

Chai~Lights



September 2013

26 Elul 5773 - 26 Tishrei 5774

World Jewish Report - page 19

High Holiday Section - page 27

Israel Trip Diary, Part 1 - page 33

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

September 2013

26 Elul - 26 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sisterhood Meeting 9:30	2 Labor Day	3	4 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 5:00 Services 8:00	5 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services 9:30 a.m.	6 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Steve & Barbara Smith</i>	7 Shabbat Tshuvah 10:00 a.m. Havdalah 7:45 p.m.
8 Board Meeting 9:00	9	10	11	12	13 Erev Yom Kippur <i>Kol Nidre</i> 8:00 p.m.	14 Yom Kippur Yizkor
15 Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.	16	17	18	19 Sukkot First Day	20 Sukkot Second Day Steve Steinbock	21
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26 Shemini Atzeret	27 Stuart Sax et. al 6:30 Service Yizkor Simchat Torah	28 Bereshit
29	30					
<div>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except where noted.</div>						

2013 - 2014 Officers and Board

President

Bernard Ginsberg

Executive Vice President

Sam Vinicur

Vice Presidents

Gloria Avner – Susan Gordon – Steve Hartz

Treasurer

Linda Pollack

Recording Secretary

Beth Hayden

Financial Secretary

Lauren Sax

Corresponding Secretary

Joyce Peckman

Directors

Marc Bloom – David Gitin – Dave Mont
Medina Roy – Gene Silverman

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles

Men's Club

Steve Friedman

Adult Education

Yardena Kamely

Librarian

Medina Roy

Historian

Mary Lee Singer

Past Presidents

Joel S. Cohen
Robert Faeges
Ronald Horn
Lester Nieman
Irving Stein
Myron Rubin
Bea Graham
George Swartz
Susan Horn
Jim Boruszak
Joel Pollack
Jeff Schocket
Steve Steinbock
Alan Beth
Stuart Sax

Newsletter

Lisa Richardson Rutherford

CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly publication of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332

Tavernier, Florida 33070
challights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



I'm writing this as summer has halfway passed. The High Holidays are approaching and all the temple officers and volunteers are going into overdrive.

Despite the increase of work, I find this the most rewarding part of my presidency, because this is the time for giving out the honors of *aliyahs* for the High Holidays at KJCC. It will be a great pleasure for me, in the next few weeks, to thank, with High Holiday honors, those unsung heroes who have given so much to make our temple run smoothly.

The holiday season will start with the S'lichot service (in preparation for Rosh Hashanah) on Saturday, August 31st at 6 p.m. (organized and sponsored by unsung heroes Stu and Lauren Sax.) It will feature pizza and a movie on the life of Theodore Herzl. Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner is Wednesday, September 4th at 5 p.m., prior to Rosh Hashanah services at 8 p.m. Then we are off to the races with the Rosh Hashanah, Shabbos Tshuvah and Yom Kippur services. See the calendar and schedule in this issue for complete details.

By the time you read this, we will have had the pleasure of hosting another Bar Mitzvah, on August 24th, when we will have initiated Zachary Schrader-Grace into adult membership in our Jewish community. It is always a compli-

ment to our religious school, its teachers and the religious education committee, as well as the parents, when a Bar or Bat Mitzvah can be celebrated by a child who was brought up in our very isolated Jewish community. This is the purpose of our KJCC: To live Jewishly and maintain the future of Jewish life.

To this purpose, I urge all of you to return your dues packages promptly and to include extra contributions above the minimum of dues alone, so that our synagogue may continue to provide all the services which our Jewish community needs. Many of you have contributed to the Rabbi and Cantor Fund and have been gratified with the increasing quality of our service. I urge you to continue such contributions and then add gifts in other categories in honor of loved ones. As every president learns so well, the regular dues alone are not enough to sustain our operations.

It is my fervent prayer that every member of the congregation finds inspiration in the High Holiday services and that they and their families will be inscribed in the Book of Life for a healthy and prosperous upcoming year.

Shalom, Bernie ◇

Nosh

Happy New Year at (and from) KJCC

As you read this, August will be coming to a close and Erev Rosh Hashanah will be but a week or so away. Yes, it really did all come very early this year.

In our Tribe, every new year is special, not simply a ritual of the calendar. It means your petition to be written in last year's book of life was granted. It means we get to ask for another chance to improve ourselves, finding our collective way through life's difficulties while still managing to remember that we are born to be spiritual beings and not merely navigators of the mundane. We forge forward, for reasons beyond the mere hope that things will get better; our traditions and sages have made it ringingly clear that what we learn, and how we act and live, are what matter. It's what we've been taught for millennia, in Judea and Spain and Persia and Eastern Europe and in Jewish outposts from Gaul to Aden to Buenos Aires to Shanghai to India and the Cape of Good Hope.

Cantor Mark Halpern returns this year. We are proud to announce that, joining him on the High Holiday bimah will be, for the first time, Rabbi Richard Agler (who was ordained right around the time that KJCC was founded). Those of you who have attended one or more of Rabbi Agler's Saturday morning Torah Learning Sessions know what a learned and inspiring teacher awaits us. This is certain to be an important and memorable New Year celebration for KJCC.

The hard work of preparation has been done. We hope that you'll be here to be part of it. (The High Holiday section begins on page 27.)

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Linda Perloff and Eric Freundlich
and their family on the death of
Bob Freundlich*

Tree of Life

ROCK UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE The Jacobs / VanArtsdalen Family

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Honor of the
Special Life of
Rene Rose.

With All My Love,
Your Husband Skip

Leaf on the Tree of Life

Rene Rose

Special - Always
from Joel & Linda Pollack
2013

Leaf on the Tree of Life

Honoring Rene Rose

May 16, 2013
from the Mah Jongg Group

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In Honor of
Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner
Wedding
12-11-1965

Leaf on the Tree of Life

"L'Chaim"

Lloyd and Rae Weiss Wruble

Don't Forget to Bring "Fast" Food

We at KJCC are starting a new tradition. Let's make our fast more meaningful by helping to spare others from hunger. As part of our Yom Kippur Tzedekah, we can each bring a bag of groceries to shul with us on Yom Kippur morning. The next day, on Sunday, our offerings will be delivered to the Food Bank next door at Burton Memorial Church. Todah, and may we all be written and sealed for a good, healthy year.

-Gloria

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
JERRY OSHINSKY
2/18/50 - 2/8/13
Sherry Zwerdling

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of
ELLEN L. COLTMAN
Loving Wife,
Mother & Daughter
7/18/41 - 4/16/12
24 Nissan 5772

The Garden Thanks Susan Gordon

Steve Steinbock, loving steward of the beautiful KJCC Meditation Garden, was frustrated. Sisterhood had donated money for a fountain. (Every place of beauty and contemplation should have a fountain, no?) The elegant concrete one that Steve selected developed problems, and then the manufacturer stopped answering the phone. (Out of business because of defective products?) But Susan Gordon stepped forward, saying that she had a similar fountain at home that she'd happily donate. And donate it she did. Look (and listen) for the gentle splashing of water in the Garden when you're here for High Holidays, and enjoy. Steve, our Garden, and all of us thank Susan for her generous gift to KJCC.

September Birthdays

1st.....	Mildred Finkelstein
1st.....	Wendy Shatz
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
2nd.....	Marcie Orenstein
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Mindy Agler
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
13th.....	Andy Tobin
13th.....	Lisha Lane
14th.....	Lili Werthamer
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
18th.....	Avery Haviv
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Vippi Pollack
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
24th.....	Noah Bitton
25th.....	Marla Berenson
25th.....	Michel Bitton
26th.....	Cory Wasser
26th.....	Joan Kay
28th.....	Jonathan Line

September Anniversaries

	Years
4th	Jim & Lynn Nobil.....27
8th	Ronald & Deborah Kaplan17
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov.....29
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith.....35
30th	Ira & Anita Krieger.....35

TWO BOOK PLATES
In Honor of
Toby and David Goldfinger
from Muriel and George Swartz

BOOK PLATE
In Memory of
Joseph Goldberg
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE
In Honor of
Carol & Steve Steinbock
on their 30th Anniversary
6/12/2013
by Pauline Roller

BOOK PLATE
In Memory of
Jim Boruszak
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

KJCC Meditation Garden Donations

BRICK

In Memory of
Rene Rose,
The Sunshine
of Our Lives.
Steve and Carol
Stuart and Lauren

TREE PLAQUE

This Avocado Tree
was generously donated in
memory of
Joel S. Cohen
by his family

BRICK

In Loving Memory of
Esther S. Kwalick
1908 - 1991
Irwin "Babe" Kwalick
1905 - 1988

TREE PLAQUE

This Mahogany Tree
was generously donated by
Harry Friedman
on the occasion of his
Bar Mitzvah in memory of
Rene Rose
June 2013

BRICK

In Memory of
Louis R. Coltman
12/3/1908 - 3/3/1991

BRICK

In Loving Memory of
Rene Rose
Alan & Candy

BRICK

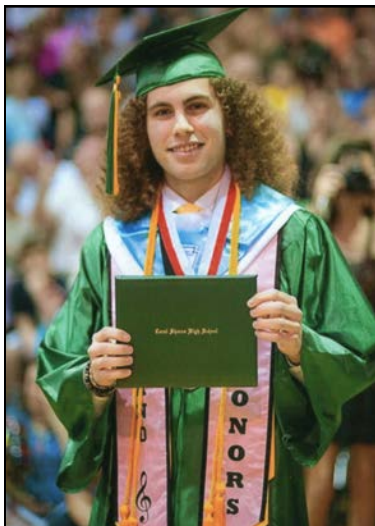
**Steve & Carol
Steinbock's**
30th Anniversary
Love, Joel and Linda

A Thank-You Note to KJCC from Nyan

Dear Members of the KJCC Scholarship Committee:

I would like to thank you for the scholarship you have awarded me. It's going to make a huge

difference in my financial health in college. Ever since I was a little boy I have felt the warmth, and tight-knit bond, that members of the Upper Keys Jewish community share. I know that I have more support than I could



ever ask for coming from the KJCC. Of course, with my graduating high school comes a new chapter in my life in which I must become a man...for the second time; but this time my duty is to succeed in society as an individual. I know that with the teachings I have received at the KJCC I will flourish in college and in life, and I will be able to pass on those lessons in moral code. The KJCC will always be a second family to me, and I hope that one day I can come back to the Keys and contribute in my own way.

With love,
Nyan Feder

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Elaine Solas
and her family on the death of
Bernie Solas*

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Pauline Roller,
KJCC Founder,
on the occasion of her
98th birthday,
by
Arthur & Ann Plutzer

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of
LORRAINE "Rene" ROSE
9/15/1935 - 5/16/2013
The Rose Family

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Memory of
Henry W. Isenberg
from
Patricia Isenberg

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Pauline Roller's
98th Birthday
Steve & Barbara Smith

Our Sanctuary Has a New Sound System

A lot of thought and care goes into the programs and services we offer at KJCC, our unique little shul in the midst of an archipelago of islands settled by adventurers and dreamers. Bernie and Gloria have seen to it that this will be the best and most engaging High Holidays ever. But our sanctuary's sound system was old, and the speakers badly needed replacing. So we've upgraded all of it. When you're here, listen to how clean and pure the sound is now. And soon after the new year, Dave Feder has agreed to do a concert here, which will be a major community event and fundraiser. Watch this space for details.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Rene Rose
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Bill Kwalick
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Marty Graham
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Jerry Oshinsky
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Kurt Kluger
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Al Roller
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Irving & Daisy H. Smith
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Louis & Selma Smith
by
Steve & Barbara Smith

coast Hillels have joined together with Hillels based at other colleges and universities throughout Florida. Acting as one Florida voice, they've created a web site, which they hope all Jewish students at Florida colleges will see and respond to. To accomplish this they're asking for the help of all synagogues throughout Florida as well as all parents and grandparents of college-age (or soon to be) students; the idea is to allow Hillel staff members to actively reach out to Jewish students even before they arrive on campus. The web site is www.jcollegebound.com. Once there, enter the name, e-mail and school the student will be attending in the fall. A local Hillel staff member will then personally contact the student.

Hillel Seeks Jewish Students in Florida

According to Rabbi Ed Rosenthal — the rabbi for the group of Suncoast Hillels on Florida's Gulf coast, based at Eckerd College — the biggest challenge for Jewish life on Florida's college campuses is not anti-Israel attitudes, or anti-Semitism, or missionaries. According to Rabbi Ed, "the biggest challenge we face at Hillel is how to find the Jewish students in the first place." (Rabbi Ed has recently sought and been happily voted into membership in KJCC. So though we have no rabbi, we now have two rabbis as full members: Rabbi Ed and Rabbi Rich Agler. And both of their wives are named Mindy.)

So to help address this challenge, the Sun-

In Memoriam September 2013

In Memory Of

Anne Hendin Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

David Schur

By Lee Schur

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Mauro Ojeda

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

In Memory Of

Toby Mitchell

By Joel & Linda Pollack

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Mollie Silverman

By Morton & Gene Silverman

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Jim Boruszak

By Joan Boruszak

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Lorraine Martell

By Skip Rose

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Mrs. Freda Shipman

By Ira & Shirley Stein

<><><><><><><><><><><>

In Memory Of

Louis Gitin

By David Gitin

<><><><><><><><><><><>

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 at 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 Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree & plaque for posterity.

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

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

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES, BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

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 Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.

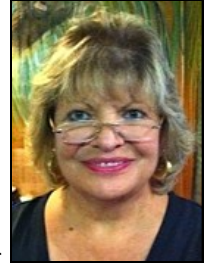
CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to make your donation.

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.

Sisterhood

Barbara Knowles



The summer is winding down and the fall is quickly approaching. This is the first summer I've had no time to myself. A pre-teen with a broken arm is not exactly what I bargained for.

On a very positive note: Sisterhood is finishing up their planning for the year and has done so through April. The dates will soon be announced for our big "Fundraiser in February." I'm trying to raffle off a special trip, which went over great in the past. The planning has been done and will be in my column and in next month's edition of "Nosh."

The High Holidays have been planned and will be starting out with Sisterhood hosting the Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner on Wednesday, September 4, 2013. Please contact Erica Garrett – hippiejap@hotmail.com – as she is chairing this event, to coordinate what to bring or any other help you can offer. Please help us make this a truly memorable Rosh Hashanah. The dinner will be \$20.00 per person, with no charge for children 12 and under. Charges for non-members (including children) will be \$25.00 per person. Dinner will be followed by services led by Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Mark Halpern. They will also be leading services on Thursday, September 5th and Friday, September 6th. The times for all these services are posted here in Chai-Lights, and on-line as well.

We will be having a Kol Nidre service on Friday, September 13, 2013, again with the Rabbi and Cantor as our leaders. The Break-The-Fast dinner will be held and sponsored by Sisterhood at the end of Yom Kippur services on Saturday, September 14th. The dinner chairpersons are Lauren Sax and Kathy Shabathai. They are fully in charge: coordinating dishes, helping to set up and managing all volunteers, and I know they'll make this important dinner another successful KJCC event. Contact Lauren at 305-753-7623 or Kathy at kathyshabathai@hotmail.com. There is no charge to join us for the Break-the-Fast, but

please RSVP to Lauren and/or Kathy so we are sure to have plenty of food.

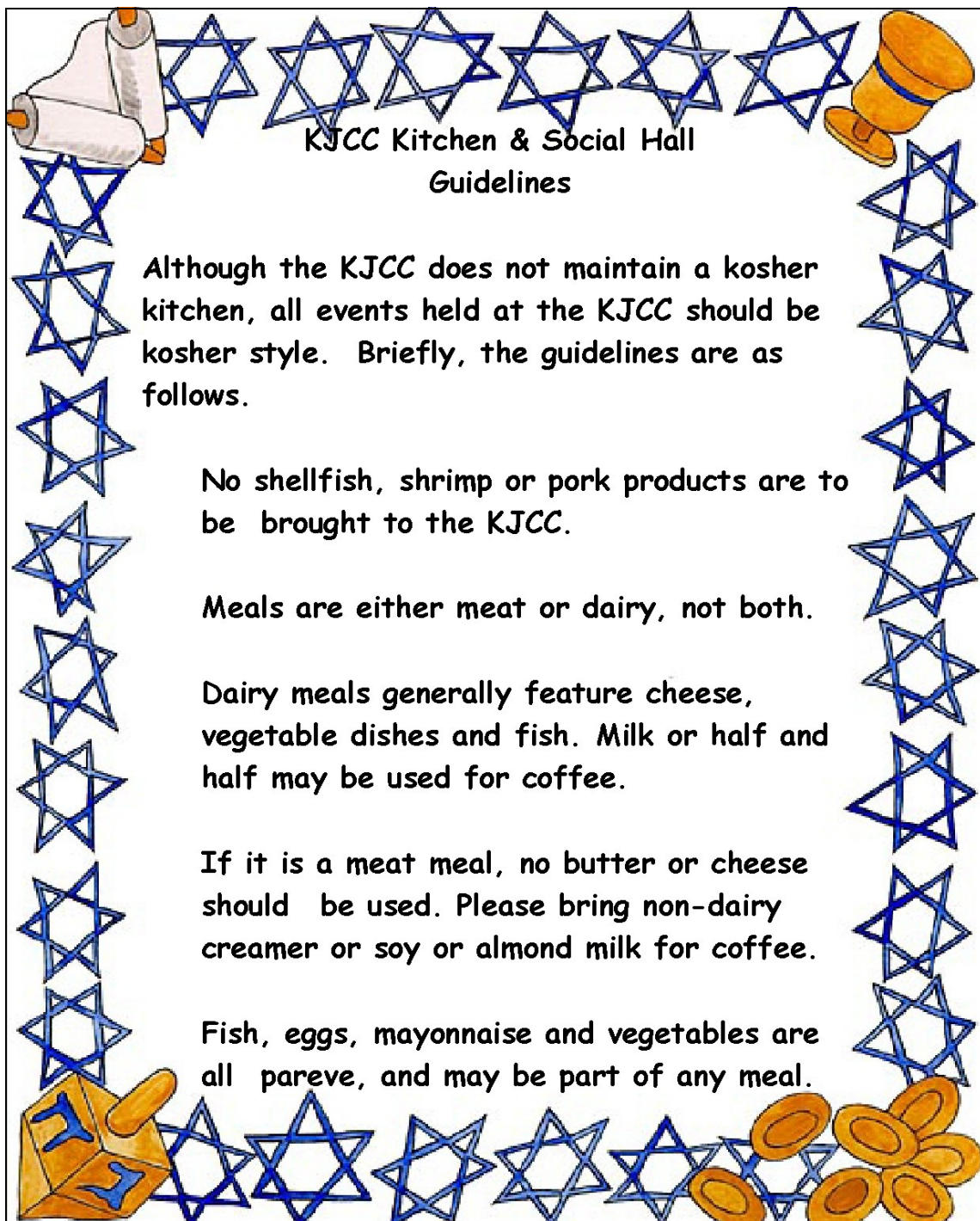
We have some volunteer opportunities for those of you who'd like to host, chair or sponsor either of the Onegs during the Holidays. Please contact me, Barbara, at 305-772-0503.

It's really hard to keep up with all the holidays going on in September. Sukkot will be celebrated during our Friday night service on September 20th in our gazebo, and will then be concluded inside our social hall with an Oneg. We are hoping to get a good majority of our Onegs sponsored this year, so we would appreciate anyone who is having an event (or wants to make one up) contact us as soon as possible.

I'm happy to announce that I have been checking into two Actors Playhouse events for the year. I checked with several of the people who normally attend these events and found thirteen already interested. When I purchase these tickets, to get a discount for excellent seating in the main theater, discounts are given for groups of fifteen or more. The two shows of interest are: "End of the Rainbow," which runs January 15th thru February 9th, 2014 and "Monty Python's Spamlot," running March 5th thru March 30th, 2014. I will be picking out the dates so as not to interfere with anything else that's going on.

I'd like to extend to everyone at the KJCC (*mishpocha*) wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous and sweet New Year! As a reminder, all Sisterhood meetings take place the first Sunday of every month in the social hall at 9:30 a.m. and I look forward to seeing everyone there. I also can't wait to welcome back our snowbirds and catch up with them.

Here's hoping you make September a "Great Month." ♦



KJCC Kitchen & Social Hall Guidelines

Although the KJCC does not maintain a kosher kitchen, all events held at the KJCC should be kosher style. Briefly, the guidelines are as follows.

No shellfish, shrimp or pork products are to be brought to the KJCC.

Meals are either meat or dairy, not both.

Dairy meals generally feature cheese, vegetable dishes and fish. Milk or half and half may be used for coffee.

If it is a meat meal, no butter or cheese should be used. Please bring non-dairy creamer or soy or almond milk for coffee.

Fish, eggs, mayonnaise and vegetables are all pareve, and may be part of any meal.

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.

Bookplates

Roller, Pauline Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary
Plutzer, Arthur Pauline Roller's 98th birthday
Smith, Steve & Barbara Pauline Roller's 98th birthday
Swartz, George & Muriel (2) David & Toby Goldfinger

Bookplates

Smith, Steve & Barbara Rene Rose
Smith, Steve & Barbara Joseph Goldberg
Smith, Steve & Barbara Jerry Oshinsky
Smith, Steve & Barbara Jim Boruszak
Smith, Steve & Barbara Kurt Kluger
Smith, Steve & Barbara Bill Kwalick
Smith, Steve & Barbara Marty Graham
Smith, Steve & Barbara Louis & Selma Smith
Smith, Steve & Barbara Irving & Daisy H Smith
Smith, Steve & Barbara Al Roller

Chai-Lights

Graham, Bea
Kwalick, Teresa
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sheinker, Miltra
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Cole, Ronald
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Jacobson, Melvin
Levine, Sylvia Safe journey to Rabbi & Mindy Agler
to honor Talia's memory

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rose, Frank
Sarbo, Paul
Stein, Ira & Shirley
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Vaselich, Felicie
Wretzky, Gerald

Scholarship Fund

VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Kluger, Nancy

In Honor of

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Joseph Goldberg
Jerry Oshinsky
Jim Boruszak
Kurt Kluger
Bill Kwalick
Marty Graham
Louis & Selma Smith
Irving & Daisy H Smith
Al Roller

General Fund

Avner, Gloria
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Funtall, Manuel & Joyce
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kamely, Yardena
Peckman, Joyce
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda

Holocaust Education Center

Stein, Ira & Shirley
Swartz, George & Muriel

Meditation Garden

Avner, Gloria in gratitude for Steve's garden work
Graham, Bea Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary

Meditation Garden

Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Coltman, Barney
Friedman, Harry
Kwalick, Teresa
Roy, Medina
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinbock, Steve & Carol

In Memory of

Bob Freundlich
Robert Davidson
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Joe Goldberg
Bob Freundlich
Bob Freundlich
Bernard Solas
Paul Soule

In Honor of

in gratitude for Steve's garden work
Steve & Carol Steinbock's 30th anniversary

In Memory of

brick - Rene Rose
brick - Louis R. Coltman
tree - Rene Rose
brick - Esther & Irwin "Babe" Kwalick
Rene Rose
Jan Finer
brick - Rene Rose
Howard Shutan
Bob Freundlich
Rose Wainer
Wally Steinberg
Sam Wainer
Erwin Wainer
Meyer Cohen
Samuel Wainer
Molly Z. Cohen
brick - Rene Rose

Contributions (Continued)

Sisterhood General Fund

Rose, Skip
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

Sisterhood Oneg Fund

Hartz, Steve & Jan
Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica

Rabbi and Cantor Fund

Avner, Gloria
Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy
Coltman, Barney
Dorf, Barry & Natalie
Gould, Maryon
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia

Sunshine Fund

Anonymous
Conklin, Rita & Wes
Cooper, Claire
Gould, Maryon
Hawkins, Frank & Inge
Johnson, Pamela
Kwalick, Teresa
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Schur, Lee
Singer, Mary Lee
Steinbock, Steve & Carol
Swartz, George & Muriel

Tree of Life Leaves

Wruble, Lloyd & Rae Weiss Wruble
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna

Tree of Life Leaves

Berger, Carol
Biskar, Rosie
Boruszak, Joan
Conklin, Rita & Wes
Dillon, Leslie
Gould, Maryon
Kluger, Nancy

In Memory of

Rene Rose

anniversary
Aidan's birthday

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

In Honor of

L'Chaim
Arthur Lee & Johanna's
wedding 12/11/65

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

Pollack, Joel & Linda
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Rose, Frank
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine
Silverman, Morton & Gene
Singer, Mary Lee

Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose
Rene Rose

Tree of Life Rock

VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia

In Honor of

The Jacobs/VanArtsdalen
Family

Yahrzeits

Cooper, Claire
Gould, Maryon
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Gross, Mollie
Grossman, Stuart
Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Horn, Ron & Dorothy
Incociati, Estelle
Kantor, Erwin
Kaplan, Frank
Kluger, Nancy
Kwalick, Teresa
Kwalick, Teresa
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Marmar, David & Pamela
Riley, Michelle
Roy, Medina
Rubin, Mike & Myrna
Schmidt, Judith
Tallent, Lillian
Tallent, Lillian
Taramona, Hermine
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

In Memory of

Murray Cooper, Mark Sands
Sam Schneider
Jeannette Gould, Max Gould, Richard Gould
Saul Elson
Emanuel Gross
Margaux Renee Grossman
Anna Horn, Samuel Horn
Ida Ratchik, Jacob Ratchik
Dorothy & Louis Biderman
Rose Kantor
Abraham Kaplan, Arthur Kaplan
Otto Kluger
Esther Kwalick
Enrique Astray-Caneda
Irwin Kwalick
William & Florence Kerman
Dorothy Marmar
Paula Travers
Leon Kirschenbaum
Mae Rubin Rear
Aaron Schmidt
Ida Estrin
Ralph Tallent
Robert Robinson
Rose Fine
Frieda Feinberg

Yahrzeit Plaques

Rose, Frank
Zwerdling, Sherry
Isenberg, Patricia

In Memory of

Rene Rose
Jerry Oshinsky
Henry W. Isenberg

Contributions (Continued)

Yizkor Book

Agler, Richard & Mindy
Avner, Gloria
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Beth, Alan & Candy Stanlake
Blumenfeld, Marvin & Ivy
Boruszak, Joan
Coltman, Barney
Davidson, Foster & Carol Laskin
Emkey, Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur
Field, Carol
Garrettson, Marsha
Goldfinger, David & Toby
Gordon, Susan
Gould, Maryon
Graham, Bea
Grossman, Stuart
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Hernstadt, Roger & Jessica
Incociati, Estelle
Isenberg, Patricia
Jacobson, Melvin
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

Yizkor Book (cont.)

Kluger, Nancy
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Krissel, Michael
Kwalick, Teresa
Line, Jonathan & Arlene
Marmar, David & Pamela
Olsen, Gerald & Sheila
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Joel & Linda
Riley, Michelle
Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Schur, Lee
Sheinker, Miltra
Swartz, George & Muriel
Tallent, Lillian
Temkin, Robert
VanArtsdalen, David & Patricia
Weber, Judith
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy
Yankow, Sandy & Nancy

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 two beautiful, eight-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. Examples: "In Honor of My Wonderful Zayde," or "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

S'lichot

Saturday, August 31, 2013
6:00 pm Pizza and Movie in Social Hall
8 pm S'lichot Service



***SLICHOT SERVICES, LED BY STUART AND LAUREN SAX, WILL BE
HELD IN THE SANCTUARY FOLLOWING THE MOVIE.***

Movie: **It Is No Dream:**

The Life of Theodor Herzl

Theodor Hertzl has been called "The Dreamer who became the Father of a Nation." The documentary is narrated by Sir Ben Kingsley and Christoph Waltz and examines how Herzl, a well-known journalist and playwright, took upon himself the task of attempting to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Not to be missed.

If you wish to bring your own beach chairs for extra comfort,
please feel free to do so.

**RSVP TO LAUREN @
MRSDIRTDEVIL@AOL.COM**



**THE EVENING IS
SPONSORED BY STUART &
LAUREN SAX. COME AND
ENJOY!**

lp

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Hasidic Stories (Part I)

Hasidism always interested me when I was searching for themes and subjects for teaching Judaic studies. The Hasidic stories were motivating and attractive for the students as well as for the teachers; studying and teaching Judaism was easier through those stories. A good source to read and learn about the Hasidic movement and Hasidic stories is the book "Chosen Tales," edited by Peninnah Schram.

We learn that the Hasidic movement was a response to a crisis of despair among the Jews of eighteenth-century Eastern Europe. In their everyday life, Jews suffered from poverty, increasing restrictions and harassment from the world surrounding them. In the spiritual world, the only accepted way to be close to God was to spend long years studying God's law. But the poorer the Jews became, very few could devote themselves to a scholarly life, let alone go to a Yeshiva.

At times life was so difficult that they lost all hope of a better life in either world, physical or spiritual. According to Judaism, one should never lose hope; having hope is a *mitzvah* (commandment). And so, the Hasidic movement gave an answer: the way to be close to God was to be filled with God's spirit, the spirit of joy. Music and dance were expressions of joy and ways to nurture joy. And stories were a way to teach Judaism, to teach the Jewish way of life, and a way that did not just bring a theory to the educated, but that brought the experience of full everyday Jewishness to all.

As the movement matured, stories of earlier holy men, "Tzaddiks" or *Tzaddikim* (the plural in Hebrew), were told to "perpetuate

the experience of their teaching and their way of being human." Some of the stories, (like Christian saints' legends), tell about the Tzaddiks' abilities to see far, travel around and connect to the people of troubled communities, read minds, and produce miracles. Other stories repeat a Tzaddik's interpretation of a Biblical or Talmudic text. Still other Hasidic tales resemble the tales of the Zen masters. According to one scholar, "they describe--without recourse to the supernatural--the ways that a Tzaddik could surprise an unbeliever or misguided disciple into contact with his own deepest self."

A deeper study of the many Hasidic stories reveals that it was the influence of these stories, and not Hasidic philosophy, that attracted masses of Jews to join the Hasidic movement. Yitzhak Buxbaum, a *maggid* (Jewish religious storyteller), comments that Jews have always told religious stories, "but only Hasidism vigorously *encouraged* storytelling, moving it from the periphery to the center of Judaism. *Rebbes* praised [storytelling] as a *mitzvah* and a spiritual practice; they reflected on it deeply and taught about its significance." Not only did *Rebbes* often tell stories, they instructed their Hasidim to do likewise. So telling and listening to tales became popular as never before and the simple person, the Hasid, loved to hear and to retell Hasidic stories.

According to Hasidic teaching, storytelling is a holy activity equal to Torah study or prayer. The *Baal Shem Tov*, himself a master storyteller, said: "Telling stories praising the *Tzaddikim* is equivalent to *Maaseh Merkavah*, the mystic study of the Divine Chariot." The

Maggid of Mezritch, his successor as leader of the Hasidic movement, added that praising the *Tzaddikim* by storytelling is equivalent to praising God.

Hasidic storytelling is not only about *Tzaddikim*; there are also many inspiring tales about the noble deeds of common people. The famous Hasidic leader, the Seer of Lublin, told how he once passed by a synagogue from which shone a supernal light. He thought, "Certainly, there are great scholars inside, studying the Torah in holiness." But when he entered, he saw two ordinary Hasidim, not studying Torah but sitting and conversing. He asked them, "Friends, what are you talking about?" The Hasidim answered, "We are telling stories about the deeds of the *Tzaddikim*." When he heard that, the Seer was very moved, for he realized that their storytelling produced the same divine light and illumination as does Torah study.

Another Hasidic Rebbe, Rabbi Israel of Rizhin, regarded storytelling so highly that he sometimes told tales before the morning prayers, as a preparation and inspiration for praying. His involvement was so intense, however, that he could get carried away. One morning, surrounded by his followers, he began telling stories of the *Tzaddikim* with such enthusiasm that he lost all track of time; he went on for so long that the hour of prayer passed. He suddenly stopped in the middle and said: "The time for prayer has already passed and I didn't pray. But, essentially, what is the difference between telling stories about *Tzaddikim* and praying? Prayer is in the category of 'Praise the Lord!' while telling stories is in the category, 'Praise the servants of the Lord!' In the Book of Psalms, King David sometimes puts 'Praise the Lord!' before 'Praise the servants of the Lord!' but other times he puts them in the reverse order, indicating that they are equal. This teaches us," concluded the Rebbe, "that telling tales of the *Tzaddikim* is the same as praying."

The first of the Hasidic storytellers was Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, the *Baal Shem Tov* - the founder of Hasidism. He was both the philosopher and the leader of the movement

and a *baal shem* (wonder-worker). "As a *baal shem*, his livelihood came from the blessings he gave to those seeking his help in matters of health, offspring, and livelihood. These blessings were generally connected with the giving of an amulet written by a special scribe employed by the Baal Shem Tov for this purpose. Obviously, many Hasidic stories relate the successes of the Baal Shem Tov and of other *Tzaddikim* in these realms." (Gedalyah Nigal, "Magic, Mysticism, and Hasidism.")

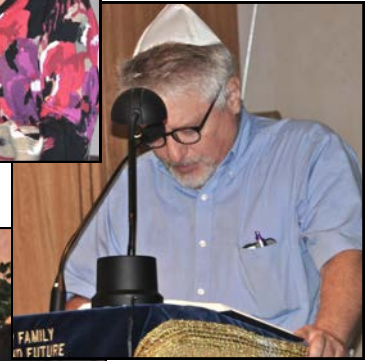
Hasidic stories are healing stories. From the beginning of Hasidism, stories have been the way to pass on the spiritual and emotional teachings of the movement's masters. As a result, the power of Hasidic stories has been in their healing effect on the listener *and* the teller. Another storyteller, Doug Lipman, writes: "These stories give the teller a chance to wrestle with unhealed emotional hurt...the process of learning, adapting, and telling a story can put me into an even more active relationship with its images. Telling is a dynamic event that molds the story while transforming the teller." Adds Yitzhak Buxbaum, Hasidic stories are "stories for inspiration. Hasidim praised and promoted storytelling because they appreciated its inspirational power. A person hearing a religious teaching may be impressed by its truth, but a tale about someone actually fulfilling the teaching can motivate the listener to action. That, say the Hasidim, is why the Torah itself is full of stories." A contemporary Hasidic storyteller, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, has said: "Stories are so real. Imagine that the Torah quoted all of our father Abraham's teachings and told us nothing about him. We wouldn't remain as his children today! We need to hear that there was a Jew, Abraham, who actually opened his door to the poor. It's making it real. A story is the most real thing in the world." The teachings explain what to do; the stories show that someone actually did it.

In "Hasidic Stories" part II, I will continue to bring more stories from the treasury of Hasidic literature. Maybe I'll find some that can give us lessons for our contemporary lives. ◇

— *Shana Tova U'metuka* —

Remembering Rene

June 2nd saw a full house at KJCC, when those who loved Rene Rose gathered to say a public goodbye and celebrate the fact that she'd been part of their lives. Skip told stories, many of them funny, about their courtship and early marriage. (How many of you knew that in the early 50s Rene had gone to New York to attend flight-attendant school? Or that she once chased down and cornered a purse-snatcher?) Daughter Della (top right) spoke, as did several others. The tree you see below right is a Mahogany, donated to the KJCC Garden as a living memorial to Rene by Harry Friedman on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.



We cordially invite you to our

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

on Wednesday, September 4th at 5:00 pm before evening service. We will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of soup, brisket, chicken, kasha and tzimmis, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Voluntary donation is \$20 per Member. Our children 12 and under are our guests. Non-members of all ages are \$25.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Dr. Erica Garrett by August 27th at hippiejap@hotmail.com or 305-853-1003 if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.



World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



A “Mossad Spy” is Set Free

Paranoia over Israeli spy tactics reached new heights at the end of July, when Turkish authorities “arrested” a kestrel, believing it to be part of an elaborate Israeli surveillance operation. The bird was found in a village in eastern Turkey. It was wearing a metallic ring stamped with the words “24311 Tel Avivunia Israel.” Villagers turned the bird over to authorities, believing that it was on a spying mission for the Jewish state. Intensive medical examinations, which included X-rays, indicated that there were no microchips or anything else embedded in the bird that might transmit information back to Israel. The wording on the metal band turned out to be merely a tag used to track migratory patterns. The incident was the latest in a long line of animal spy accusations leveled against Israel. In 2010, an Egyptian official claimed that shark attacks in the Red Sea were an Israeli plot. And the most ridiculous of all? Iranian military intelligence detained fourteen snails, suspecting them of spying. (By the way, the kestrel was set free.) (www.thejc.com, 7-31-13)

A “Must-See” in Israel

TripAdvisor, the popular travel website, has ranked *Yad Vashem* number four on its list of top museums in the world. Israel’s Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem was also awarded the website’s 2013 Certificate of Excellence, an award given to places that consistently receive outstanding traveler reviews. *Yad Vashem* is listed as first among 146 recommended sites to visit in Jerusalem and has been described as a “must-see” for any traveler to Israel. Approximately one million people visit the museum annually. (www.jta.org, 7-14-13)

“The Search Engine for Video”

BriefCam, an Israeli high-tech company with an office in Boston, was instrumental in helping to identify the Boston Marathon bombers. The company calls itself the “search engine for video” and specializes in “compressing video that speeds up the investigation process from one hour of viewing time to one minute.” The video technology zeros in on suspicious movement and instantaneously edits out extraneous footage. This technology helped to quickly solve the crime. A *BriefCam* spokesman said, “If you have ten hours to investigate on a specific camera, the software will take it to a ten-minute clip.” *BriefCam*’s clients include United States security forces, China, and many police agencies around the world.

(*World Jewry Digest*, June/July 2013)

“Entebbe 2”

A recent report has revealed that in 2008, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) was preparing for one of its boldest operations in recent memory: to go into Gaza and kidnap Ahmed al-Jabari, Hamas’ military commander, and hold him captive in exchange for Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier who was held by Hamas from mid-2006 to late 2011. According to the report, soldiers were trained and were ready and waiting for al-Jabari. IDF intelligence had pinpointed a moment when the Hamas chief could be snatched. “The odds that he would have been taken alive were high,” IDF sources were quoted as saying. “We had the right equipment to ensure that he would have survived the ambush.” But as IDF commandos waited alongside the Gaza highway, they suddenly received orders to return to Israel. For some reason, al-Jabari’s driver used a different road. Had the mission succeeded, it

might have been dubbed “Entebbe 2,” a reference to the June 1976 raid into Uganda by Israeli commandos. At that time, terrorists had hijacked an Air France Airbus, releasing all passengers except for Jews or Israelis. The commandos ended up rescuing over 100 hostages; their only loss was the older brother of current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (Following weeks of rocket attacks in 2012, the IDF assassinated al-Jabari with a targeted strike on his car. Shalit was later released in exchange for over 1,000 terrorists who had been in Israeli prison.) (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-25-13)

It Was Hidden in the Library

The world’s oldest complete Torah has been found in an Italian university. For over 100 years, the manuscript had been stored in the library of the University of Bologna. It could be well over 800 years old. When last examined, by an academic in 1889, it had been mistakenly labeled it as a 17th century manuscript. Professor Mauro Perani, who teaches Hebrew studies at the university, studied it and recognized the script as ancient Babylonian, making Perani suspect that the scroll was older. As a result of carbon dating in Italy and the U.S., the scroll has been determined to date from somewhere between the years 1155 and 1225, making it the oldest written example of the entire five books of the Torah. It is believed that the text is being transferred to a digital format. The oldest complete version of the Torah before this one had dated from the late 13th century, approximately a hundred years later. (www.thejc.com, 5-29-13)

Tikkun Olam, Massachusetts Style

It’s still fifteen months away, but so far, four of the declared candidates for the Massachusetts governor’s race are Jewish and all are talking about the religious imperative of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). They are: Steve Grossman, the state treasurer and a past chairman of the Democratic National Committee who also served as chairman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) from 1992 to 1997; Dan Wolf, co-

founder of Cape Air, an airline based on Cape Cod, a Democratic state senator; Evan Falchuk, an executive at a health care company, running as a member of a new third party, United Independent (whose mother, Nancy, is a former president of Hadassah); and Dan Berwick, (also a Democrat) a former administrator of the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Massachusetts has never had a Jewish governor. According to American Jewish Yearbook statistics, the state’s Jewish population is 277,000, or four percent – more than twice the national rate. Current Governor Deval Patrick is not seeking re-election. (www.jta.org, 7-30-13)

“Kids Aliya”

Nefesh B’Nefesh, the North American *aliyah* organization, broke all records in late July with an historic “children’s aliyah flight” that carried 106 children, in 41 families, to begin new lives in Israel. The total number of new *olim* (Jews arriving in Israel to settle) on the flight was 231 from North America. The flight was a first-ever “children’s flight” organized by *Nefesh B’Nefesh* along with the Jewish National Fund (JNF). *Nefesh B’Nefesh* expects 989 children to make *aliyah* on its flights in 2013. This is a 20 percent rise compared to 2012, in which 822 children made *aliyah*. Said a spokesman: “These children are the future of the state of Israel and they cause us great excitement in making *aliyah*.” Among the VIPs who greeted the flight was Dov Lipman, a member of Israel’s Knesset, who made *aliyah* on a *Nefesh B’Nefesh* flight in 2004. As a show of solidarity, former abducted IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was on board the El Al flight. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 7-21-13)

Evelyn Kozak

The world’s oldest documented Jewish person (and the world’s seventh-oldest person), Evelyn Kozak, whose family had fled Russia to escape anti-Semitism in the 1880s, died in June at the age of 113. Her story has been validated by Robert Young, a senior database administrator at the Los Angeles-

based Gerontology Research Group, an organization of physicians, scientists and engineers who validate supercentenarians, people 100 or older. Kozak was born on Manhattan's Lower East Side, one of nine children. Although she had no formal religious education, she kept kosher and was a Sabbath observer. An ardent Zionist, Kozak was married twice but had been a widow since 1957. She had five children, 10 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. (In case you are wondering, the world's oldest known person, Misao Okawa of Japan, is 115.) (www.huffingtonpost.com, 6-13-13)

The Little Prince's Jewish Connection

Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, gave birth recently to little Prince George in a Jewish-funded wing of St. Mary's Hospital in London. The Lindo Wing is named after Frank Charles Lindo, a wealthy Jew born in 1872. Lindo married Violet Portman (no mention of her heritage, but her name also sounds vaguely Jewish, no?), a woman from a British aristocratic family and a member of the board of management at St. Mary's. Lindo died in 1938, and by that time he had already donated a large sum to the hospital so that it could be debt-free. The hospital during that period was meant for "patients of moderate means" who could not afford private care but were too well-off to be treated in a charity hospital for the "deserving poor." (www.jta.org, 7-22-13)

In Memoriam

· Baruch Spiegel, one of the few remaining survivors of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has died. He was 93. Spiegel was one of about 750 Jewish fighters who launched an armed rebellion that took the Germans by surprise. The fighters were outnumbered and outgunned and never really had much of a chance, but they still managed to hold out for a month. The German revenge was brutal, burning down the ghetto building by building. A few dozen of the Jewish fighters survived by escaping through underground sewage canals. Spiegel and his future wife were among them. After surviving the ghetto upris-

ing, they joined the Polish partisans and took part in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, a larger city-wide revolt against the occupying Germans. (*Associated Press*, 5-21-13)

· Alvin Schiff, a pioneer in Jewish education and a prolific author, has died. He was in his mid-80s. Schiff authored more than a dozen books, as well as several hundred articles and research papers on the status of Jewish education. He was the founder of "March of the Living," the two-week journey where teens from around the world gather each year in Poland to remember the Holocaust. The program commemorates *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Memorial Day, with the young people marching from Auschwitz to Birkenau. The group then travels to Israel and celebrates *Yom HaAtzmaut*, Israeli Independence Day, in the streets of Jerusalem. Schiff was also the founder of the New York Parade for Israel, now known as "Celebrate Israel." In 1959, he established and directed the Graduate School of Jewish Education at Yeshiva University, later renamed the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. Schiff is recognized for his global dedication to Jewish education. In 2005, he was awarded the President's Prize in Jewish education in Israel. He was the executive vice president of the Board of Jewish Education for 25 years. (www.jta.org, 7-8-13)

· Oscar "Ossie" Schectman, the first to score a basket in the Basketball Association of America (which became the National Basketball Association three years later), has died at the age of 94. Schectman, a New York native, played for the Knicks, his hometown team. On November 1st, 1946, the Knicks were playing the Toronto Huskies in the inaugural game of the B.A.A., when Schectman scored the game's first two points (most likely via a two-hand set shot; the jump shot didn't become popular until much later). He was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1998. One of five children of Jewish immigrants from Russia, Schectman was the subject of "The First Basket," a 2008 documentary which chronicled the Jewish roots of basketball in the first half of the 20th century. (www.nytimes.com, 7-31-13) ♦

L'Shana Tovah for 5774

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah 5774, we of KJCC are a far-flung group: Maine to New York to New Jersey to Texas to the Carolinas to Georgia to Ohio to Pennsylvania to Illinois to Maryland to Massachusetts to Rhode Island and Canada and many cities and towns across Florida. As Jews have for millennia, we reach out to offer each other wishes for L'Shana Tovah, a good year.

<p>To All of Our KJCC friends, A Healthy and Happy New Year. Joel & Linda Pollack</p>	<p>Peace and Health to All. Steve & Carol Steinbock</p>	<p>L'Shana Tova To Our Family. May We All See a Healthy New Year. David & Gloria</p>	<p>To My Dear KJCC Family: Miss You. L'Shana Tovah Love, Joan Boruszak</p>
<p>A Healthy and Happy Year Ahead to Our KJCC Family. Lots of Love, Stu & Lauren</p>	<p>To Our KJCC Mishpocha, Shana Tovah. Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Family.</p>	<p>L'Shana Tovah. I am Blessed To Have Such A Wonderful KJCC Family! Susan Gordon</p>	<p>L'Shana Tovah To Our KJCC Family from Mindy & Rich Agler</p>
<p>To All at KJCC, Wishing You a Healthy & Happy New Year. See You in the Winter. Linda Pincus</p>	<p>Best Wishes For Health and Happiness Always. Alan & Susan Cooper</p>	<p>May We All Enjoy Good Health And Happiness. The Wrubles</p>	<p>Ahappyhealthy Prosperousnew Year. Arthur& JohannaWillner. L'ShanaTovah</p>
<p>I Pray that All Of KJCC has A Blessed and Healthy New Year. Bernie Ginsberg</p>	<p>From the KJCC Board: May You Be Inscribed in "The Book" and in our books for 5774 and beyond.</p>	<p>Best Wishes To the KJCC For a New Year. Delores Begam</p>	<p>Happy New Year 5774. Miltra Sheinker</p>

Photo Gallery

KJCC members are deeply involved in many Keys activities. The photo at right is the newly installed Board of Voices for Florida Keys Children, including Corresponding Secretary Maryon Gould, Recording Secretary Mary Lee Singer, and board members Rita Conklin and Elaine Schulberg.



On June 7, Steve and Carol Steinbock celebrated their 30th anniversary by renewing their

vows outside in KJCC's Garden, in the Beth/Stanlake gazebo. Joel Pollack was asked to officiate, which he did. No rabbi could have done a better or more heartfelt job.



Photos of Steve and Carol's re-nuptials by Richard Knowles.



No one threw rice (hey, it makes a real mess), but a rollicking good time was had by all. Then we all went inside and, well, ate.





The top four photos were taken at the oneg on Friday, June 14th at Joan Boruszak's last service as a full-time Keys resident, shortly before her move to Texas. Sisterhood made sure there was a cake or two. That's son Bruce with Joan in the photo just below.



Joan Boruszak photos by Richard Knowles, David Gitin and Marc Bloom.



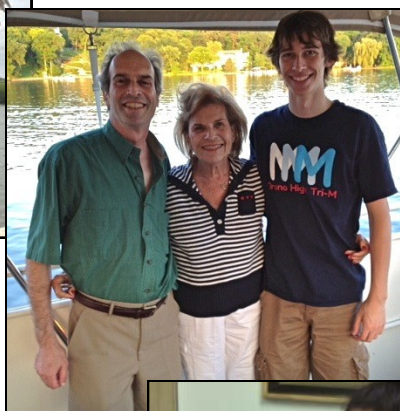
There's always work to do to fulfill Steve Steinbock's vision of what the KJCC Garden should continue to become. On June 29th, a motley crew of volunteers including Bernie Ginsberg, Steve and Jane Friedman, Yardena Kamely, Sam Vinicur and Skip Rose gathered to help

Steve with some heavy work — digging out and creating a form for the fountain's concrete base, and digging out a bed for decorative brick along the pathway. Come and see the results for yourself.



Above, Gloria Avner and Joyce Peckman, back from Israel and about to depart for parts north, mug with our amazing matriarch Pauline Roller at the annual KJCC Shabba-be-que and celebration of Pauline's birthday (98 this year) on June 5th. (Photo by David Gitin.)

It was a full and rich summer for those connected to KJCC, whether here in the Keys or wherever our wandering feet took us. (They did name a plant after us, you know.) Below left, Roy Pollack holds up a Sheepshead (it isn't, apparently, just a bay off Brooklyn) he caught on Dickinson Bayou, a river in southeast Texas. Just below, Lee Schur stands with son John and grandson Reid on Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka in June.



In the photo above, Bea Graham sits with granddaughter Liat's newborn daughter Savyon. Joyce, who summers nearby in New Jersey, stopped by for the nachas. The photo at right has a Joyce connection too, but more directly. That's her granddaughter Libby ("my heart" in Hebrew) making challah with mom Rebecca Peckman.



All the Blooms, including newbie Madison Rose, were at the August 2nd one, so grandpa Marc snapped this shot with Pauline.



Keys Jewish Community Center

Yom Kippur Break Fast

Saturday, September 14, 2013

Dairy Dinner

after the final service

Volunteer Opportunity

for cooks and bakers. Please bring your food already prepared, cut up and plated with your name on the serving dish. We also need people to help set up the room on Friday morning.

Contact Chairpersons:

Lauren Sax 305-753-7623

Kathy Shabathai

kathyshabathai@hotmail.com

High Holy Days 5774

So another year has passed, and another one begins. Rosh Hashanah is always the same on the Jewish calendar, but comes early this year on the secular calendar. There's a lot to tell you about. We think you're going to love the experience that awaits you. Which is why Gloria, our Ritual Chair, goes first.

by Gloria Avner

Welcome to a year of “firsts” for our KJCC “*mishpocha*.” This will be President Bernard Ginsberg’s first High Holiday Services, and he approaches these “*Yamim Noraim*,” the Ten Days of Awe, with energetic enthusiasm and a strong desire that all of us, from our youngest child (Shalom, Shayna) to our most revered elders (Bless you, Pauline) have an enriched spiritual experience. Now we come to our second first. Ushering in 5774, we have a new, but not unknown, leader at our helm. Enter Rabbi Richard Agler.

Many of us have sat with Rabbi Agler at Saturday morning services this past year, studying Torah, informally engaging in discussion and exploration of historical Biblical texts with contemporary significance. We have begun services with silent meditation, sung *niggunim* (the old mystical melodies without words), and participated in group *aliyot*. Those who have shared these experiences have been enriched by them. Those fortunate enough to have been guided through Israel three months ago by this articulate, passionate, sensitive scholar know that these coming ten days will be unique under his leadership. It is with great pleasure and anticipation that your Board of Directors and Ritual Committee introduce Rabbi Agler

to our High Holy Days congregation. Let’s make the most of this opportunity. May all of us take part in the uplifting experience some of us have sampled on Shabbat mornings.

Along with the new, we will honor the old, our synagogue’s “*minchagim hamakom*,” the longstanding traditions we hold dear in this place. We will continue to observe *musaf*, the short but meaningful afternoon service, but we’ll provide a break for those who wish to leave after attending only the morning *shacharit* service.

Rabbi Agler will be joined on the *bimah* by Cantor Mark Halpern, who has led us in chant for fifteen seasons and promises excellent preparedness for a 16th. Once again, Cantor Mark will preside at a moving “*tashlich*” ceremony at the edge of the ocean. We will cast away our sins (in the form of bread) into the water, and sing songs of joyous release. Because of this year’s calendar, we will also have two extra ceremonies led by the Cantor: *Shabbat*

Tshuvah on the Saturday morning after *Rosh Hashanah* Day Two, plus a short, sweet *Havdalah* service that same evening, to be held under the stars on the beach at Ocean Pointe.

We will begin the most sacred ten days in our calendar with a joyous extended family



Rosh HaShanah feast and end with *Yom Kippur*, a somber day of fasting. On this last, most meaningful day, join in one more new event – a “Fast” Food Collection. Bring a shopping bag of canned food to the synagogue on Yom Kippur morning. We will heed the words of Isaiah, 58:6-11. “Is not this the fast I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free . . . ? Is it not to deal your bread to the hungry . . . ? Then shall your light break forth as the morning . . . and you shall be like a watered garden . . .”

Know that your contributions will be delivered to Burton Memorial Food Bank the next morning. Our Days of Awe actions will bring sustenance to others as well as ourselves. May we all be written and sealed in the Book of Life for a good and healthy year. ◇

Understanding the Days of Awe

by Rabbi Richard D. Agler, DD

The High Holydays are known in Hebrew as the *Yamim Noraim* – the Days of Awe. It is an apt description. Because this is a season that has the power to move us to the point of Awe, and beyond.

The High Holydays address core issues of humanity and spirituality. They ask existential questions. What are we doing with our lives? How can we bring greater honor to our selves, our families, our people and our God? How are we measuring up to our ideals – and, for that matter, how clear are we on what those ideals are? These are nothing if not awe-some and awe-full questions.

We may be tempted to push such questions aside. After all, it is far less disturbing to avoid them than to engage them. But the synagogue does not give us that option. If we are going to be present, we are going to be challenged. And our response to the challenge determines in no small measure the kind of people we will become in the year ahead.

As we know, our culture has been changing dramatically and rapidly, primarily

through technology. This has made the challenge of the High Holydays even greater. We have immediate access to an unlimited feast of people, places and ideas. We can communicate instantly across the globe. We can hold the equivalent of the Library of Alexandria and more – great art, literature and music – in the palm of our hand. All of this may persuade us that we have achieved fulfillment. At the same time, it may distract us enough to ignore greater issues altogether. After all, why should we do the hard work of refining our characters and improving the world when so much that amuses us is right at hand?

The answer, of course, is that such a life is not a complete one. The Greek philosopher Socrates said that the unexamined life was not worth living.

For Jews, the unconsecrated life is not worth living, either. During the Days of Awe we ask questions such as, “Have I been dedicated to any higher purpose, one beyond my self?” “How can my interpersonal relationships be more holy and less transactional?” “Has the world has been made better, even infinitesimally, by my being in it — this year or over the years?” And no matter what the answers to those questions are, the next one is always, “Can I be something more than I have been in the new year now beginning?”

We know that for all of our advances, we are not necessarily better human beings than we were a decade, a generation, a century, or even a millennium ago. Our world is still darkened by violence and corruption, oppression and injustice, preventable disease and starvation. At the same time, we have the power to overcome these ills, individually and collectively. The High Holydays place the

***We have
the power to
overcome
all ills,
individually
and
collectively.***

challenge squarely before us.

As the Jewish calendar starts anew, each of us is a year older and a year closer to our own life's completion and conclusion. The *Yamim Noraim* confront us with this truth and help us realize that among the most fitting responses is a life of greater kindness, service and growth.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the most inward of our holy days, spiritual "me" time if you will. They have an awesome power to transform us, redirect us and elevate us. I pray we – all of us – make the most of them.

Mindy and our children join me in wishing all of our KJCC family a year of greater goodness – a true *shana tovah*. ♦

On The Meaning of *Hineini*

by Cantor Mark E. Halpern

This year our preview of the cantor's role in High Holy Day services will focus on the unique event preceding Yom Kippur's *Musaf Amidah*. (The *Musaf Amidah*, by the way, itself has a special status. It is not an everyday part of all services. It's an additional service recited on Shabbat, any *Yom Tov* and on the new moon of *Rosh Chodesh*. It contains nine blessings that refer to Kingship, remembrance and the Shofar blessings and is recited during the final part of the morning service.) Just before we start the *Musaf Amidah* – the *Chazzan* prepares to come down the aisle, slowly, chanting a prayer that begins with the word *Hineini*. It is really a private meditation the *Chazzan* says out loud to prepare himself for his awesome task: *Hineini he-anni mi-ma'as, nir'ash v'nif'chad mi-pachad*... "Here I am! I stand here lacking in good deeds, agitated and frightened, in dread before God who sits in judgment. I have come to stand and to plead before You on behalf of Your people, Israel, who have ap-

pointed me as their messenger – *even though* I am not worthy or qualified for the task." In this prayer the *Chazzan* is saying: "look, God, here I am...a flawed vessel...I'm totally unqualified and humbled to stand before you as a conduit for the prayers of my people...but I'm going to do it anyway...as flawed as I am, here I am. (*Hineini*.) I'm going to pray fervently to You on behalf of this congregation!"

Why come down the aisle in the sanctuary instead of chanting all of *Hineini* from the bima? It is intended to be a journey of utter hesitation and humility. By the end of the prayer, the *Chazzan* has reached the bima, now almost in tears after pouring out his soul to God in front of and literally among those who sent him as their stand-in.

That's the *yamim noraim* (the Ten Days of Penitence) in a nutshell...*Hineini*. Here we are, all of us, unprepared but willing. We stand before God as we are – the good and the bad – and God sees all of it. And we, too, are supposed to take a long, hard look at ourselves, not a pretend fantasy of ourselves as perfect people, but as truly and unabashedly who we are, yet *the best of who we are*. And that's where the opportunity lies. There's no clean slate, but there is the possibility of *teshuvah* – repentance. The *yamim noraim* are about looking boldly at ourselves and becoming more aware. And the paradox of saying *Hineini* is that being honest about our shortcomings actually allows us to discover our greatness. When we look deep within ourselves we find the spark of the Divine that is at our core. Too often we think the answers are out *there* somewhere, if only we could find them. The lesson of *Hineini* – of being fully present with ourselves – is that *we already have what we need to improve*.

Do you have a passion for social justice? Say *Hineini* – and join a Habitat for Humanity building crew. Do you love sports? Say *Hineini* – here I am to join the softball team. Do you enjoy parties? Say *Hineini* – and host a Shabbat

***There's no
clean slate,
but there is the
possibility of
teshuvah —
repentance.***

introduce yourself to others. Do you have a talent you love to share? Say *Hineini* and volunteer your skills.

It isn't about showing up in a building, and it isn't about filling seats, and it isn't about these (or any) walls. *Hineini* is about adding to the conversation. It's about presence. It's about looking deep within ourselves as a community and being the best of who we are – with all of our strengths and challenges – and saying “here I am” – *Hineini*.

May the coming year encourage us to greater introspection. May we find treasures waiting to be discovered. And may we all be willing to say: *Hineini*.

L'shanah tovah tikkateivu ve'tihateimu – May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good year. ◇

For many years, Chai-Lights has shared stories about the High Holidays. We like stories that take concepts, shed light, and make them warm, human, and specific. There is a theme that runs through centuries of stories about our people, our holidays, our faith. As individuals, we are all different. Levels of learning and observance vary widely. The stories tell us that being learned is not everything, and that it is the heart that matters most. An act of sincerity, born of total trust in our Creator, can tame dangerous seas and shower blessings on the believer. May we all, like Satya the fisherman, be worthy of being inscribed in the Book of Life forever.

-Gloria

Yom Kippur Miracle

*Adapted from a story by I. L. Peretz.
(Re-worked by Nina Jaffe and Gloria Avner)*

Long ago in a foreign land, there lived a Jewish man named Satya. Satya was a good fisherman, like his father and his grandfather before him. He lived with his family in a small hut close to the sea, and every day Satya would go out to fish in his little wooden boat. He knew the ins and outs

of tides, how to read the sky for weather, how to repair his boat, mend his nets, and

how to guide his boat at night by looking at the stars.

High Holiday Schedule 2013			
Saturday	August 31st	6:00 p.m.	Pizza/Movie/Slichot Service
Wednesday	September 4th	5:00 p.m.	Dinner
		8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh HaShanah Service
		9:30 a.m.	Rosh HaShanah, Day 1. Shacharit (Morning Service)
Thursday	September 5th	Noon	Break after Shofar Sounding
		12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Musaf Service
		4:00 p.m.	Taschlich at Ocean Pointe
		9:30 a.m.	Rosh HaShanah, Day 2. Shacharit (Morning Service)
Friday	September 6th	Noon	Break after Shofar Sounding
		12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Musaf Service
		8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service
Saturday	September 7th	10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Tshuvah (led by Cantor Mark Halpern)
		7:45 p.m.	Havdalah at Ocean Pointe
Friday	September 13th	8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre
Saturday	September 14th	9:30 a.m.	Yom Kippur Service
		11:30 a.m.	Yizkor and Children's Service
		12:15 p.m.	Break
		12:30 p.m.	Musaf
		2:30 p.m.	Informal “Fast Talk” with Rabbi Agler
		4:00 p.m.	Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler
		5:45 p.m.	Neillah (Story of Jonah), Maariv, Havdalah, Break The Fast
Sunday	September 15th	10:00 a.m.	Sukkah Decoration

When it came to fishing and the sea no one was as wise and experienced as Satya. But Satya knew little about the ways of his people. He didn't know how to sing blessings for the Sabbath or how to make a Seder, or even how to say the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. And yet, there was one tradition that Satya and his family observed every year without fail.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, Satya would take the biggest fish from his catch, cook it, and eat part of the fish before sundown. All that night and through the next day, Satya and his family would not eat or drink anything, not even water. Like all the other Jews in their village on this one day of the year, they would dress in white and go to the synagogue. Satya would sit and listen to the beautiful melodies of the Yom Kippur prayers. He was happy, even though he could not understand the words. At sundown, after the service was over, he and his family would return to their home. There they would break the fast and share the rest of the fish with their friends and neighbors. And so it went, always the same, year after year.

One year, everyone began to prepare for Yom Kippur as usual, but Satya had no fish in his nets. It was the day before the holiday, and he set out in his boat that afternoon. The sea was as calm as a sleeping baby, the sky as clear as crystal glass. Yet all his friends warned him, "Satya! Do not go out today! We're afraid the sea will become angry with a sudden storm!"

But Satya laughed and said, "Look at the ocean. There is not a ripple, and the sky is blue. Besides, I can handle my boat in any weather!"

And so he set off. Satya rowed for a long time. But he had no luck. Every time he hauled in his nets, they came up empty. Suddenly he saw before him a flash of light. It was a fish like none he'd ever seen – a golden fish, with scales that gleamed like the sun! Satya rowed faster and threw his net again, but the fish dove under the boat and escaped. Again, a little farther ahead, the fish dove through a wave and disappeared.

Satya chased the fish as it led him farther from shore. Without realizing it, he had rowed out of sight from land. Satya was tired, but he threw his nets one last time. It seemed he had finally caught the fish, but just then the sky began to fill with heavy rain clouds. The waves rose all around him and the wind blew hard and strong, whistling past his ears. It took all of his strength to keep his little boat afloat. Suddenly, Satya looked up and saw that behind the wind and clouds, the sun was setting on the horizon. "Yom Kippur is almost here," Satya thought to himself.

At that moment he threw down his oars, crossed his arms over his chest and shouted, "Come what may, I will not row on Yom Kippur!"

The waves lifted his little boat up like a matchbox and threw it down again. The wind whistled and shrieked, whipping the water into foam. Satya knew that his end might be near, but somehow he wasn't afraid. Instead he began to hum the melodies he had heard so often in his little synagogue.

Satya sang, the wind howled, the waves pounded his boat. Surely this is the end of me, he thought to himself, and closed his eyes in prayer. If he had kept his eyes open at that moment, he might have seen a strange sight. Out of the whirling mist, two figures appeared, an old man and an old woman, wrapped in flowing white robes, their faces glowing with a soft light.

They came close to Satya and whispered, "Sing, Satya, sing! Sing for Yom Kippur! The sea will hear you!" As if in a dream, Satya sang louder and stronger. Slowly, slowly, the waves began to subside, and the wind died down.

"Sing for Yom Kippur, Satya!" They whispered again as they gently

picked him up and lifted him above the water. High above the waves, they flew like birds with Satya in their arms until they laid him down on the sandy shore. Then, each bent down and kissed him on the forehead as they spoke to him for the last time.

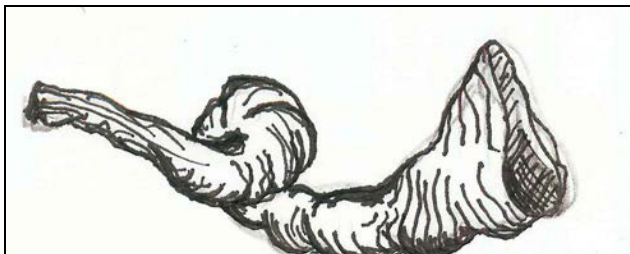
"Shalom, Satya, may you be inscribed forever in the Book of Life."

Slowly, Satya opened his eyes. The sea was as calm as a sleeping baby. The sky was as clear as crystal, and the last rays of sun

peeped over the horizon. Satya rubbed his eyes. There was his little boat, rocking gently in the shallows.

"Surely this has been a dream," he murmured to himself. But as he stood up to go, he saw a gleam of light thrashing in his nets. It was the golden fish.

Satya looked at the fish. Then he looked at the sky. It seemed as though the evening stars were smiling at him, so he smiled back. Then he picked up the fish and brought it home. He was ready to hear the Yom Kippur prayers and break the fast with his friends and family, as he did every year. ◇



*Dip the
apple in the
honey for a
sweet New
Year!*



Israel Trip Diary

They boarded planes, in Miami and elsewhere, on June 11, 2013. For some it was a first trip; others had been once or many times. Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman and Medina Roy agreed to keep diaries and take as many photos as they could. Here, then, is the KJCC Israel trip, mostly through their eyes.

Day 1

Gloria (two days before):

I came within two degrees of canceling my trip this morning. It was pitch dark stormy when the phone rang. Adrenalin wake-up rush never stopped. My mother, three hours away, scared, breathless, and bleeding, wept for help. I could only talk to her, encouraging calmness and helping her make decisions. Bless the paramedics who picked her up and



Departure Day, Medina and Carl's anniversary.

took her to Palms West Hospital, where she is known and loved (a volunteer since the hospital broke ground 30 years ago). At 4:00 a.m., I started thinking of pulling the plug on Arza-world and Israel.

What came to me was the first prayer we always read with Rabbi Agler on Saturday mornings, the one about *mitzvot* you cannot overdo. Visit the sick. Honor your mother and father. How can I go thousands of miles away if my mother is in the hospital? Tomorrow she turns 92 years old. She's been happy as a prom queen since she moved into her new activity-filled "independent living" complex. We were planning to save our party until I got back from Israel. Now, all bets are off. My thought dance partners — desire, death, and duty — cut in on each other.

No sleep until pre-dawn. Then comes good-ish news. Her diagnosis after CAT scan is colitis, a condition that can or could have easily been shortstopped by drinking water throughout the day instead of sitting for hours at a time doing marathon knitting.

Water. Not medication. In two days, she'll be out of the hospital. My mother says in her now very chipper voice, from her brand new deluxe hospital room, "somebody up there is pulling strings for us, honey." "What?!!" I say. "Daddy!" she says. "He wanted so badly for you to go to Israel. It was his biggest wish."

This is news to me. He's been gone for 15 years. *Mitzvot* take a new turn. I'll continue to visit the sick, by voice. And honor my mother and father. I'm going to Israel.

Our first tears in Israel came when Medina's cousins met us at the airport. They'd all been as close as brothers and sisters growing up, but hadn't seen each other in 35 years. The tears! The laughter! The food! (Honestly, they brought a tuna fish sandwich, a giant bottle of Coke and enough pastries and cookies that generous Medina has been sharing with us on our bus rides for days :-) - Gloria



Gloria, Departure Day:

My two favorite trip moments so far, both before we boarded the plane: Georgia says, smiling, as we get into the van taking us to the airport, "This is going to be one big Oneg."

Funny. I suspect she's right. I've never travelled in community before. IT IS POSITIVELY relaxing--and delightful. We are like one simple life form, expanding and contracting, changing shape amoeba-like, splitting off into ones, twos and threes for exploration but always coming back together, our own mother ship, each individual aware of the sum of its parts.

Moment two will come to you in a photo, a goodbye hug, Medina and Carl saying goodbye on, of all days, their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary.

More to come.

Hours later – we have actually landed now – exhausted, excited, unable to sleep and way too full from our first shared Israeli meal, all 15 of us, at an over-the-top feast of Middle Eastern splendor.

Medina, Day 1 (in Israel):

I can't find the words to describe the emotions that came over me after I picked up my luggage. It actually started before then, when I heard the landing gear open as we were about to land in Tel Aviv. I felt a lump in my throat and my eyes welled up with tears. I actually found myself sobbing for a moment when the tires hit the runway.

So next is finding and schlepping the luggage. Exiting the security area, I'm greeted by the three first cousins I grew up with in Far Rockaway, New York; I have not seen them since my last trip to Israel in 1974. Enormous hugs, LOTS of tears all the way around. We only had

maybe 15 minutes together but they were magical. More next time.

Day Two

Gloria, Evening:

Old Yaffo is our first stop on the way from Tel Aviv's airport to our hotel. The hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean is the goal of our first hike. At the top, the modern sculpture and ancient themes strike me as important. (Looking back at photos now, it pulls the whole

trip together for me. Can you see the row of men on top with *shofars* in their hands?

Think Joshua and the walls of Jericho. On the left is the binding of Isaac, with the rescuing ram at the base of the column. *There is to be no more human sacrifice.* A breakthrough. On the right is Jacob, dreaming, struggling with the angel. Commitment, sacrifice, a dream that changes everything, even a name – he struggled with God – the name of this country.

Even if Yaffo weren't such an attractive old Mediterranean port city, with its cliffs, narrow, winding cobblestone streets and arches everywhere, I would love it for the 3,000-year-



Dave hands leadership over to Mike – our intrepid, knowledgeable, patient Israeli guide – as we board our bus for the very first time. -Gloria



Unmistakably us. We are the sign on our bus. And of course there are implications. -Gloria

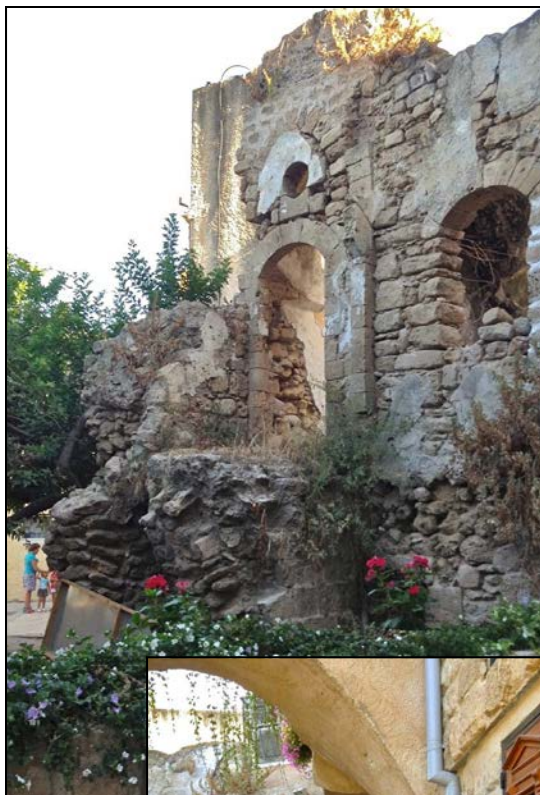
old story, Jonah's and mine. Our footsteps might have touched the same dirt. This is the port where Jonah waits for the ship he thinks will help him escape God's command. Instead he endangers everyone aboard ship when God kicks up a wrathful storm. Jonah admits publicly that he is the problem, goes over-board and ends up in the belly of a "great fish." It will be this village-city that I'll see in my mind's eye when we read from the Torah this Yom Kippur.



The sculpture at the top of the old Yaffo hilltop, filled with themes from ancient Israel.

Medina, Evening:

It's late and I'm ready for bed. But I have to say, my first 24 hours in Israel...I've already gotten my money's worth for this trip. More (much more) to come.



Scenes from Old Yaffo: at top, ruins on the hilltop; at right, a young father pushes a stroller



along an old cobblestone street in a restored and vibrant section of Yaffo. Lower left, the first real touristy view after leaving the airport: the view from Old Yaffo (some refer to it as Jaffa), looking toward the beaches and buildings of modern Tel Aviv.

Day Three

Joyce, Evening:

I cannot believe that we have packed so much into one day. (The first day didn't really



"Shay-roo-teem" (The transliteration of the Hebrew word on a wall indicating the location of a bathroom.) -Medina

Below, we prepare to enter (hi, Barney) the clandestine munitions factory beneath the laundry room of Kibbutz Ayalon, which supplied the Haganah (the largest underground 1940s Jewish fighting force) with bullets during the time of the British Mandate and War of Independence. Even residents of the kibbutz were unaware for ten years. -Joyce



On our visit to Natal, a wonderfully articulate Major told us this was one of the hundreds of missiles shot at Israel during the 2nd Intifada. She said that this one did not have deadly effect, but just looking at the physical aftermath of its own self-destruction is enough to make me shudder at its power. I can well imagine that civilians, adults as well as children, are in need of the counseling services that Natal provides for traumatized soldiers. I am hoping that as part of our *Tikkun Olam* projects, KJCC and Women's Seder Committee will consider contributing both to Natal and the Children's Village at Neve Michael (see Day 6 – Ed.), which does a beautiful job of restoring sanity and self-worth to youngsters whose lives have been made hideous by horrific family conditions. (My artist's eye confesses to seeing a horrible beauty in whatever law of nature turned this weapon into a rusting predatory octopus, with a perfect spiral at the end of one tentacle, a deadly version of a shape that on a plant would represent a growing tip.)

-Gloria

count. Although we had a wonderful dinner all together at a restaurant that doubles as vocational school for at-risk teens, we were exhausted from what seemed like 24 hours of travel.)

Today was full of the experience of what it took to make this country. We saw the hidden munitions factory under the Kibbutz Ayalon laundry, twenty feet below ground, where 36



Zoe joined in on the Tel Aviv beach.

young people put their lives in danger and on hold, living a secret double life to manufacture the bullets used in the



A mural of Israeli heroes, painted as a fresco on a wall above the hotel beach in Tel Aviv.



Above and right: dinner at an outdoor café in Old Yaffo...lots of salad choices, raisins, carrots...

War of Independence. We experienced the noise of only one of the bullet-making machines, saw photos of young people working those machines, and heard about the choices they made...the young woman who

allowed her husband and friends to believe she was having an affair rather than betray the secret...

Then we went to the headquarters of Natal, a nationwide NGO that works with post-traumatic stress prevention and rehabilitation with people of all ages and does training around the world. (They sent trainers to Boston after the bombing). We spoke to some of the volunteers and heard stories. There's a Natal film of a teenager living on a settlement near Gaza who pulled his young brother from incoming mortars to a shelter, but then refused to leave the bunker, and his choice to accept the hand of the volunteer who counseled him. We spoke to the head of that Natal program, and learned how it was

run using feedback and what I can only call a scientific method to modify and use what works best. Then there were the questions from our group, during which became clear the caliber of this little group of tourists, just from their comments: Medina, retired school librarian whose husband is a Vietnam vet dealing with PTSD, a volun-

teer with the VA; social workers; a physician; a psychologist; teachers; businessmen; artists...Neither Rabbi Agler nor Mike, our Israeli (from South Africa 30 years ago) guide, had been to Natal, and both were deeply moved.

We went to Independence Hall, where in 1948 David Ben Gurion had proclaimed to the world that the Jewish people once again had their own state. Guides there helped us to relive what it was like to live through





There just happened to be a public fitness station on the beach near the hotel in Tel Aviv.

the birth pangs of the nation, and what it feels like to be in a nation that has never known peace.

What makes everything so powerful is the personal touch: The ability of our tour guides to allow us to see the personal decisions faced by people both historical and unknown. We later went to the large open square in Tel Aviv where, near tables where folks were setting up a book fair, we stood on the spot where Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated.

After the long day, Zoe met us at the hotel, and joined by Gloria and Medina, we four walked the mile along the beach to Old Yaffo, getting our toes wet in the Mediterranean, and saying "al netilat raglayim." We followed the Israelis and found a wonderful outdoor restaurant overlooking the marina, where the waiter covered the table with small plates of colorful salads, huge pitas, and a pitcher of lemonade. As the plates were emptied, they got refilled, and when we thought we could-

n't eat any more, four skewers of shish kabob, and mint tea. A friendly cab driver returned us to the hotel.

Tomorrow we leave at 8:30 for Caesarea and Haifa.

Day Four

Gloria, Evening:

The Synagogue of Chodorov, a city probably once in Poland and now in Rus-



The museum has a huge exhibit of scale models of shuls from all over the world at the Museum of the Jewish People. This one depicts one from Florence.

Stunning. -Gloria

sia, was the spiritual home of our president Bernie Ginsberg's grandfather. Picture Bernie's Zadeh *davening* under this magnificent painted ceiling with its unique depiction of the signs of the zodiac. Our group talked a little bit about *mazel* and how it really means stars rather than luck, but when someone asked if this was Jewish astrology and related to Kabbalah, Rabbi Agler threw up his hands.

We were touring the Museum of the Jewish People (on the campus of Tel Aviv

University), devoted through its exhibits to exploring the

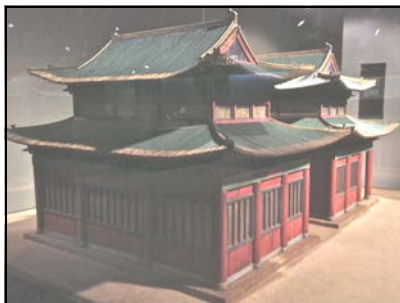
secrets of our tribe's unequalled longevity as a people and a culture. Mostly it's because our treas-



Bukharan Jewish wedding wear for those underneath the Chuppah.



My favorite pieces from the exhibit "Threads of Silk: the Life of Bukharan Jewry." I had to sweet-talk the guard to let me spin through this magnificent exhibit of Eurasian Jews I didn't know existed. Lots of silk ikat weavings and clothing for Jewish special occasions, a feast for the eye of yours truly, a tribal textile lover. -Gloria



A model of the Chinese synagogue at Khai Fong: can success breed failure? Of all the old model syna-

gogues we saw in this museum, only one Jewish community had totally disappeared. Irony alert. This Chinese community's Jews were totally accepted, loved, respected. There was not a shred of anti-Semitism. And now there is no one, nothing. Is it possible we stiff-necked people actually require some sort of resistance or wall to bang our heads against in order to survive with Jewish identity intact?

ures were never our "things." We had a book, laws, tradition, humanity, and community. We had our story and the light of Torah. We kept all that between our ears, re-telling our stories so well and so often that our children absorbed them. Wherever we were sent, however we were treated, the culture

kept us and we kept the culture. It is interesting though, that the one community who accepted the Jews wholeheartedly was the one community where the Jews eventually disappeared. Where oh where are the Jews of Haiphong, China?

The trip is surpassing expectation on

Our Gloria always finds the quirky and avant garde in any museum.



In the Museum of the Jewish People, the ceiling from the Chodorov shul.

brate their bar mitzvahs the next morning. It wasn't until after I lit the candles and returned to my seat that I was

Joyce leans on a sculpture at Caesarea. We were exploring classical Roman ruins; Caesarea was the first of many Herod productions we would visit. -Gloria



every level. In tears at least twice a day, I've been so moved. Tonight it happened when two bar mitzvah students opened the ark at *Or Chadash* for the *Barchu*, then again when Rabbi Agler gave a very personal *dvar*. It was a joyous service, but suddenly I was overwhelmed at the intimacy of it, the connection, the dissolving of barriers across miles and centuries. (Of course, this was a reform synagogue. It also has a bomb shelter in the basement, with lots of toys for kids and, irony of ironies, a technological contraption to protect the congregation from poison gas. (We are in Haifa now).

Medina, evening:

Friday night services were held at a progressive reform synagogue, *Or Chadash*

(new light). The congregation welcomed us warmly, with Gloria and I invited to light the Shabbat candles along with two other women, mothers of boys who would cele-



A race track built by Herod in the Roman style. -Joyce



Barbara Smith in Caesarea.

overcome, realizing the importance of having the privilege of lighting Shabbat candles in Israel.

We heard some wonderful, new melodies for our standard prayers. Gloria, with the rabbi, recorded a new melody for "Lecha Dodi."

Rabbi Agler was called up to the bema to give a *d'var torah* and to speak to the congregation. He spoke entirely in Hebrew. He told the congregation of his family's tragedy, losing his daughter, Talia. This was Rich's first trip to Israel since Talia's accident. He was very emotional and had a hard time holding it to-

gether. He broke down several times. There was not a dry eye in the room. This was the third day of our trip and the third with moments of tears. I had the feeling there would be tears every day. (I turned out to be correct.)

There was some joy for me, however. I found myself understanding almost every word Rich said, and those few words that I didn't recognize I was able to understand through from context. Yardena would be proud of me! From then on, I found the courage to try to speak as much Hebrew as possible, totally not caring about my horrific Hebrew *dikduk* (grammar).

Joyce, Evening:

We arrived at our hotel on the mountain-top overlooking the port, the Bay of Haifa and the distant Gali-



Rich and Mike below the artist's village at Ein Hod.

Dear Mindy,

What a generous spirit you are to share Rich with us when you could both be somewhere magical sharing your anniversary!! This has been a time of such wonder and learning that I still, after a whole week, need to pinch myself. Words like day and week don't really relate. As many as five totally different adventures can happen within twelve hours. But you know all this. I trust that you are enjoying creative time at home and will have a whole list of anniversary celebration activities for Rich when you get together again.

I like Rich's look in this photo. We had stopped at Ein Hod, the artist's village, for inspiration and lunch on day 4. All around were beautiful views from the hills of the lower Galilee. I don't know whether he visited the art bar or not.

-Love and gratitude, Gloria





Why are these people smiling? They're happy because their vegetarian pitas are almost done and we're going to eat them at this small but lovely cafe looking out over the Mediterranean.

I'm happy because we've just had a stop at Ein Hod, an artists' village that has existed here at the top of the Carmel mountain range for 50 years. They let me wander for over an hour. I'm inspired.
-Gloria

lean mountains. We had time for showers before heading to *Ohr Hadash*, a reform temple, for services and dinner. First we had a tour of the building, including a shelter that doubles as a youth room complete with bright murals, toys, CD player and an air filter to be used in case of gas attack.

The service, of course, was all in Hebrew, but totally familiar, with many wonderful tunes by Carlebach and others. It is the first time I participated in a prayer service in a shul in Israel. This temple services those who are totally turned off by the Orthodox bureaucracy yet search for a ritual connection. At dinner we had a chance to speak with the rabbi and several congregants who



Back at the hotel in Haifa at the end of a long day.



A view of Haifa looking down from the heights of the magnificent Baha'i Gardens.

described their struggles to connect with secular Israelis.

Day Five

Joyce, Morning:

We begin this Shabbat morning with a prayer service on a grassy area near the pool. Rabbi Agler is the only one with a siddur, yet we find we know most of it by heart and he ably leads the rest. At home we face east toward Jerusalem but here we face southwest and think, "Jerusalem is right there, not far

The bomb shelter at Ohr Hadash, below, decorated festively so as to keep up the spirits of their children.

away over those hills." When we sing of heaven and earth, we look up at the same skies as our ancient poets and our feet are planted on the same earth.





Imagine the beauty of Shabbat morning services with Rabbi Agler, sitting in a circle with our feet on Israeli ground (yes, I took off my shoes), a blue sky overhead, in Haifa, Yarden's city. I wish everyone at KJCC could have heard each of us speak in that circle of his or her first impressions of Israel. Many spoke of the amazing normalcy, the lack of overt anxiety here. I spoke of Yaffo and the heart-stopping reality of sharing space with Jonah. No longer in the Keys, we turned south to Jerusalem. My Amidah prayers were all of gratitude, for the great gift of this trip and for being part of a loving community. -Gloria



Gloria, evening, in a note to Linda Pollack:

Joyce, Medina, and I are sitting in the wi-fi-friendly lobby of our Haifa Hotel, doing our best to catch up with sending photos and impressions to Sam. Each day has been

The enchanted forest tree outside the fort at Akko. -Gloria

filled with a week's worth of activities. And each is more moving and eye-opening than the last.

Maybe sweetest was our own service this morning in a circle of yellow plastic chairs on vivid green grass under blue Israeli sky with Rich leading a siddur-less service. Seems we all knew everything by heart. Then on to Akko Crusader fort, mosque and grottoes, oh my. And oh goodness, I am so grateful.

Joyce, Evening:

Akko (listed as "Acre" on a lot of English maps) is one of the earliest places settled, mentioned early on in Michener's *The Source*; it's a key site and major port on several trade routes. Impressive is a mild word to describe the thick stone walls, well preserved great vaulted halls, moats and Turkish bath. Mike, our guide, took us through the history from the bloody crusaders, sultans and caliphs, to the Knights Templar and their

Akko's beautiful mosque; we were allowed to enter and were warmly welcomed there.

rivals. 13th Century Akko was described by a contemporary historian as "a monster with nine heads, each one trying to



The Crusader fort at Akko.



devour the other."

Fast forward to Napoleon's troops' early 19th century defeat, trapped between the inner and outer walls, at the hands of the keepers of the bathhouse during the rule of Caliph Al Jazeera. We learned the details of the jailbreak portrayed in Exodus.

(Who can forget Sal Mineo?) Still within the walls, we went to the bathhouses here; they had a Disney-style multimedia presentation on screens, narrated by actors portraying three

generations of bathhouse keepers that brought to life Muslim society in the 1800s: how the rooms of the bathhouse functioned

as a social center, where babies were delivered, children played, bachelor and bridal parties were entertained by belly dancers, and that period's medicine was practiced. We

The main religious sanctuary of the Akko mosque. The colors and tile work are breathtaking.



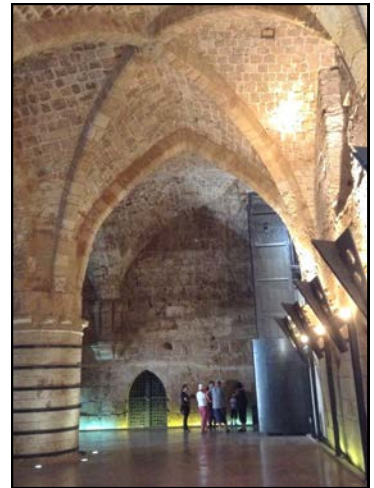
will not forget the tales of Akko's ruler Al Jazeera, the butcher. There are drawings of his Jewish financier, who lost one eye and one ear to Al

Jazeera's sword. He was one of the fortunate ones who kept his head.

Also within the walls, a lovely mosque, which we were allowed to visit

and were given a balanced lesson in Islam.

Leaving Akko, we traveled north to the Lebanese border and the lovely grottos of Rosh Hanikra. Kudos



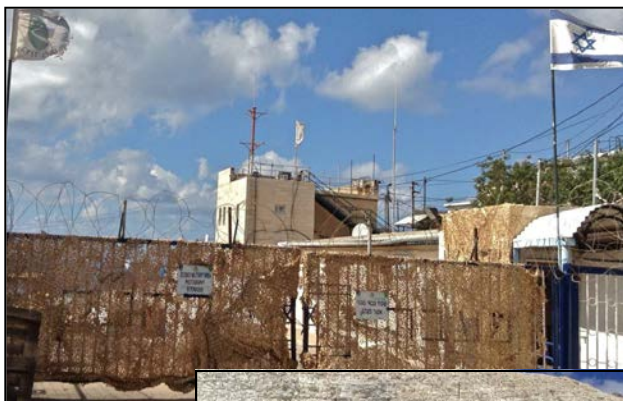
The Akko mosque's cavernous halls and stone arches, above.



Joyce snapped Gloria, the cultural explorer, making sure she found all the art treasures.



Listening to Rich outside the Knights Hall at Akko.



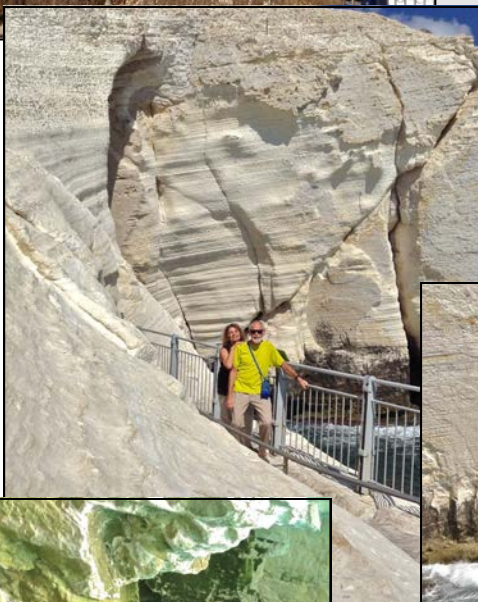
Um, I guess we didn't see the sign on the left side of the fence until it was too late. What a grand time we had at Rosh HaNikra (head of the grotto), descending the sheer chalk cliffs by cable car to walk the slippery rock pathways leading to these semi-underground caves with ever-crashing, thunderous waves. Joyce and I were moved to sing "Eli Eli."

Now that was the real "rish roosh shel hamayim" Hannah Senesh talked about. -Gloria (Note: The grotto & warning sign were all within 100 yards of the Lebanese border.)

to Barbara Smith, who overcame her fear to join us on the cable lift to descend to the grotto. We listened silently to the crash of waves echoing in the caves, saw the play of light and shadow on the stone walls, and then Gloria and I sang "Eli Eli" in the tunnel.

Back to the hotel, for dinner on our own. Because Yardena so commanded, Gloria, Susan

(Ellner) and I took a cab halfway down the mountain to Haifa's German Quarter with its restaurants and cafes, had dinner at a Mid-Eastern cafe called Douzan. Excellent. They



gifted us an unknown dessert that was covered with stewed fruit and coconut. Tomorrow on to Tzfat.



The grottos and sheer cliffs of Rosh HaNikra on the sea in northernmost Israel, just south of the Lebanese border.

Gloria, Evening:

I don't know if I've ever been to a city as full of history and strange beauty as Akko. Driving in and seeing the "Tel" at a distance – the long, low, flat-topped hill that tells you civilization after civilization lived, died, and built upon each other's remains here – does not prepare you for the complex beauty of its historical remnants.



hillside overlooking the Haifa harbor. The first Shabbat in Israel had come to a close.

After a day of Crusader forts and mosques and the dashing of waves into white cliffs near the Lebanese border, there was Havdalah at the end on a

ever-present delicious Israeli lemonade amidst outdoor cafe hub-bub, and then climbed up a set of semi-circular stone steps to find ourselves in the suddenly peaceful gardens of a mosque. Inside there were elegant pillars, vaulted ceiling arches, white-on-indigo-blue Arabic calligraphy bordering high walls, and Persian carpets on the floor. Whatever the right and wrong actions in pursuit of their faith, the ruthless over-enthusiastic killing of "infidels," Jewish and otherwise, the builders of these structures created an expanded sense of time here.

You can feel that each religion is in

Over the course of an afternoon, we entered a magical garden with trees spreading its roots like an otherworldly sculpture;

walked through a Crusader-built fort (with soaring, giant, column-supported roofs) that later became a hospital; saw a high-ceilinged prison that once held Yarden's father, David Kamely, as a teenager for six months (and Sal Mineo in the film *Exodus*); explored the grounds and interior of a Muslim holy place; and witnessed a mixed-media show in which movie projections on the walls and bronze figures strategically placed (picture our Swedish friend Rebecca walking among them) told the story of a centuries-old Muslim Bath House.

Just outside the thick-walled fort, in a busy bazaar-like market area, we ate our falafels and *shwarma*, drank the

it for the long haul. Their spaces give us a way to see and feel with them the strength of their faith, not based in time but transcending it.



It's our last night in Haifa and in honor of Yarden's favorite childhood place, and strong suggestion, we head to the German colony for dinner just down the boulevard from the Baha'i Gardens, settling in a magically lit Arab restaurant where our picture is taken by a nice Jewish man from Australia. Ah Israel, Jews from everywhere, everywhere. As for the man that Susan and Joyce were getting friendly with, he was uncommunicative and we don't know where he's from. There is art and inspiration in so many forms in Israel. -Gloria

From the architecture of conquering Christianity to the Muslim house of five-times-a-day prayer, dedication to differing acts of faith are mere steps from one other here (more intensified and less expected than in Jerusalem). Beyond the absorbing visuals, what sticks is respect for the believers who created these places.

Gloria, Late Evening:

When you can't sleep in Haifa, there is always the hotel lobby with its view of the Bay, distant hills, and yes, the lure of wi-fi. (If only the post-Shabbat revelers weren't so noisy). It's easy to see how this was once a sleepy fishing village, before the Crusaders, Turks, and then the British realized how valuable a port could be for trade and conquest. *Layla tov.*

Day Six

Joyce, Evening:

Another fully packed day. It began with a visit to Neve Michael Children's Home, a youth village that works closely with social services and the courts to provide foster homes to 250 very at-risk youth. (It's located



The steel gate at the entrance to Neve Michael Children's Home in Beit Shemesh, near Jerusalem.

in central Israel, just south of Beit Shemesh and not far from Jerusalem, founded in 1958 by Persian Jews.) It is unique in that it takes family groups of siblings, and places them in



Inside the gates of Neve Michael. Security for its children is important, but so is beauty, music, art and normal living.

homes with real families, who often already have kids of their own, living in this special enclosed village with its own elementary school. Also living with each family, which can include up to eight kids of various ages, are young women doing national service as an alternative to the army. The families live in large two-family homes, so there are plenty of caring adults around, and there is a plethora of social workers and psychologists also on premises. Music lessons and art are a large part of the curriculum. There is security, because some of these children are in danger of being abducted by dangerous relatives. Most stay until they are 18, when they go into the national service or college.

From modern social issues we journeyed back to antiquity. Zippori National Park, "perched on top of the mountain like a bird," (a quote from the Babylonian Talmud)

preserves a city from the time of the Romans through the Crusaders (well over a thousand years, depending on which Crusade you measure

from). Of special interest is the Jewish quarter excavated by Duke University, with a *mikvah* among the dozen or so uncovered homes. Rabbi Judah HaNasi lived here around 200 CE; it's where he wrote the Mishnah. Zippori is mentioned in the Talmud as the home of rabbis such as Elazar Ben Azaria, and was home to the Sanhedrin until Rabbi Yohanan moved it to Tiberias. Amazing mosaics were discovered, among them the floor of a synagogue; the floor of the governor's home had a mosaic now called the Mona Lisa of Zippori, one of the most beautiful mosaics of that period anywhere in



Rabbi Agler has an animated conversation in Hebrew.



The mosaic floor of the old synagogue in Zippori.

the world.

We continued on into the Upper Galilee for over an hour to Tzfat.

Rabbi

Agler stood outside the Luria Shul and spoke a bit about mysticism and compared the many paths that varying cultures take to find G-d as paths up a mountain: the higher you climb the mountain, the more the paths approach each other. We all felt some of the holiness of Isaac Luria's synagogue, but when I asked Gloria to compare it to other spiritual places in other lands, she noted that in all sacred places there were commercial activities going on all around.

Here, instead of merchants with prayer beads or little Buddhas, there has developed a wonderful artist's colony. If we had had more time I



Georgia and Joyce at the below-ground desks at Isaac Luria's synagogue in Tzfat.



Rabbi Agler, outside the Luria Shul, spoke a bit about mysticism and compared the many paths that varying cultures take to find G-d as paths up a mountain. The higher you climb, the more the paths approach each other. We all felt some of the holiness of Isaac Luria's synagogue. -Joyce

would have spent more money. I got a copper-and-brass mezuzah holder from the working artist, and green Roman Glass earrings from a young man who came from Montreal nine years ago.

Our hotel for tonight and tomorrow is *Kibbutz Hagoshrim*. Instead of city lights we view the garden. It is a lovely room and they have the best dinner buffet I would ever want. Delicious salads, five kinds of soup, marinated grilled chicken, pot roast, and at least a dozen vegetable dishes, one yummier than the next.

Things I've noted: a Mezuzah on every hotel room door; while not every restaurant is kosher, and many serve shrimp, all of the beef and chicken on the menu is supplied by kosher butchers.

This is a wonderful country for vegetarians.



The curtain leading to the ark in Luria's shul.

Gloria, Evening:

This kibbutz makes me think of what the Catskills must have been like in their heyday – combination spa, retreat center, and buffet supreme, all Jewish, all friendly. There is even a lively young man singing and playing guitar after dinner, on a simple stage in the garden. "Frum" Is-

raelis (and Joyce and I) happily join in on the choruses. (If I haven't already said so, one commitment I've made as a result of this trip is to bring more lively, newer, joyous melodies into our services. Thank Rabbi Shai of *Or Chadash*, the Haifa Syna-



One of the many artists and artisans at work today in Tzfat.



about the Baal Shem Tov while we were in the "Ari's" beautiful shul this afternoon in Tzfat.)

Spirituality in sacred places: I loved what Rabbi Agler said about different spiritual paths getting closer to each other as the seeker climbs higher up the mountain in pursuit of a direct and intimate encounter with God. It helps me understand the commonalities of cultures. I see how and why all great traditions make offerings (incense, water, food, fire, art,

prayer) in gratitude for body, soul, and nature. They all seek to be still, to listen, to hear, and as Moses did, ask forgiveness for misdeeds and missed deeds. To find these depths in my

I just KNOW that my bubbe walked these same Tzfat streets before I was born. –Medina

– and some words by Rabbi Agler



And I'm sure my bubbe climbed these stairs! (I had to include my feet so that when I look at this photo in ten years, I'll remember why I snapped it.) –Medina



Medina took this shot of a sign outside a Tzfat art studio. Note the web site.

gogue we visited on Friday evening; Shlomo Carlebach – of blessed memory

own people's history (made so manifest on this trip) is inspiring to say the least, as is the art, from today's visit to fourth-century floor mosaics as amazing as illuminated manuscripts to the whimsical yet strong stone sculptures of animals scattered along the garden grounds of this kibbutz (that is not a kibbutz).

We are on the Golan Heights and I feel no sense of danger. I am impressed with the handsome, confident soldiers we've seen and talked to and their amazing technological resources for stopping problems before they start.

Tomorrow, a visit to Lebanon's border, chai-yakking across the not-so-large-or-daunting Jordan River and a host of other activities as well. Each day has been a marathon of learning and new experience. So much wonder and awe at our history, struggles and achievements can make a person weary. Good thing each morning brings new energy and eagerness (okay, and a fabulous breakfast) for another day's adventures.

I wish I could remember who among us coined the phrase "speed dating Israel". :-)

Day Seven

Joyce, Morning:

Beautifully written as usual, Gloria. I see by the time stamp that you probably needed the Bena-dryl I didn't give you. Minor correction: Kibbutz Hagoshrim is near, but not on, the Golan Heights. That trip is this morning, where they won't let us get too close to the Syrian border. The Lebanese border was a few hun-



Tel Dan with the ancient arch (circa Abraham) and the city gate from the time of Judges and Kings. That was the place where I felt closest to the first stories I learned as a very young girl. -Joyce

dred yards from Rosh Hanikra, above the grottos.

The kibbutz itself was delightful, the grounds purchased from a caliph, the re-

mains of an old mill and all. The food was the best on our trip, unbelievable breads, salads. We never knew there were so many varieties of white cheeses and yogurts. Two kinds of *shakshuka* (pan-cooked eggs with tomatoes, another with spinach). I think there will be *shakshuka* at future KJCC potlucks.

Our guide said he and his wife vacation here.



The view from Tel Dan, one source of the Jordan River, down into the Upper Galilee.



Above, ruins of Tel Dan, the ancient city settled by the tribe of Dan. At right, Dave at a Tel Dan spring.



Barney Coltman, Evening:

Today was day seven. Each day gets better and I learn more and more. We saw the Golan Heights and what lives were given up so we can call Israel our home.

I have strong feelings of belonging with my people.

Joyce, Evening:

We began our day at the Tel Dan nature reserve, at one of the sources of the Jordan River. It is beautifully maintained and the part we strolled was a cement walk, crossing over the tiny tributary, and opening up to a

man-made wading pond. Our goal, however, was some mind-blowing antiquities. (Remember the story of Abraham chasing Lot's captors? He went to the area of Dan and made treaties with the local king.) There, in front of us, was the earliest man-made arch

known, almost two thousand years before the Roman conquest, dating from the Canaanite period c.1800 BCE. It was really

primitive, but likely was the gate of a city. At least one scholar theorizes that Abraham

would have passed through it as he met the king!

In the same area are the remains, partly reconstructed, of a city gate. We went in and sat on stone benches, part of the ruins, which were once at-

tached to the inner gate. As we sat there in the shade, our guide reconstructed life during the time of the ancient kings, when the market would have been just outside the gate. We could actually see the stone where the two wooden doors would have closed at



A sign still warns of mines on the Golan. -Joyce



A halftrack from the 6-day war as a Golan memorial. It sits exactly where it stopped in 1967. -Joyce

night. Inside the outer gate was a kind of meeting area. Then our guide asked us to count how many people fit in the bench: ten. He showed the round, decorated rocks that looked like an umbrella holder under a porch table. There were four, one on each corner of the large bench in the middle. He said to think of canopy poles. Then he read sections from the Bible describing how the king would sit at the gate, or the judges or Sanhedrin would meet inside the gate, or Boaz agreed to marry Ruth before the witnesses at the gate. Every city had gates like that. We were sitting on those same benches!



Gloria and Medina emerge from a preserved Syrian bunker. -Joyce

From there we went to the Golan Heights, but that is a long story and it is late. So I will just say we ended the day kayaking the Jordan River (more like a good-sized stream). It was a lot of fun. There is one tiny waterfall, and they have a camera mounted on it to take photos as each kayak or rubber raft passes. You got mine. The best was the raft with Gloria, Medina, Susan, Nils and Rebecca. Barney and I slowed down so we could stay behind them to laugh and watch the struggles to keep it pointed in the right direction.

Gloria, Evening:

"Best" is an interesting word in relation to our raft trip. We certainly had the raft with the loudest shrieking laughter, as we careened from bank to opposite bank while Medina sat on her knees in front and did her best to keep us moving forward despite the whirlpools and her crew's lack of skill. Nils

sat in the back with Rebecca insisting he did not know how to paddle; Susan and I in the middle took turns paddling to correct course (when we weren't bumping into rocks, trees, or other boats filled with young people who got inordinate pleasure out of splashing us). We did all finally get the hang of it. Interesting insight: when we stopped struggling, we drifted quite successfully, enjoyed the birdsong, and thrilled to the grand finale of whooshing down the waterfall.

I won't say much about the Golan Heights, either, except that being there, so very close to Syria, seeing the army encampments along the road, certainly helped me understand the motivation of those who do not want to hand back the hard-won territory. The large number of soldiers who lost their lives here defending Israel and the moving memorial to them at the top of the mountain made Joyce and I agree that our *erev Shabbat* service's last Kaddish will have a deeper, wider reach for us when we get back. There really is something transformational about walking on the ground where your history took place.



We stand near the eucalyptus trees that the Israeli infiltrator told the Syrians to bomb. We've just walked underground through the bunker. A few feet away is the memorial. -Gloria

Joyce, about the Golan:

The Golan I remember from 1967 was a rugged and dangerous frontier. Some of the



(Above and Right) The Golan Heights Winery, both from the entrance and inside, featuring tasters Steve and Barbara Smith and Phil Raphan.

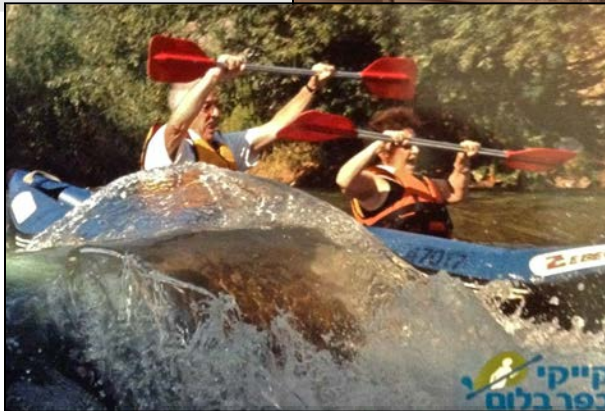


and was given a tour of the Golan. He lamented the barren conditions of the outposts and how visible the soldiers would be to aircraft. He suggested that fast-growing eucalyptus would shield the bunkers from view. Years later the Israeli commanders were able to tell their artillerymen to aim

their rockets near eucalyptus trees. Unfortunately the spy was discovered and did not live to see the victory he helped create.

We drove further and over-looked the U.N. post at the Syrian border, visible

danger remains in marked-off minefields behind wire with small yellow signs, memorialized at the Syrian outpost we visited, with the Israeli halftrack, a workhorse tank that made its way up the mountain and a memorial to



Running a Jordan River Rapid (specifically note use of singular here), with a canoe holding Barney and me. -Joyce

just a couple of miles down the hill. Next to us was an educational park showing how volcanic action had created these hills; there were kibbutzim and Druze villages on both sides of the road – cows, goats, fields. Back in 1967 I could not have imagined a full-fledged shopping center here, but that is where, in June of 2013, we went for lunch. In the food court was a falafel-monger, putting on a show, loudly and tirelessly hawking the best falafel around. (It was pretty good!)

the many soldiers who lost their lives fighting up that barren hill. Many of those soldiers were volunteers who had grown up with the sound and the fear of Syrian shelling. We looked down over the Israeli kibbutzim and farms, the city of Kiryat Shemona, all clearly visible from this outpost. We walked into the bunkers and heard the story of the eucalyptus trees that shaded them: In the late 1950s an Israeli spy worked his way into the top echelons of Syrian government

As to the Golan winery: the wine was okay, but two things struck me...the innovative use of oak casks that had outlived their wine-aging usefulness. Also the ancient stone lintel with grapes. The region is ideal for vintners, yet there were no wineries here for hundreds of years. Why? Muslim rule. (Observant Muslims aren't allowed to drink alcohol, even wine).

Next Month: Israel Diary Part 2, days 8-12

The Palace Gardens Difference

For nearly 25 years, The Palace Gardens Assisted Living Community in Homestead has been known as a leader in providing outstanding care to seniors. While our grounds and the campus are beautiful, there are more than a few reasons why The Palace Gardens is different from all others.



1. Continuum of Care –

The Palace Gardens is part of The Palace Family of Senior Living Communities which offers accommodations that meet everyone's needs, from Independent Living and Assisted Living, to Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, and even Home Health. You can rest assured that at The Palace, your needs will be met, no matter what may happen in the future.

2. Palace Training & Education Center

Because our residents come first, every employee must reflect the higher standards of our communities. Based on Ritz-Carlton procedures, a comprehensive orientation program reinforces this focus. Regular training and educational programs continue so that residents will always receive the very best care and services.

3. Local Ownership –

Founded in 1980 by Helen and Jacob Shaham, The Palace is privately owned and locally operated by these self-made individuals who foresaw the need for quality senior living environments. Their constant involvement today ensures the tradition they established for the communities and services bearing The Palace name: only the best.

To see for yourself why The Palace Gardens sets the standard Florida senior living, call or visit our web site.



1351 N. Krome Ave., Homestead, FL 33030 • (305)247-0446 • www.thepalace.org

The Palace Suites / Independent Living

The Palace Royale / Catered Living

The Palace Renaissance / Assisted Living

The Palace Gardens / Assisted Living

The Palace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

The Palace at Home / Home Health

VERONICA'S ART AND GLASS STUDIO

**Stained Glass Custom Pieces •
Restoration and Repairs •
Mosaics • Fused Glass Jewelry •
Classes • Materials and Supplies**

Veronica A. Gutierrez, Artist
(305) 304-9411
veroagutierrez@yahoo.com

A Unique Sailing Experience

Aboard the Schooner Adirondack or
Schooner America 2.0 (Nov. thru Apr.)

**Sunset Cruises • Wedding Cruises
Day Sailing • Parties • Charters**

Contact Capt. Sunny Andracchio

305.304.0369

Schooner Wharf Bar, Key West, FL

Please join Sylvie and Michel
Bitton at their new French café in the
heart of Islamorada. You will be
enchanted by the specialties
de la maison: Gelato, espresso, crêpes,
melt-in-your-mouth French
baked goods, gourmet sandwiches
and salads. Plus free wi-fi.



"A little oasis of French charm in Islamorada."

Bitton Bistro Café • 82245 Overseas Hwy Oceanside
Islamorada, FL 33036 • MM 82 • 305.396.7481
bittonbistrocafe@gmail.com • www.bittonbistrocafe.com
Open 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. 7 days a week.

florida keys
periodontics
and
implantology

paul e. berger, d.d.s.

the pink plaza
103400 overseas highway
Suite 229
key largo, fl 33037

tel: 305.453.1811
fax: 305.453.1889



**SUNSHINE
PRINTING**
& Promotional Products

A Promotional Agency

Printing ★ Direct Mail ★ Promotional Products
Business Services ★ Consulting

305-451-3752

(Serving the Keys for 29 Years)



CHAD GARDNER
Owner / Operator

Phone 305-853-5566 • Fax 305-853-0018

Email: chadsdelibakery2@bellsouth.net

Ship To:

92330 Overseas Hwy.

Ste. #5, Tavernier FL 33070

Bill To:

P. O. Box 874

Tavernier FL 33070



office hours by appointment phone: (305) 852-3219
fax: (305) 852-9016

OSMANI DIAZ, D.D.S.
JOHN L. IZANEC, D.D.S., P.A.
ROBERT WAGNER, D.M.D.

91750 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY TAVERNIER, FL 33070

From **BEACH** to **BRIDAL**

Surprisingly affordable!
And now more choices than ever.



special occasion • dresses • sportswear
casual wear • footwear • jewelry
handbags • accessories • gifts • skin care
eyewear • personalized service
gift wrapping • shipping to anywhere

Lauren & Stuart Sax, Owners

Visit us on Facebook

305.664.8445

MM 81.9 Bayside Islamorada

Excellence
- Is -
Timeless

L&M
ENGRAVING
& TROPHY, INC.

Sandy Liebowitz

9465 Miller Drive Miami, FL 33165

PHONES: (305) 273-7607

(305) 273-7608

FAX: (305) 273-0912

Lmengrav@aol.com

www.Lmengraving.com

**Bernard P.
Ginsberg, M.D.**

Fellow, American
Academy of
Family Practice

91555 Overseas Hwy
Suite 3 (Lowe St.
Professional Center)
Tavernier, FL 33070

Phone: 305-852-9300

Fax: 305-853-1260

General Medicine
Weight Loss
Esthetics



www.painfulfoot.com

Offices also in

Miami - Homestead

Ocean Reef - Tavernier

Dmitry Sandler, DPM, FACFAS

Board Certified by American Board of Podiatric Surgery

975 Baptist Way

Suite 101

Homestead, FL 33030

Phone: 305.246.4774

Fax: 305.248.4086

91461 Overseas Highway

Tavernier, FL 33070

Phone: 305.852.1878

Fax: 305.852.2932



GARRETT CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS CENTER, P.A.

a holistic healing center

Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett, B.S.C., D.C.

Over 29 Years Experience
Chiropractic (Gentle/Manual)
Yoga/Meditation
Massage Therapy
Physical Therapy
Acupuncture/Homeopathy

305-853-1003 MM 90.3 Bayside, Tavernier
wellnesshealing@bellsouth.net

Barbara Knowles PHOTOGRAPHY

Officiant
Weddings & Ceremonies
Videography
Corporate Events
Custom Packages
Bar & Bat Mitzvahs
Complete Event Planning

305-772-0503

305-942-4488

305-853-5653

iweddu@bellsouth.net

flkeys@bellsouth.net

BarbaraKnowles.com



98175 Overseas Hwy
Key Largo, FL 33037

305-852-5252

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8AM-5PM

Tue, Thu: 8AM-6PM

Sat: 8AM-12PM



The Standard of
Veterinary Excellence

Island Hammock Pet Hospital®

Dr. Martha Edwards, Dr. Marta Pawluk & Dr. Suzanne Sigel



Please visit our website at www.IHPHonline.com

- ✓ Dr. Martha - serving Upper Keys pets since 1991
- ✓ Practicing Preventative Medicine and Wellness
- ✓ Providing Comprehensive Medical Services
- ✓ 24 Hour **EMERGENCY** Service
- ✓ Dog and Cat Boarding with Virtual visitation, provided by our KennelCams
- ✓ Locally Owned, Locally Operated

Island Hammock Pet Hospital® - *Passionate about animals, compassionate about animal care*



NUM THAI RESTAURANT & SUSHI BAR

103200 Overseas Hwy.
Key Largo, FL 33037
(305) 451-5955
Fax (305) 451-1488

Mon. - Fri.
Lunch 11:30 - 3:00
Dinner 5:00 - 10:00
Sat. - Sun. 5:00 - 10:00

Massage Therapy

Treat Yourself
Therapeutic * Relaxation
Lymphatic * Certified Reflexologist * Hot Stone
Massage

Mobile Massage Therapy
In the comfort
of *Your*
Home, Office, or Vacation Rental

Gift Certificates
&
Couples Massages
Available



Kristi Mitchell
Licensed Massage Therapist
305.393.1617

KeyLargoMassage.com

MA43285 Member FSMTA, AMTA, IAHP, NMT Center Nationally Certified

FLY OFF THE WALL PEST SERVICES

Commercial & Residential Pest Control

Montee Raulerson, Owner/Operator
(305) 797-5831

We treat for crawling insects & rodents
Tree & Lawn Spraying/Locally Owned & Operated
PestFree@FlyOffTheWall.net

WOLFE & WOLFE

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**Individualized Attention For
Your Business and Personal
Accounting Needs**

- Tax Planning & Preparation
- Auditing, Review & Compilation Services
- Business Plans, Forecasts & Projections
- Estate & Trust Services
- Small Business Computer Services

88785 Overseas Hwy.
Plantation Key
305-852-5002
wolfecpa@snappydsl.net

Well Found Yachts



Offices throughout South Florida

Mark Lipkus

Tel 305-451-5385

Fax 305-451-1618

www.wellfoundyachts.com • E Mail: mark@wellfoundyachts.com
HEAD OFFICE: 182 LORELANE PLACE • KEY LARGO, FLORIDA 33037

STEVEN J. SMITH, M.D., P.A.

DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

5701 Overseas Highway, Suite #8
First Professional Centre
Marathon, FL 33050

Office 743-3511
Home 743-3140



Windy Day Plumbing

"We do it all"

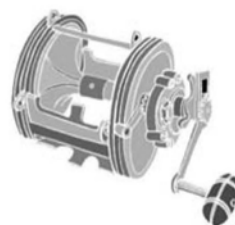
Phone 305- 664-9701
Key Largo 305-453-1169
Fax 305- 664-2455

82891 Overseas Hwy.
P.O. Box 569
Islamorada, FL 33036

Lic. #CFC 057609

D. J.'s Reel Repair

Penn, Daiwa, Shimano & others
Parts and Service



P. O. Box 27
Tavernier, Florida 33070

305-852-5007
305-393-6934

Linda Perloff



Thank You For Your
Continued Trust & Referrals!

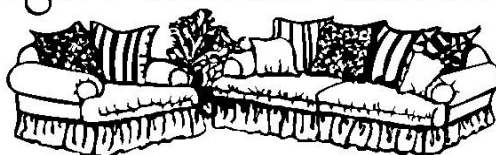


Linda@LPerloff.com

Direct — 305 394-2616

www.LPerloff.com

Angie's Custom Cushions



Angie Lucas
305-852-7215

UPHOLSTERY • FABRICS • FOAM • SLIPCOVERS • BEDS & DREADS

Upper Keys Veterinary Hospital

www.upperkeysvet.com

Robert H. Foley DVM

drbob@upperkeysvet.com

87801 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

305-852-3665 Phone • 305-852-9646 Fax



Wheaton Service Center

MARK WHEATON, Manager



Phone 305-451-3500

101500 Overseas Hwy.
Key Largo, FL 33037

KITCHEN & BATH SPECIALISTS

DOE WINSLOW
Owner

88511 Overseas Highway
Showroom • Suite 10
Tavernier, FL 33070
305-852-4302 • Fax 305-852-4303
kitchenandbath@terranova.net

PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL • MARINE

*"If it's not at
Keys Supply,
It's not in
the Keys"*

Keys Supply of Key Largo Inc.

NM 102.1 Ocean side, Key Largo

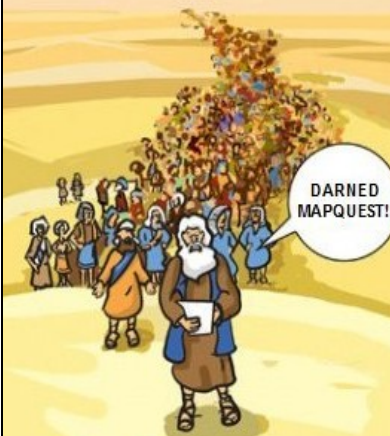
305-451-9515

NM 88.9 Bay side, Plantation Key

305-852-3711



40 YEARS IN THE DESERT.



island installs

finish
carpentry



Greg LeNoir

206 matecumbe ave.

islamorada, fl 33036

cell 305-393-6185

phone/fax 305-664-0607

Lic.# SP3375

greglenoir@aol.com

*Peace of Mind
Property Management Services*

Stop!

Don't leave
your House/Condo
unattended

Minor problems can turn into Major
expenses.

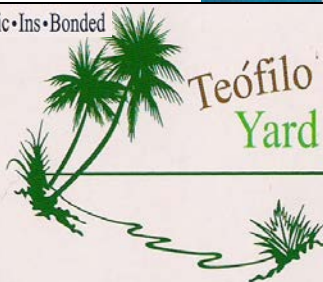
Weekly, Bi-Monthly, or
Monthly
Inspection Services

Call

305-209-6337



Lic•Ins•Bonded



**Teófilo Rodríguez
Yard Service**

Landscaper for
the KJCC

YARD MAINTENANCE • WEED CONTROL • TRIM BROWN PALM

CELL: (305)394-1294

T&H Tolley & Hill, PLLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SHAWN W. TOLLEY, C.P.A.

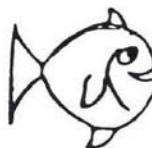
97665 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, Florida 33037

Tel (305) 852-9898
Fax (305) 852-9997

VIC'S AUTO TECH

TEL: 305-852-5098
FAX: 305-852-0778

90575 OLD HIGHWAY
TAVERNIER, FL 33070



Key Largo

DOTTIE HILL
Owner

FISHERIES

Seapod & Bait INC.

Wholesale - Retail

Miami (305) 248-5221
Key Largo (305) 451-3782
Fla. 1-800-432-4358
FAX (305) 451-3215
www.keylargofisheries.com • E-mail: klfish333@aol

Office Hours By Appointment

Paul E. Bernstein, D.D.S., P.A.

Turek Building
P.O. Box 587
Tavernier, Florida 33070

Telephone: (305) 852-5088

Women's Clothing

Anthony's

Key Largo
M. M. 98.5
305-852-4515

Marathon
Gulfside Village
305-743-5855



Key Largo
Floral & Gifts

Helene & Gary Brodtkin

305-451-3702

www.keylargoflorist.com

99551 Overseas Highway • Key Largo, Florida 33037

TELEPHONE (305) 670-7665
FACSIMILE (305) 670-7668

E-MAIL: lk@lindakaplan.com
WEBSITE: www.lindakaplan.com

LINDA M. KAPLAN, ESQ.
REPRESENTATION LIMITED TO IMMIGRATION
AND NATIONALITY LAW

LINDA M. KAPLAN, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

9500 S.DADELAND BLVD.
SUITE 703
MIAMI, FL 33156

Charter
Pest Control Inc.

(305) 451-3389 (800) 471-0166
300 Atlantic Dr. Key Largo

- Household Pests • Ants • Roaches
- Fleas • Ticks • Rodents
- Yard Treatments

JOHN'S PLUMBING SERVICE, INC.

"WHEN YOU WANT IT DONE RIGHT
THE FIRST TIME"

(305) 852-4152

Residential • Commercial Plumbing

Lic #CFC1425673

P.O. Box 1703

Tavernier, FL 33070



Nationally recognized trial lawyers
representing clients whose lives or
businesses have been seriously damaged
by the misconduct of others

KEY WEST

509 Whitehead Street
Key West, Florida 33040
305.509.7734

CORAL GABLES

2525 Ponce De Leon Boulevard
Suite 1150
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
305.442.8666

SARASOTA

Grossman Roth & Partridge
Suite 777
1800 Second Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236
941.365.8666

BOCA RATON

Wells Fargo Plaza
Suite 350
925 S. Federal Highway
Boca Raton, Florida 33432
561.367.8666



GROSSMAN ROTH, P.A.
T R I A L L A W Y E R S

www.grossmanroth.com

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PERMIT NO. 39
TAVERNIER, FL