, who decorated and prepared the gift baskets for raffle. Our raffle baskets were donated by Steve Steinbock, Art Itkin, Sisterhood, Medina Roy, Erica Lieberman-Garrett/Garrett Chiropractic, as well as gifts from supporters: Chef Michael's, Cafe Moka, Num Thai, and Bitton Bistro. Special thanks also goes to Patti Gross for preparing the program, Susan Gordon for the fun *schtick* entertainment, Sydney! Faye Davis and Lee Schur for helping with the raffle, and Donna Bolton for her help with the set up. It takes a village, and we all came together to make this a very successful event.

We will begin March with a special Havdalah evening in honor of Shabbat Across America, to be held at Linda Pollack's home, co-sponsored by Steve Steinbock, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you will be joining us so we can coordinate the food for Linda's house.

As we head into March we look forward to our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Seder on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, which begins with our pottery sessions with Beth Kaminstein. Each year we add to our collection that we bring to our Women's Seder place settings. Two dates are available for pottery: Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m., and Tuesday, March 8 from 12 - 2 p.m. Please contact Beth at [bethkaminstein@gmail.com](mailto:bethkaminstein@gmail.com) to let her know when you can make it. I would like to thank Beth for her generosity in hosting this lovely activity each year, allowing us some special bonding time. Mark your calendar for the Women's Seder on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and invite your friends who have not joined us before. It is always a wonderful evening. ◇

# 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

Anonymous

Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Lieberman-Garrett, Erica Susan Gordon's new grandbaby, Rhett William

Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller, Linda Pollack  
Sax, Stuart & Lauren Sincere thanks to Medina and Gloria

## General Fund

Foley, Robert Ruthie Richardson, Paul Charlap, Julian Unger

Foley, Robert Kenny Temkin, Bob Singer, Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy

Peckman, Joyce mother of Barbara Bernstein

## In Honor of

Tzedakah

67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ivy and Marvin Blumenfeld

Susan Gordon's new grandbaby, Rhett William

Pauline Roller, Linda Pollack  
Sincere thanks to Medina and Gloria

## In Memory of

Ruthie Richardson, Paul Charlap, Julian Unger

Kenny Temkin, Bob Singer, Rosie Biskar, Ron Levy

mother of Barbara Bernstein

## Meditation Garden

Fink, Randy & Stephanie

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Loving memory of Carol Steinbock and thanks to Steve

## Sunshine Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Wishing Barbara Knowles a speedy recovery

## Yahrzeits

Emkey, Gerri Robert Kinney and Nathan Weisberg

Forst, Al Lee Forst

Isenberg, Patricia Fannie Phillips

Krissel, Michael Deborah Cannon, Jos. Krissel  
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine Bea Gulkis,

Tallent, Lillian Nat Gulkis, Joan Kaminsky  
Zwerdling, Sherry Morris Estrin

Jerry Oshinsky

## How Certain Contributions to KJCC 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 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; an outdoor plaque is included in the price.

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## **EYE ON THE ARTS**

### Gloria Avner



*We are at full strength in every dimension; our numbers of KJCC mishpocha, visiting guests, and opportunities for unique cultural experiences here "on the rock" are at their peak. There are concerts, art shows, food events, plays, and talks. Many of these events showcase a performing member of the KJCC or are produced by our members.*

**March 1<sup>st</sup>: OC Times, 2008 International Quartet Champions, a cappella singers -- The last concert of the FLKCA season:** Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. Island Community Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets, \$30, are available at the door on concert night or online at [www.floridakeysconcerts.com](http://www.floridakeysconcerts.com).

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> -March 6<sup>th</sup>: (with matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>), Keys Players -- "Shrek the Musical"** : Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> through Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Coral Shores High School, MM 89.9. Tickets are \$20. The Sunday matinee will start at 2:00 p.m. [thekeyplayers.org](http://thekeyplayers.org)

**March 4<sup>th</sup>: Dave Feder Jazz Trio at Smugglers Cove:** From 7-11 p.m. at Smuggler's Cove Resort & Marina, 85500 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, Bayside. Call 305-664-5564 for details.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> thru March 20<sup>th</sup>: The Art Guild of the Purple Isles 50th Annual Art Show:** Held at the Florida Keys History & Discovery Center, Islander Resort, MM 82.1. This is a unique opportunity to visit the Center free of charge, while viewing outstanding work by local artists (several KJCC members included). The new larger venue allows expanded offerings in oil, watercolor, acrylic, sculpture & other media. Call 305-451-2726 for information.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> : Woofstock 2016:** Held at Founders Park, MM 87, Islamorada. Two days of Peace, Paws & Music! **MarrVelous Pet Rescue** invites you to come out for live music, great vendors, fun activities for your dogs and a good time for all! [www.keylargochamber.org/events/Woofstock-2016](http://www.keylargochamber.org/events/Woofstock-2016).

**Pops in the Park -- Florida Heritage:** Free concert March 19<sup>th</sup> by the Florida Keys Community Band. Held in the park at the Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center MM 102 Bayside, Key Largo from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>: Folk Music Coffee House** at the Civic Club, MM 100, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Great musicians and possibly a talented surprise guest artist from KJCC.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>: 2nd Annual Taste Around the World** at Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center, MM 102 Key Largo, 6:30p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Six of the best restaurants in the Upper Keys compete for 2016 People Choice Award. Each provides a food tasting; ticket holders vote for the best themed station and food. An auction will take place that includes some fabulous trips! The evening will end with a performance by students from award winning On Your Toes Dance Studio.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>: ICE's Fabulous BAYJAM 22:** Founders Park, Islamorada, noon to 8 p.m. Organizer Dave Feder will present a lineup of almost a dozen national and local musicians in a wide variety of genres. This is an important fundraiser for local students' arts scholarships. Bring a donation of canned food for free entrance. ♦

**ITZHAK  
PERLMAN**  
IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE



**Itzhak Perlman: 20th Anniversary of In the Fiddler's House**

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Marking the 20th anniversary of the release of his album *In the Fiddler's House*, this exciting evening will highlight the collection of traditional klezmer music. Joining Perlman are members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and other special guests. Experience this exceptional music live on stage, and join us for an unforgettable evening!

**Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
**Time:** 8: 00 pm  
**Location:** Adrienne Arsht Center - Knight Concert Hall  
**Contact:** Mitch Harvey (303) 521-5240, harveyaicp@yahoo.com,  
for further information about tickets or carpooling.

Please follow these steps to order tickets. Log onto [www.arshtcenter.org](http://www.arshtcenter.org). Go to the Itzak Perlman page by way of the Events Calendar for March 9th, enter Promo Code KJCC and click Apply, then click on Buy Tickets. On the Buy Tickets page, click on Choose Best Available Seats, click on Orchestra Circle, select the number of tickets, and then click on the Reserve button at the bottom of the page. This will assign seats to you in our reserved section. Tickets are \$86 + \$4 handling = \$90. Then buy and enjoy!

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “That’s What G-d Wanted

A Holocaust survivor living in Haifa is currently believed to be the oldest man in the world. Yisrael Kristal, 112, now owns the title following the recent death of Yasutaro Koide of Japan, who was also 112. The *Gerontology Research Group*, an international organization that tracks individuals over age 100 worldwide, notified Kristal’s grandson that the Polish-born Auschwitz survivor was up for the honor. However, in order for it to be official, Kristal must present documentation from the first twenty years of his life. (At the time of this writing, Kristal’s earliest official document is from when he was 25). Kristal was born in the town of Zarnov in the Lodz province (now Poland) in 1903. His father was a Torah scholar. Kristal married, had two children and started a successful chocolate and candy business. He was permitted to continue operating the business after the Nazis forced the city’s Jews into a ghetto, where his two children perished. He and his wife were deported to Auschwitz in 1944 following the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto. His wife died there but he survived doing forced labor. After the war, Kristal returned to Lodz and re-established his sweets factory. He remarried in 1947, moved to Haifa with his second wife and son in 1950 and worked again as a confectioner. He has been an observant Jew his whole life. “He believes he was saved because that’s what G-d wanted,” his daughter Shula Kuperstoch said. “...he believes everything has a reason in the world.”  
([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-21-16)

### “There is Room for Everyone...”

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Israel’s *Knesset* took the first step in an historic, ground-breaking agreement to honor religious plurality by approving the creation of an enhanced egalitari-

an prayer space for non-Orthodox Jews at the Western Wall (the *Kotel*) in Jerusalem. While the Orthodox sections (one for men, one for women) will continue to be under the supervision of the Western Wall Heritage Foundation, the new pluralistic site will be maintained by a non-Orthodox governance committee chaired by Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel, along with representatives from the Reform and Conservative movements both in Israel and North America, plus *Women of the Wall* – an activist group that has been working for women’s prayer rights at the *Kotel* since the 1980s – and others. “It is a statement that at the holiest site in Judaism there is room for everyone no matter what your beliefs or what your practices are,” said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

([www.reformjudaism.org/blog](http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog) 1-31-16)

### Attention Travelers!

*NUA Robotics*, an Israeli start-up company, recently unveiled a prototype for its robotic suitcase. The luggage uses Bluetooth technology to sync with a smartphone app, locate its owner and follow along, leaving the owner hands-free. The suitcase also features an anti-theft alarm, a USB port for charging devices and can send real-time data, including its weight and location, to the app. *NUA* unveiled the product at the *2016 Consumer Electronics Show* in Las Vegas in early January. Of the thousands of companies at the annual show, *NUA* ranked an impressive 323, placing it within the top 92 percent of all the companies in attendance. The suitcase is still in its preliminary developmental stage. The Jerusalem-based company hopes to have the product available within a year.

([www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com), 1-9-16)

### **“With Me Here Are 6,000 Accusers”**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, in honor of *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin released a letter written in 1962 by Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the Nazis’ “Final Solution” to the Jewish problem. Eichmann’s hand-written letter was addressed to then-President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, asking him for a pardon. The letter was dated two days before his scheduled execution. Eichmann said he was a “mere instrument “of leaders responsible for the killing of six million Jews in World War II. “The judges made a critical mistake when assessing my personality, because they cannot place themselves in the time and situation I was in during the war years,” Eichmann wrote. “A line must be drawn between the leaders who are responsible and people like me, who were forced to be tools by the leadership. I was not in charge of things and therefore I do not feel that I am guilty. And I ask you, honorable president, to use your right of pardon and order that this death sentence not be carried out.” Ben-Zvi of course rejected the request. Also released for public display is the hand-written text of then-Attorney General Gideon Hausner’s opening statement at the trial. “When I stand before you, judges of Israel, to lead the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I do not stand alone. With me here are six million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point their finger at the man in the dock with the cry ‘J’accuse!’ on their lips. For they are now only ashes – ashes piled high on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka and strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is stilled. Therefore will I be their spokesman. In their name will I unfold this terrible indictment.” Eichmann’s letter will be placed on display at *Yad Vashem*, Israel’s Holocaust memorial, along with clemency letters from his wife and five brothers. Eichmann was found guilty of crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against the Jewish people. He is the only person to have been executed by Israel since its founding in 1948. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 1-27-16)

### **Top Prize at Sundance**

“Sand Storm,” a film by Israeli director Elite Zexer, won the *World Cinema Dramatic Grand Jury Prize* at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah at the end of January. Zexer’s feature-film debut is the story of a Bedouin woman forced to welcome her husband’s second wife and how she copes with her own rebellious, educated daughter. The movie had its European premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in mid-February. The film “Weiner,” about disgraced New York politician Anthony Weiner, received the *US Documentary Grand Jury Prize*. The Sundance Film Festival was founded in 1985 by actor/director Robert Redford to showcase independent cinema. ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 1-31-16)

### **In Memoriam**

-Abe Vigoda, the actor best known as the never-smiling, hunched-over Detective Fish on the TV sitcom “Barney Miller,” passed away at the end of January. He was 94. Although he had a lengthy stage career – among others, Vigoda acted in the 1968 Broadway production of the Holocaust drama “The Man in the Glass Booth” and he was in the cast of “Inquest,” a 1970 documentary play on Broadway about the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Vigoda became famous in “Barney Miller” when he was already in his fifties. The son of Jewish immigrants from Russia, Vigoda earned praise for his role as Salvatore Tessio, the Italian gangster who betrayed Michael Corleone (played by Al Pacino) in “The Godfather.” (*The Forward*, 1-26-16)

-Rabbi Eugene Borowitz, influential thinker in Reform Judaism, prolific writer, philosopher, scholar and longtime faculty member at Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion’s New York campus, died in January at age 91. He is known largely for his work on Jewish theology and ethics and was one of the leading figures in the movement of post-modern Jewish philosophy and theology. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Borowitz served as a U.S. Navy chaplain in the Korean War and as national director of education at what is now the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). Rabbi

Rick Jacobs, current president of the URJ, described Borowitz as a “larger-than-life figure in postwar Judaism,” saying Borowitz’s “impact on generations of rabbis was immense” – including KJCC’s very own Rabbi Richard Agler – and that he was the “embodiment of a rabbinic sage.” Borowitz won the *National Jewish Book Award* in the category of Jewish thought in 1974 for “The Mask Jews Wear.” He was the founder and editor of *Sh'ma, a Journal of Jewish Responsibility* in 1970. He was its publisher and editor for twenty-three years. *Sh'ma* provided a forum where voices from all segments of the Jewish community could be heard on a wide range of controversial topics.

([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) 1-30-16)

-Marvin Minsky, pioneer of artificial intelligence whose work helped inspire the creation of the personal computer and the internet, died at the end of January. He was 88. A revered computer science educator at MIT, Minsky, as far back as the 1950s, demonstrated the possibilities of imparting common sense reasoning to computers. According to one of his colleagues, Minsky “was one of the very few people...whose visions and perspectives liberated the computer from being a glorified adding machine to...realize its destiny as one of the most powerful amplifiers for human endeavors...” Fascinated by the mysteries of human intelligence and thinking, he saw no difference between the thinking processes of humans and those of machines. In 1959, Minsky co-founded the M.I.T. *Artificial Intelligence Project* – later the *A.I. Laboratory* – with his colleague John McCarthy, who is credited with coining the term “artificial intelligence.” The lab would have a major impact on the modern computing industry. The idea that digital information should be shared freely came from the lab and it was a part of the original ARPAnet, the forerunner to the internet. Minsky also excelled in many areas outside of science. While earning a degree in mathematics at Harvard, he studied music and was an accomplished pianist. Minsky earned many honors, most notably the Turing Award, computer science’s highest prize, which he received in 1969. Born in New York

City, Minsky’s father was an eye surgeon and chief of ophthalmology at Mount Sinai Hospital. His mother was a social activist and Zionist. After a stint in the Navy during World War II, he earned a Ph.D in math from Princeton. Minsky’s courses at M.I.T. attracted several generations of graduate students, many of whom went on to become computer science superstars themselves. Film director Stanley Kubrick sought Minsky’s expertise while preparing to make the 1968 science fiction film “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 1-25-16)

### Did You Know...

- Apple’s voice-activated personal assistant SIRI has learned Hebrew. “She” is now available in over 30 languages; Hebrew was added in February. The Hebrew version of SIRI (an acronym for “Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface”) comes with the new iOS 9.3 operating system. There are still things that Hebrew SIRI cannot do, but it’s hoped the final version will fix that.

([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 1-13-16)

-Israel’s Dead Sea recedes by roughly three feet each year due to water being diverted from the Jordan River due to industry and farming. This past December, Israel and Jordan proceeded with plans to build a 112-mile pipeline to pump in briny water from the Red Sea. (*TIME Magazine*, 2-8-16)

-A ten-day, first-class voucher for a trip to Israel is among the gifts that were offered in this year’s Oscar gift bags, which were distributed to 26 Oscar nominees in the top film acting and directing categories as well as to the presenters. The voucher – worth \$55,000 and the most expensive gift in the bag – is courtesy of Israel’s Tourism Ministry. Each voucher covers the price of an all-expenses-paid luxury ten-day trip for two. According to Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, the purpose of the gift was to allow Hollywood celebrities to “experience the country first-hand and not through the media.” (The gift bags, which include several other extravagant goodies, have a total value of \$200,000.)

([www.thedailybeast.com](http://www.thedailybeast.com), 2-5-16) ♦

Keys Jewish Community Center  
**13th Annual  
Women's Seder**

Sunday

April 10, 2016

5:00 PM @ KJCC

Homemade Seder Dinner  
w/Wine

Come celebrate the 13th  
Women's Seder

Donation: \$18 chai  
+ \$13.00 for 13 years =  
\$31.00

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

Limited seating - Please RSVP by  
April 6th

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





# Sights, Sounds, Smells: *Israel 2015*

by Shirley Miller Stein, MSW

**W**hen my husband Ira and I took our first trip to Israel in 1970, we were part of a 25-member synagogue group led by a Conservative Rabbi. We stayed in hotels, toured, took photos galore and enjoyed the camaraderie of other Americans. We have since returned many times, but this year our trip was different. With one grandson, 20-year-old Gabi, serving as driver of the mighty Merkava III tank with the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) stationed in Hebron, and another, 18-year-old Akiva, studying in Raanana, and worried about two sick friends, our reasons for heading to Israel were primarily emotional.

Many folks tried to discourage us. We were warned to stay in hotels, take taxis, avoid crowds, cafes and shopping malls and stay alert. Instead we spent our two weeks in a rented apartment in Tel Aviv, took buses everywhere, shopped at the bustling *Shuk HaCarmel* (the outdoor market) and ate like locals. Result? We enjoyed this trip as our most festive, fattening and fun trip ever!

Of course we loved seeing our grandsons. Unfortunately while they were visiting, Gabi's friend Muti was knifed in the neck, miraculously escaping instant death. The boys visited him at Tel Hashomer Hospital. Always the "life of the party", Muti, despite serious injury, had been able to survive, kill his assailant and still tell dirty jokes from a hospital bed....Israelis!

To usher in Chanukah, *Chabad*, the Hasidic sect that reaches out to Jews almost everywhere, sent three trucks bearing huge menorahs down our street. The eight-day sea of lights had begun! One of our sick friends was



**Shirley and Ira found everything they needed at Tel Aviv's Shuk HaCarmel.**

well enough to host a lively party in their Jerusalem home, replete with many grandchildren, lusty singing, games, tons of sizzling potato latkes, and mounds of *Sofganiot* (Israeli jelly donuts). We enjoyed ourselves and took the bus "home."

When we arrived at the boisterous six level bus terminal in Tel Aviv, Ira suddenly realized that his red mesh camera bag was missing. We scrambled to retrace our steps. We scurried up and down stairs and escalators, finally giving up hope. What were the chances of someone who noticed the bag not grabbing the loot? Most upsetting was the possible loss of prized photos. Disheartened and exhausted, we dragged ourselves to the bench near where we had originally gotten off. There a middle age man with a British accent, who was in the midst of writing a note complete with his cell number, greeted us. He had planned to take the bag home and await a call from the distraught loser. Ira couldn't stop smiling when he saw his trusty

bag intact! The man rejected a hefty reward, wished us a hearty “*Chanukah Someach!*” and we were all on our way home. *Nes gadol* (miracle!) As we hopped on the last #4 bus to our apartment at 11:30 P.M., we were greeted by the sole symbol of Christmas; a gap-toothed Moroccan driver bedecked in a jingly Santa hat!

Despite the horrendous political uncertainties, Israelis remain a fiercely optimistic people. In 1970 Tel Aviv's “Sholom Tower” was the tallest building; now many others tower over it. Gigantic structural cranes abound. Large-scale renovation is evident everywhere. We saw men working on roofs long after daylight, floodlights in tow.

When we walked to *Shuk HaCarmel* for our daily food fix, vendors screamed out bargains as customers *shlepped* huge shopping bags and carts packed with goodies galore. Succulent red, yellow and purple tomatoes shared stalls with shiny eggplants, crunchy cucumbers,

juicy oranges, pomegranates, Turkish *Halvah*, jellies rolled in pistachios (flies are free!), warm crusty breads, Lake Kinneret fish, sandals, cheap lingerie, Judaica, etc. If you dreamed of eating, wearing or owning it, just look-- it's all there! Don't be shy; make an offer!

A favorite place to shop for *Shabbat* is a popular take-out restaurant which converts to a super “take-a-way”: Here's a mind boggling array of chickens, *kugels*, stuffed veggies and “sides” from Germany, Ethiopia, France, Yemen, Morocco, Italy, Spain et al. Whether you hail from Israel, the U.S., Russia, Nigeria, Greece, Turkey, South America or anyplace



**Chabad trucks bring Hanukkah music to the already crowded streets of Tel Aviv.**

else, these kosher delicacies will nuzzle your nose, bedazzle your eyes and tempt you to

buy twice as much as you need. We enjoyed tangy leftovers for a week following our first purchase. We *fressed* on an international panoply of flavors and textures.

Each morning at 5:30 a.m., Ira walked to an Orthodox synagogue on Ben Yehuda St. By



**Ira went fishing (but not catching) in Jaffa with son-in-law Perry and grandsons Akiva and Gabe.**

6:00, the required *minyan* was ready to start the day; the rest arrived soon afterwards. For latecomers there was another *minyan* at 7:00. It is comforting for Jews from all over the world to *daven* together, despite language and cultural differences, with prayers of praise, peace and thanksgiving to G-d, for sustaining and preserving our ancestral home. ◇

# Photo Gallery



Meredith Cline celebrated her birthday on January 22nd by ably leading the service and delivering an exuberant *dvar* (Torah speech). Richard Wolfe's spirited drumming kept us upbeat and on beat. The yummy, gorgeous birthday cake Meredith provided was decorated with an edible photo of one of our sanctuary's stained glass panels, the one for the tribe of Zebulun.



Above and right, Rabbi Agler is shown leading a Torah service on January 23rd. Holding the Torah is Keith Peckman, assisted by 7-year-old daughter Libby. Having flown in on one of the last flights out of New Jersey before the blizzard, they had a lot to be thankful for. Scott Pearl is also assisting.

## Mosaic of the Keys

If you visited the 24-foot-long mural that was on display last month at the Murray Nelson Center, and currently (until March 7) at Ocean Sotheby Gallery in Islamorada, you will find these six-inch painted squares contributed by our own KJCC artists Geri Smith, Gloria Avner and



more than just a fund-raiser for children's art programs. This is run through the Council of the Arts, giving grants to local artists working with the community. I look forward to creating some-

thing beautiful and Keys-inspired each year. The mosaic travels from Key Largo to Key West with various stops along the way. It is then



Natalie Dorf. Four hundred professional and amateur artists created these tiny canvases, and included a personal statement giving insight into the work .

Natalie said, "Art in the Keys is inspired by so many things....The Mosaic project is an annual call to artists to help raise funds for

taken apart and individual paintings are sent to our pre-paid patrons, who are supporting those same projects."

It was fun searching the wall for their work. Perhaps next year more of us can join the mosaic, or create our own at KJCC. ♦



February saw services rich with multiple contributing leaders and oneg celebrations. At far right, Susan and Gloria added joyous music to the service led by Joyce. The oneg celebrated Erica's birthday. Below, Beth Hayden and Linda Pollack led the Feb. 12th service, with Meredith Cline providing a poetic and theatrical *d'var*.



At right and below, photos of KJCC volunteers on FLKCA concert night with Pauline and pianist.



Say Hello to this year's KJCC officers and board members (below), duly installed by Muriel Swartz (left) during the annual meeting on February 7th. Not shown is the delicious lunch Sisterhood provided afterwards.



## Adult Education



At left and below, Yardena Kamely teaches intermediate/advanced *Ulpan* (Hebrew language learning) on Fridays from 11:30-1 p.m. We learn new words and pull (from the recesses of our brains) vocabulary learned decades ago. There are no textbooks — just snacks, dictionaries and interesting conversation around a topic of the day. James Brush pays rapt attention, at left. Beginners learn on Sundays from 12-1:30 p.m.

**KJCC offers many opportunities to exercise your mind and keep those brain cells working. Language study is but one of them.**



### **SAY IT WITH MUSIC!!!**

**Born:** May 11, 1888: Israel Isadore Beilin

**Place of Birth:** Tyumen, Russia

**Died:** September 22, 1989, N Y City, age 101

**Musical Career:** 1907-1971 (64 years)

**Marriage 1:** Dorothy Goetz 1912, died 6 in mo Typhoid

**Marriage 2:** Ellin Mackay 1925, 62 yr, 4 children

**Shirley Stein treated us to a fascinating lecture and PowerPoint presentation about the life and music of Irving Berlin. We love him for “God Bless America” and a host of romantic and bawdy songs. Thank you, husband Ira, for preparing the musical array of selections from Berlin’s 100th birthday tribute on YouTube.**

# Double the Joy, Double Adar

## Happy Jewish Leap Year And Chag Purim

by Gloria Avner

Something special is making 2016 a doubly unique year. Not only is there a once-in-a-four-year cycle extra day in February, but both the secular world and the Jewish people are celebrating “leaps” in the same year. The big difference is that our Jewish calendar needs more than one day. We add a leap *month*, an especially joyful one according to Jewish tradition, since Adar is the month in which we might have been destroyed in Persia but escaped and became jubilant instead.

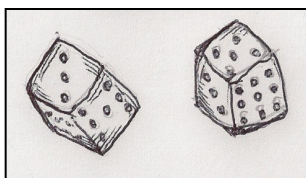
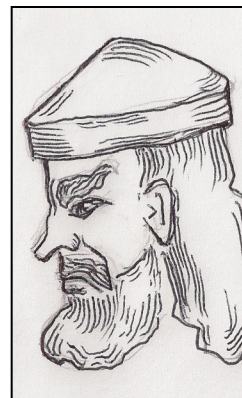
Thank you, Queen Esther, for foiling Haman’s wicked plot to annihilate us. The script called for the wipeout to occur on 14 Adar, the day Haman chose by casting “lots,” or *Purim*. Make sure to attend our Scroll of Esther reading at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. In round-robin style we’ll take turns telling the story, listening to the *ganssa megillah* (the whole scroll), just as we are commanded to do. We are also commanded to share with friends and neighbors, have a feast, and celebrate our survival, so *mitzvah*-making will be followed with joyful treats of ice cream and trimmings with which to make your own sundaes, fruit salad for the healthy, and, yes, adult beverages. We are commanded to drink enough so that we cannot tell the difference between “Cursed be Haman” and “Blessed be Mordechai,” but we will be responsible.

Primarily known as “people of the book,” we are equally a people of the land and of time. Our tribe has been observing and celebrating the natural world and all its cycles for millen-

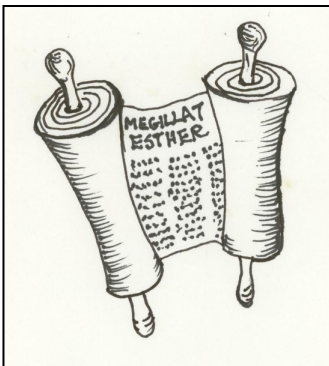
nia. In addition to the secular New Year, Judaism uniquely observes four special New Years within each year (in Nissan, Elul, Tishrei and Sh’vat). Jews also observe more leap years than almost any other culture. In fact, we make seven “leaps” in every nineteen-year cycle – on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>

years, and are one of the few cultures (including Chinese, Hindu, and Persian) to add “leap months” to make up astronomical differences. Our calendar, in addition to its role in setting *yahrzeits*, *rosh chodesh* (new moon) dates, and *parashah* (Torah portion) readings, uses both solar and lunar time-marking systems to insure that we celebrate our core rituals in proper season.

In a Chassidic article on The Sixty Days of Purim, Yanki Tauber talks about how each month of the Jewish year has its own quality. Jewish time is comprised not of days but of months, each possessing a distinct spiritual essence. The “special” days of the year are those on which the particular month’s quality is more pronounced and actualized. Nissan, for example, is the “Month of Liberation,” while Passover (observed on Nissan 15 to 22) is a week-long period within Nissan during which the month’s freedom-quality is more accessible. Similarly, Sivan is the month of Wisdom, Shevat is the month of Growth and Fruitfulness, Elul is the month of Compassion, and so on. Each day of the month possesses the month’s unique spiritual properties, but on some days the quality



rises to the surface and is intensified. This is why many festivals and special dates in the Jewish calendar occur on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month – the night of the full moon, the point at which the

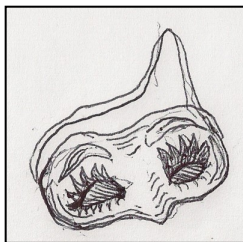


month's essence is in its most revealed and luminous state. Adar is the month of Transformation. Adar transforms sorrow into joy, oblivion into exuberant being, a "scattered people" into a unified nation.

Our tribe has always paid attention to both solar and lunar cycles. It's all about time. We watch the stars, as anyone who has attended one of our short, sweet *Havdalah* services knows. (You have to love a religion that does not put a specific number on the hours necessary to call a day a day. It is enough for us that the day begins and ends at sundown – or once three medium-sized stars are visible in the sky.) We honor our weekdays by naming them solely after their relation to the days of Creation and cessation/rest. We continue to be tied to our agrarian-based earth honoring origins while remaining in tune with the secular world – a necessity in a world where governments have always required the timely

payment of all kinds of taxes.

Hillel and his fellow scholars were so smart. (Credit is given them in the Mishnah). Over all these hundreds of years, their codified system has never needed



seconds of adjustment. Here's how it works, in simplified form:

Most years, we have 12 months, six with 29 days and six with 30. Accordingly, a non-leap year consists of 354 days. That is eleven days short of the Gregorian calendar around

which the secular world and our date books revolve. What do we do so that we don't get hopelessly behind? We can't celebrate *Pesach* in November or *Rosh Hashanah* in June. We know that our rituals are tied to earth's seasons and cycles. Right now, after the month of *Sh'vat* and our recent celebration of "The New Year of the Trees" (a record number of adults joined our students' favorite ritual of planting trees in our KJCC orchard on *Tu B'Shvat*), we are approximately 30 days behind. At the end of *Sh'vat*, we add an extra month of either twenty-nine or thirty days, depending on which is necessary in order to avoid any fast day occurring the day before or after Shabbat – intelligently avoiding the problem of not being able to cook a meal before or after fasting. We call this extra month *Adar 1*. It is followed by our regular month of Adar, which in this case we refer to as *Adar 2*. All is then in place for us to be in harmony with the energy of the seasons as they relate to our ritual cycles and holy days (until it is time for the next "leap"). Purim is thus celebrated during the second Adar.

According to Jewish tradition, Adar is a lucky and happy month.

In this year of two Adars, we get 60 days of happiness rather than 29 or 30. A leap year is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me'uberet*, a pregnant year. May this leap month and year be pregnant with all kinds of possibilities for us, our families, and the



world community. May it give birth to good fortune, good health, creativity, and a lively shared social and spiritual life among our KJCC *mishpochah*. Give it a head start. Put on your Purim mask and costume. Listen to the tale, spin that *grogger* and stamp your feet. Make a doubly joyful noise as we celebrate one more instance of survival against the odds. ♦

*All illustrations are original artwork by Gloria Avner, and we thank her for them.*



# Have you Ever Written One of These?



**Y**ou're looking at a panel of the newly restored KJCC Holocaust Torah. In the center is the Song of the Sea — Miriam's Song. Just to its right is the section the scribes prepared for us to finish, leaving characters outlined but not filled in. This is so that we, individually and collectively, can fulfill the final *mitzvah* — number 613 as discerned by the ancient sages — that we should each complete a Torah in our lifetime. The rabbis have also decreed that filling in one letter fulfills the *mitzvah*.

This is an experience

that everyone — deeply religious or completely secular — finds profoundly moving. One simply cannot perform this *mitzvah* without sensing a powerful bond with their parents, or grandparents, or forebears from a thousand years ago, or feel a special moment of transcendence. It just happens. The tears are always real.

We still have some time slots available for members, but they're filling quickly. If you'd like to help complete our Torah, please contact Gloria Avner at 305-619-0216 or e-mail at [geetavner@gmail.com](mailto:geetavner@gmail.com). It all happens on Sunday, March 13th, 2016.



# KJCC Annual Family Passover Second Seder



Saturday, April 23, 2016

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com, (305) 853-1003.

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

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will  
be opening this to the public after April 1st.

Vegetarian options are available - please request when  
making your reservation.

## PASSOVER

**Donations:**

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

**Non-Members: \$75**

# Reunion of the Holocaust Torahs

by Gloria Avner

**I**t was a most unusual Valentine's Day 2016. More than a *minyan* of KJCC stalwarts went without chocolate and roses in favor of uniting with our old sweetheart from the small Bohemian village of Susice, Holocaust Torah Scroll No. 418. Her repair and rehab in the skilled hands of our trained *sofers* (scribes) was complete and we were ready to bring her home. It was a reunion on more levels than one.

Welcomed at the door of Hollywood's Temple Beth El by President and prime mover Lynn Strauss, we had the privilege of seeing and interacting with a gathering of Czechoslovakian Holocaust Torahs reunited – an event Lynn conceived of and made happen by years of hard work – for the first time in over seventy years. The last time all these Torahs were together was without dignity in a damp, dark warehouse in Prague, 1938.

For the first time, we of KJCC were able to see our newly rejuvenated and koshered Torah restored to its original beauty, without any evidence of crumbling letters or weakened stitching of the parchment sections made from cowhide. We were shown the section of the Torah our members would have the privilege of “writing” in to make the scroll complete. In the photo you can see the unusual placement of words on the page Rabbi Bialo is showing Susan Ellner and me. That is the clue. You are looking at the distinctively written Song of Miriam (*Mi Kamocha*), from Parashah *Yitro*, and it is beautiful.

This was a Jewish gathering, so of

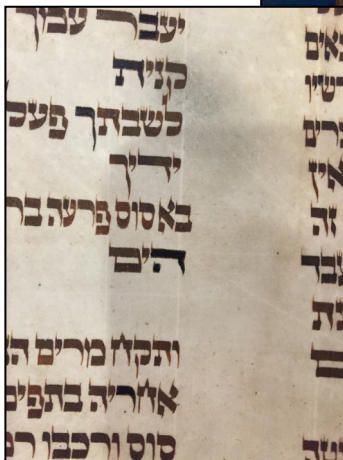
**The passage at right in our Torah is from the distinctively written Song of Miriam (*Mi Kamocha*), from Parashah *Yitro*, and it is beautiful.**

course there was food, but that attraction paled in comparison with the impact of seeing 22 old scrolls, all different in size, style of wood handles (*eytz chayim*—*living trees*), and colorful decorative coverings, lined up on long rows of tables. But this array was much more than just 22 old scrolls. We met 22 *surviving Torahs* on those tables. (And by the time the day was done we had met and made friends with two wonderfully lively human survivors of the Holocaust, one from Auschwitz and one from Buchnwald, whom we have invited to come visit us.)

Each Torah was slowly walked down the sanctuary's central aisle, to then be placed alongside its other surviving siblings on a long table. Steve Steinbock



**Rabbi Menachem Bialo, Gloria, Susan Ellner**



was given the honor of walking KJCC's scroll down the aisle, as significant a task as escorting a bride, to the words and music of Naomi Shemer's powerful song “Eli, Eli.” There were tears but also joy. We were celebrating survival, continuity, and hope for the future. We heard

Jeffrey Ohrenstein, Chairman of the Memorial Scrolls' Trust, flown in from London, tell us the story of the curators who had gathered the scrolls from Bohemia and Moravia, packed them up and shipped them to Great Britain for safe-keeping and restoration after the war. There was no way to return them to their original *shuls*, whose congregations had ceased to be.



the scrolls would be lovingly gathered for a celebration reunion in Hollywood, Florida? The magic of the day was



**Steve Steinbeck escorting KJCC's scroll #418 down the aisle.**

Who could have imagined that nearly every one of the 1,500



**Lynn Strauss, president of Hollywood's Temple Beth El, spent two years organizing the day.**

Torahs saved would now once again be living beacons of Judaism, honored and used in congregations around the world, all saying Kaddish for the original owners, or that 22 of



capped by Rabbi Gedaliah Druin's words as he prepared us for the last act of the day - Lynn Strauss would be writing the final

letter in Temple Beth El's own scroll. "It's alive!" he said. "It needs to breathe, every letter needs to be perfect, in exactly the right spot in order for it to function. What would happen if parts of your body were in the wrong place?" And then, on the *bimah*, while Holocaust survivors looked on and grandchildren gaped in awe, the man who'd been a *sofer* for 40 years, and whose son and grandson-in-law have been supervising the reconditioning of our KJCC Torah, picked up his



**Above, Rabbi Bialo lovingly arranges a tallit over one of the Torahs rescued from Bohemia and Moravia, together again after many years.**



**Lynn Strauss of Temple Beth El with their Torah and Rabbi Gedalia Druin, the founder of Sofer-on-Site, the sofrers (Torah scribes) we also used for the repair of our Torah.**

quill, dipped it in the ancient formula of ink, invited Lynn to hold the feather, and together they filled in the final letter, fulfilling that

Torah's last *mitzvah*. You definitely will want to be there, in our own KJCC sanctuary on March 13<sup>th</sup> (contact Gloria or Sam to make your reservation), when we, too, will have this important emotional and spiritual opportunity. We want to do Susice, the memory of its martyred inhabitants and our own congregation proud, those of our past, present and future. We, too, will sing:

*Eli, Eli, I pray that these things never end:*

*The sand and the sea,  
The rush of the waters,  
The crack of the heavens,  
The prayers of the heart. ◇*



**Lynn and Rabbi Gedalia write the final letter in Temple Beth El's restored Torah, above.**



**At left, three generations of sofrim: Rabbi Gedalia Druin, center, with**

**son Moshe Druin at right and grandson-in-law Menachem Bialo at left. Below, 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Willy Behrman asked to hold and embrace KJCC's Torah for just a moment.**



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# From Monaco to Dubai

Gene is our guide as she and Mort cruise the Mediterranean — Part Three

by Gene Silverman

Corsica is not what I had imagined. It is not wild-looking, or at least the port isn't. I realize this large island is part of France, but for some strange reason didn't think it would be so FRENCH! The northern coastal town of Calvi, where our ship docked, is a lovely port town, with all the typical shops one would see in any port town. The day was sunny and lovely, so we decided to just walk around. It is definitely a two-level town, leaving us no choice but to walk along the shore and then traipse uphill before returning to the ship. There were many restaurants along the water; the shops were up above.

Despite our many trips to Europe, this was our first glimpse of Corsica. We would only be here until late afternoon, so we made sure to disembark in mid-morning.

We were on the lookout for anything that would remind Mort of the swashbuckling book he had read as a young



First look at Corsica from aboard ship in the Ligurian Sea.

man – The Corsican brothers. But all we found were restaurants, shops and artists! We hadn't realized that so many artists lived and worked there.

As you can see in the photos it is a bit chilly – when we arrived it was about 45 degrees, with the day's high only supposed to reach 65. To make things feel colder, the winds were 13 knots from the northeast, directly off the water. But, we were prepared – or so we thought. What



Mort (above) and Gene (below) amid the shops and cafés of Calvi, Corsica.



we needed were gloves!

But we did enjoy walking around, and of course treated ourselves to black “T” shirts from Corsica. (And didn’t buy anything else, as the prices were very, very FRENCH!) We didn’t stop to eat, as we had just had breakfast on board and were heading back by lunchtime. Besides, tonight the ship was having what they called the Neighborhood Block Party – which meant that at 6:15 everyone on each floor was to exit their suites to meet their neighbors and wait for the Champagne and *hors d’oeuvres* and to meet the Captain and staff. We had also been invited to have dinner with Geoff Steven at 7:30. He is a fabulous photographer who was onboard as a working guest of Seabourn. If we could stay up, at 9:45 comedian Martin Beaumont would be doing a show in the Grand Salon.

Wednesday we would steam into the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean east of Sardinia and west of the coast of Italy, on the way to Mgarr, Malta.

Oh-oh. A ship’s notice alerted us to rough weather along our planned route, so our itinerary was changed a little. Tomorrow we would be arriving in Siracusa, on the southeast coast of Sicily, instead of some 100 miles to the south in the island nation of Malta.

The sea did get a bit rocky during dinner that evening, but we were fine. I don’t think many of the others onboard did as well as we did, because fewer people were openly enjoying dinner; we were also aware that many had put on patches behind their ears for seasickness.

We arrived in Siracusa around 8:00 in the morning. It is a very old city, colonized by

Corinthian settlers in 734 C.E. It has the narrow streets one would expect. We were on the lookout for the medieval Saint John the Baptist Church, because we had read that there had been an area called Giudecca – Jewish Quarter – dating from 59 C.E. on the same site. A recent discovery had unearthed a Jewish ritual bath there – a mikvah!

So we took off on our own, walking in this ancient city and looking for a street called Via Algona. It was a bit of an adventure, as there were no street signs, but occasionally you would see the street’s name on the cornerstone of a building. But – not all the time. We found the church. But if one perseveres, and looks below to a very narrow entrance that has been blocked off...YES – a mikvah! *Underneath that church.* Our tribe was clearly here, and following the tenets of its faith, about 400 years before Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

There were lots of other things to do, too. We could tour ancient Siracusa, which once had been a powerful Greek colony, or visit either a Sicilian winery with a farmhouse dating back to the Middle Ages or Mount Etna, which is Europe’s largest active volcano.

After traipsing around most of the morning we were tired enough to head back to the ship, and maybe take a nap before the evening’s activities.

Tomorrow we were to land at Gozo, the northernmost of the islands comprising Malta. But after doing research about the island of Gozo we opted not to go ashore. There is one giant Gothic church and a fortress, but since we would only be in this port until



**The mikvah unearthed beneath St. John the Baptist Church in Siracusa, Greece. Jews are said to have lived in Siracusa since the first century C.E.**





**Cannons protecting Grand Harbor of Valletta, the capital of Malta, which is divided into three cities: Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua. The cannons are still fired twice a day, at noon and 4:00 p.m.**

2 p.m. we just stayed put and enjoyed the ship, especially since the weather might be rainy and windy – with 23-knot winds and the temperature only getting as high as 69 degrees. Besides, this evening, at 9:30 there was to be a show put on by all the shipboard singers and dancers, which we were looking forward to. I had booked an arts and crafts tour in which I would learn certain Maltese crafts, but it was cancelled. Seems I was the only person onboard who was interested!

We passed the afternoon listening to Aldon Ferguson give a lecture – or as Seabourn called it, a conversation – about covert operations in Malta during the Cold War.

Then overnight to Valletta. So we'd end up walking around in Malta after all. I also had a particular shopping goal: they are famous for their dolphin door-knockers, which I wanted to explore. Since this is the capital of the island nation we thought it would be very interesting.

Our next stop was in Crete, which is half Greek and half Turkish but is officially part of Greece. The island is extremely hilly, and much is built upon the cities and homes of ancient civilizations. There are lots of cafés and shops. The weather was again cold and windy, but the people were warm.

The next day we would visit Symi, Greece, a small island in the Dodecanese chain just off the southeast coast of Turkey. Symi is reputed to be the birthplace of the Three Graces and takes its name from Poseidon's wife. Pleasant, but not too exciting. That evening we would be having a formal dinner with new friends from England, Linda and Seymour, who we met at our first

Shabbat service and have been hanging out with ever since. Then back into the Aegean and into the Cyclades islands, to famous Mykonos. We've been there before, but it's so beautiful we're going ashore with Linda and Seymour to see how much trouble we can get into.

I don't need to buy a lot of jewelry any more, but I did find a pair of earrings in Mykonos that fascinated me: a handmade pair of silver earrings made with yarn, string and teeny sequins.

Mykonos has very narrow, winding streets, with whitewashed houses with blue doors. Yes, it is typically splashed with brilliant sun. It was so windy that day that walking was almost impossible except in the narrow alleyways where the wind couldn't reach. The streets were also very, very uneven with pavers of stone, so you had to be ultra careful where you landed with your shoes.

Tomorrow is Halloween and it should be very interesting to see who dresses up, as we will be arriving in Piraeus, Greece. Then, our trip really starts its last interesting phase, as we visit Haifa, where our Israeli friends are picking us up for the day, then Ashdod. Our ship then steams through the Suez Canal and on to Jordan, Oman and Qatar before landing in the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai. That'll be next month, as we end our journey. ♦

**(Right) A typical street scene in Valletta, Malta**





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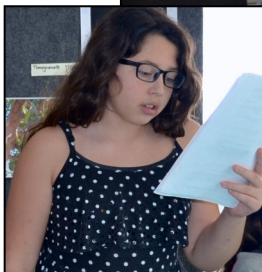
# *Tu B'Shuat Celebration*

It's not just for children any more. Each year a larger number of adults attend our annual "seder" honoring the birthday of the trees.

How could you not love a holiday that honors each of the seasons, involves drinking four cups of grape juice, sampling different kinds of fruits and nuts that grow in Israel, and tells stories illustrating our tribe's intelligent traditions around reverence for trees.

It all culminates in a celebration outdoors. We and our children dig, plant, bless, water, and last but not least, we join hands, sing and dance in a large circle around the two new saplings in our KJCC orchard. The adults, parents, teachers, congregants and guests, far outnumbered the children this year, even though we had twelve children in all. And how lucky are we to have two sets of our own twin saplings. ◊

—Gloria





**This year we celebrated the 15th of Sh'vat a day early, on Sunday, January 24th.**



**Below, the twin sets of grandchildren of Savta Joyce and Savta Yardena, who flew in from New Jersey and Chile to make friends with our own KJCC kids.**



**Sean Kaufman makes an excellent host for his new friend from New Jersey, no?**





**It was a lovely day to dig and dance. If you don't see yourself in these photos, you can resolve to celebrate Tu B'Shevat with us next year.**





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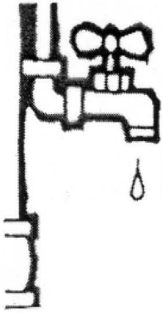
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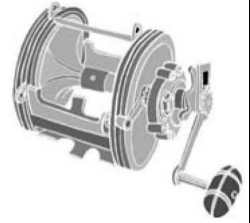
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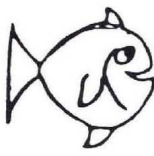
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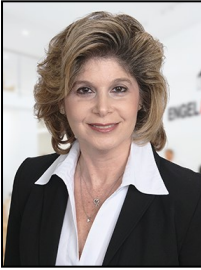
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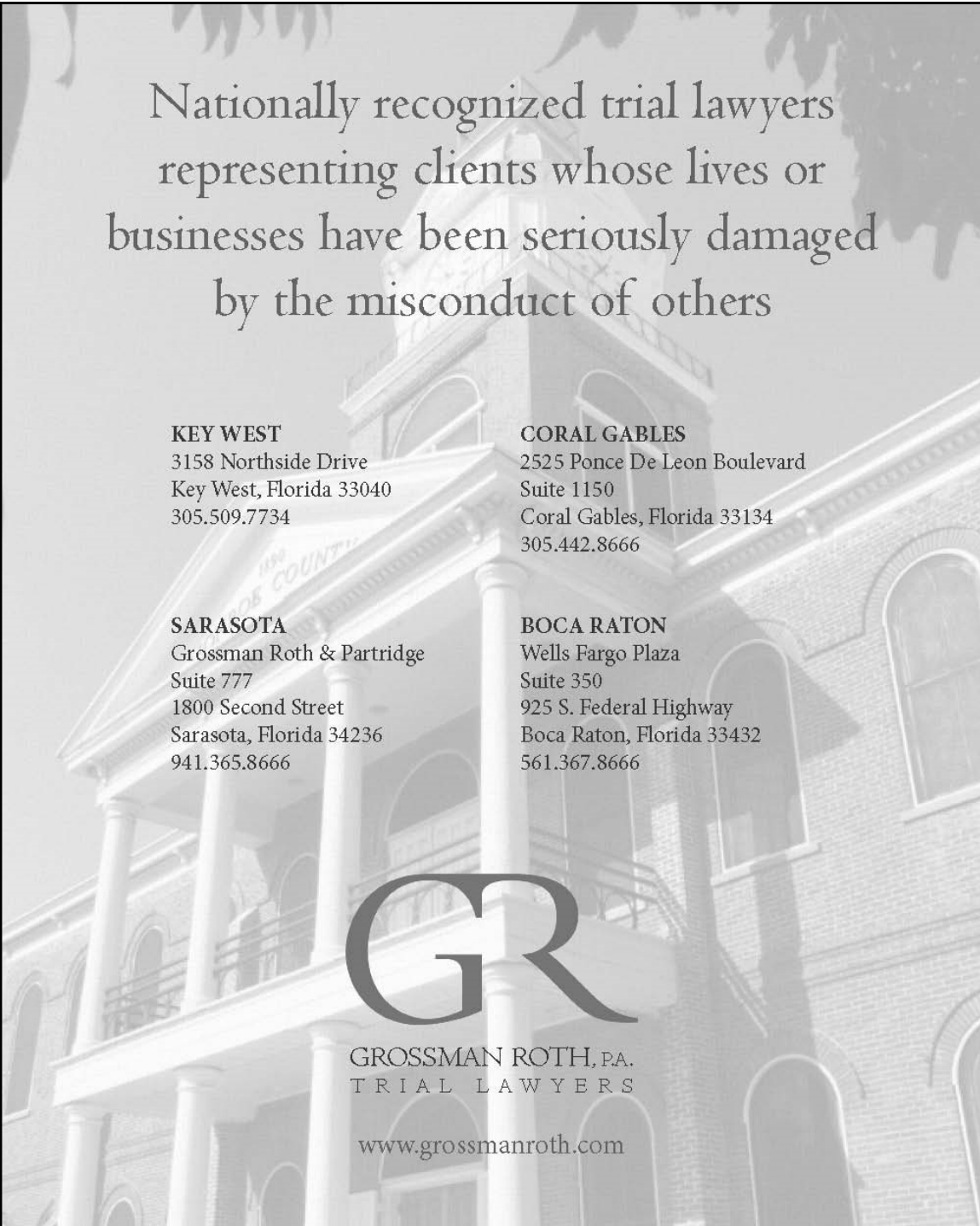
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