Chai-Lights



January 1 - February 29, 2024

20 Tevet - 20 Adar I, 5784

Chanukah Dinner a Happy Success — Pages 18-19 Thai Food for Christmas — Page 21 KJCC Artists Show Their Work — Page 22 Supporting Israel — Page 26-27



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 JAN	2	3	4	5	6
	Happy New Year				Joe Shabathai Lucinda Kurtz & Oran Hesterman	
7 Sisterhood	8	9	10	11	12	13
at KJCC 10 a.m. 1st Hebrew for beginners 12 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day 2 p.m.	Committee for Israel on Zoom 3:30 p.m.	Rosh Chodesh women's circle 3 p.m.		Rosh Chodesh Shevat	Rivka Rizzo-Trent Jan Price	
KJCC board meets on Zoom 10 a.m. Hebrew group 12 p.m.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	Mandel Bread Workshop 3:30 p.m.	18	Randy Klein Gross Jan Price	20
Hebrew group 12 p.m.	22	23	24	Z5 Tu B'Shevat Sisterhood Book club 12:30 p.m.	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner Alan & Chely Markowitz	27
Hebrew group 12 p.m.	29	30	31	1 FEB	2 Rivka Rizzo-Trent Beth Horowitz	3
4 Sisterhood at KJCC 10 a.m. Hebrew group 12 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day 2 p.m.	5	6	7	Age-ing & Sage-ing 3 p.m.	9 Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Joyce Peckman Erica Leiberman Garrett, Jan Price, Arthur Plutzer	10
11 KJCC Board meeting 9 a.m. Annual Meeting, Election & Luncheon 11 a.m.	12	13	14	Age-ing & Sage-ing 3 p.m.	Sisterhood Loni Padden	17
Hebrew group 12 p.m.	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	Age-ing & Sage-ing 3 p.m.	Advertisers/New Members Dinner 6 p.m. Ken Atlas Sisterhood	24
25 Hebrew group 12 p.m. Crochet workshop 2 p.m.	26	27	28	Sisterhood Book club 12:30 p.m. Age-ing & Sage-ing 3 p.m.	Services are every Fi Names denote ser Italicized names are	vice leaders.

2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



y attention is still firmly planted in the Middle East, I wish I could sav I saw an end in sight, but I don't. There are 4 major players in the mix. They are Israel, Hamas, Qatar and the US. To be clear. Oatar is no friend to Israel. When I flew to India. I flew on Oatar Airways for the first (and last) time! During the flight, I looked at the online flight map, and noticed it was showing Palestine where Israel should be. To add insult to injury, they lost my checked luggage, and refused compensation for it. This from the national airline of the country which is the actual home of Hamas leaders.

The US position has been very mixed. On one hand, they consistently tell Israel it has full American support. On the other hand, at every turn, US officials try to tone down Israel's military options.

As Jewish Americans, what

fold: 1. Write our senators and congressmen to show support of Israel. 2. Donate to Israeli causes, both in the war effort, and to those that help affected Israeli business stay afloat. There are several organizations that help sell Israeli products. Lev Haolam is one such organization.

On the home front, things continue to get worse for us. In addition to the anti-Semitic rhetoric on college campuses, there have been near violent issues outside Jewish delis, and over 30 bomb threats at synagogues from here to Maine, and California.

It's hard to stay positive for Israel, when things are becoming so bad in our home country. But we must. And thankfully, we've had no problems or signs of problems at KJCC or anywhere in the Keys.

Stay Safe <

Shabbat Service Leaders

January 5	Joe Shabathai
January 12	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
January 19	Randy Klein Gross
January 26	Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
February 2	Rivka Rizzo-Trent
February 9	Joyce Peckman
February 16	Sisterhood
February 23	Ken Atlas

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Beginners' Hebrew group will meet at KJCC Sundays at 12 p.m. and on Zoom Thursdays at 5 p.m. Contact Joyce Peckman

	and on zoom Thursday's at 5 p.m. contact Joyce reckindin
Friday, Jan. 5	7:30 pm. Shabbat service led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday, Jan. 7	10 a.m. Sisterhood at KJCC 12 p.m. Hebrew for beginners – first meeting 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day
Monday Jan. 8	3:30 p.m. Committee for Israel on Zoom
Tuesday, Jan. 9	3 p.m. Rosh Chodesh women's circle
Friday, Jan. 12	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Sunday, Jan. 14	10 a.m. KJCC board meets on Zoom 12 p.m. Hebrew group led by Joyce Peckman
Weds, Jan. 17	3:30 p.m. Mandel Bread Workshop led by Luz Levine
Friday, Jan. 19	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Randy Klein Gross
Sunday, Jan. 21	12 p.m. Hebrew group
Thursday, Jan. 25	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book club
Friday, Jan. 26	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
Sunday, Jan. 28	12 p.m. Hebrew group
Friday, Feb. 2	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent
Sunday, Feb. 4	10 a.m. Sisterhood meeting 12 p.m. Hebrew group 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day
Thursday, Feb. 8	3 p.m. Age-ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda and Oran
Friday Feb. 9	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Joyce Peckman
Sunday, Feb. 11	9 a.m. KJCC Board meeting 11 a.m. Annual Meeting, Election and Luncheon
Thursday, Feb. 15	3 p.m. Age-ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda and Oran
Friday, Feb. 16	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Sisterhood
Sunday, Feb. 18	12 p.m. Hebrew group
Thursday, Feb. 22	3 p.m. Age-ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda and Oran
Friday, Feb. 23	6 p.m. Advertisers/New Members Dinner 7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Ken Atlas
Sunday, Feb. 25	12 p.m. Hebrew group 2 p.m. Crochet workshop led by Nadine Thompson
Thursday, Feb. 29	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book club 3 p.m. Age-ing & Sage-ing with Lucinda and Oran

NOSH

Beginning Hebrew study group

Hebrew is central to Judaism. It is both the holy language of the Torah and the language that binds us as a people. If you know how to read the letters, you share something with fellow Jews around the globe. You can walk into a shul and pick up a prayerbook anywhere in the world. If you know a relatively small vocabulary, those prayers will have a deeper meaning. Hebrew is also the living language of Israel. We should at least know its letters.

On January 7th, Joyce will be starting a group for kids and adults, meeting for an hour twice a week - Sundays at noon at KJCC, and Thursdays at 5 p.m. on Zoom. We will begin with the letters, but also words that you will hear in prayers as well as on the street. This is a family commitment, not a drop off Hebrew school. We request that each child have a parent who will also either register for the class or help out if they know how to read Hebrew. We envision this as a group effort, with Joyce as the organizer. If we have some committed adults, we can get the consistency and continuity of learning needed for success. Our goal is to prepare our kids for bar and bat mitzvah, and help our adults stretch their brains and hearts.

Mandel Mania

Did you know that "mandlbroyt" is Yiddish for almond bread? It was an excellent dessert that kept well and traveled easily, appreciated as a Shabbat gift. Over time, some cooks began to add dried fruit or chocolate chips. We know it as the delicious treat that Luz Levine often brings to our potluck dinners.

On Wednesday, January 17th at 3:30 p.m. Luz will share her secrets as she leads a mandel bread workshop at KJCC. She will bring the flour, oil, sugar and almonds. We need to bring our own bowls, cookie sheets, measuring spoons & cups, a sharp slicing knife and something to mix with. Dried fruit or chips are optional.

Crochet Workshop

Nadine Thompson has been leading a much-enjoyed class in crochet at the Joy Center. On Sunday, February 25th at 2 p.m. she will bring that talent, along with crochet hooks and yarn, to KJCC. Women and men with any level of skill (or none) are welcome to come. If there is interest, the group can become ongoing.

Sisterhood Book Club

The last Thursday of the month at 12:30 is a time to discuss our book (and often our life experiences) on Zoom or at someone's home. On January 25th at the home of Jan Price we will talk about "Cloud Cuckoo Land" by Anthony Doerr. This novel has a bit of fantasy to it, different from our usual reads. On Thursday, February 29th we will discuss "Israel, a Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth." This charming, funny and frank book by actress and author Noa Tishby serves as a marvelous introduction to contemporary Israel as it was just prior to October 7th. \diamond

ONEG SPONSORS —					
Jan. 05	Lucinda Kurtz & Oran Hesterman for Lucinda's birthday	Feb. 09	Erica Leiberman Garrett for her birthday		
Jan. 12	Jan Price celebrating her birthday		Arthur Plutzer in honor of Linda Pollock		
Jan. 19	in memory of her grandfather William A Hoyer & his mother Elize Eidam Hoyer		Jan Price in celebration of all the loving creatures making our lives rich		
Jan. 26		Feb. 16	Loni Padden in honor of anniversary with David		
J	honoring Hedy Markowitz's birthday	Feb. 23	Sisterhood		
Feb. 02	Beth Horowitz for her birthday				

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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

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

CHAI-LIGHTS ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429 or email *lindap4000@ymail.com*., for rates.

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305–393–1351, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Loni Padden 305-772-2584 or email at *dr.padden@yahoo.com*.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations, condolence card, or phone call from the KJCC, call Lonie Padden, 305-772-2584, or email *dr.padden@yahoo.com*.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES:

Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 305–587–7429 or *lindap4000@ymail.com*. Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: *keysjewishcenter.com*. Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai–Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked to our various ongoing funds; e.g. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

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

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023 -

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of	Other
Jeff & Cheryl Margulie	sIlse Doellefeld Benjamin Margulies	Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary BarefootAid to Israel
Robert Temkin	Harold Goldberg Julius Kohlenbrener Burton BoruszakKenny Temkin In Janet Kaplan	Linda Perloff Aid to Israel Allen & Esther Samson Memory of Tomar Gross Susan Ellner Stanley Margulies Paul & Susan Roberts
	ay her memory be a blessingSam Kofler	— SISTERHOOD DONATIONS —
Nancy Cohn	David M. Cohn David M. Cohn Dauline Roller Norma Robinson Hedy Kopecky Sheldon Paul Frankel Adele Bayer David Kaplan	General Donations Orlando Quesada Michael and Lorena Kaufman Oneg Sponsorships Barb & Richard Knowles celebrating their anniversary Donna Bolton celebrating her birthday Steve and Jan Hartz celebrating their birthdays and
Yahrzeit Plaque Linda Perloff	Mitch Harvey Beth Hayden	anniversary Jan Pricecelebrating her birthday honoring her grandfather & great grandmother, honoring all our furry friends.

A few weeks ago, we asked Rabbi Agler, our Scholar Emeritus, for some words of wisdom re the increasingly desperate situation in Israel and anti-semitism around the world. He did not have enough time for this issue, but offered to lead a zoom discussion (date TBA) on the topic and still shared the following valuable suggestion:

"Just to share with you my primary thought—it is basically that we should learn how to consume news carefully and wisely. We can be overly susceptible to what the media shares with us daily. Better to establish a solid and factual internal foundation of understanding in advance. After which, we can more readily discern what reporting and commentary are worth our time and which are not. And which are worth our emotional and mental bandwidth and which are not."



In Memoriam – January 2024

Talia Agler

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Sunnie Bernstein

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Bernice Bernstein

by Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Annette Bitton

by Michel Bitton

Muriel Blitzer

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Emma Kohlenbrener

Ioan Boruszak

Irving J. Kulick

by Thomas & Renèe Brodie

Yetta Hitzig

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Lola Rosenberg

by Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

William Brooks

by Lynn Dils

Jimmy Gottesman

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Lester Singer

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Sheldon Paul Frankel

by Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Toby Goldfinger

by David A. Goldfinger

Marvin Greenbaum

by Marilyn Greenbaum

Judy Lombardi

by Marilyn Greenbaum

Louis Hartz

by Steven & Jan Hartz

Ernest Isenberg

by Patricia Isenberg

Bernard Kaminstein

by Beth Kaminstein

David M. Kaplan

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Walter Hankin

by Richard & Barbara Knowles

Goldie Schweitzer

by Richard & Barbara Knowles

John Evans

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Maria Quesada

by Orlando Quesada

Clayton Allan Rakov

by Neal & Cathy Rakov

Mr. Samuel Roth

by Joel & Mary Roth

Jerry Lundy

by Elaine Schulberg

Bea Gulkis

by Elaine Schulberg

Joan Kaminsky

by Elaine Schulberg

Paul Kaminsky

by Elaine Schulberg

Nat Gulkis

by Elaine Schulberg

Joseph Cohen

by Jules & Nettie Seder

Jacob Menahem Shabathai

by Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Janet Garfinkel

by Betty Small

Hedy Kopecky

by Adam & Judy Starr

Sally Sussman

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Karen Hayhurst

by Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

Morris I. Estrin

by Lillian Tallent

Arthur Lee Willner

by Johanna Willner

Adele Siegel Bayer

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memoriam – February 2024

Sue Steinberg

by Richard & Mindy Agler

Beatrice Avner

by Gloria & Mark Avner

Lou Roazen

by Sylvia Berman

Joshua Daniel Blitzer

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Judy Strumer Hartman

by Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Eve Greenstein

by Barnet O. Coltman

Nathan Weisberg

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Robert Kinney

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Herbert Frankel

by Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Charles Gilson

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Rose Gilson

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Ida Ratchik

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Fannie Phillips

by Patricia Isenberg

Pinchas Kaboli

by Yardena Kamely

Irving Stockser

by Sandy Kaplan

Nella Gross

by Randy Klein-Gross

Joseph Krissel

by Michael Krissel

Joseph Kaufman by Jeff & Lisa Miller

Irene Nobil

by Lynn Nobil

Sara J. Cohen

by Lynn Nobil

William Pollack

by Linda Pollack

Malka Frank

by Linda Pollack

Bianka Kirschenbaum

by Medina Roy

Alvina Shutan

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

John A. Schur

by Lee Schur

Miriam Blinder

by Steven & Barbara Smith

Mr. Harry Miller

by Shirley Stein

Sara J. Cohen

by Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Ann R. Kapulskey

by Muriel Swartz

David C. Willner

by Johanna Willner

Morris Feinberg

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Samuel Wolfe

by Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Birthdays

January	
1st	.Justin Wade Gilson
1st	Laura Goodman
2nd	Sherrie Willner
3rd	Lucinda Kurtz
4th	Howard Gilson
4th	Randi W. Freundlich
6th	Stanley Margulies
8th	Jan Price Shiloh
8th	Matthew Barrett
9th	Cathy Rakov
12th	Alex Dutton
13th	Amy Nobil
15th	Charlie Horowitz
15th	Heather Gilson
15th	Jamie Goodman
16th	Brieze Levy
17th	Andrea Kluger
17th	N <mark>eal Ra</mark> kov
17th	Suzi- <mark>Saro</mark> t Feder
19th	Benjamin Friedman
19th	Mark Kanarek
19th	Sandy Seder
24th	Bev Strumor-Blitzer
24th	.Randy Klein-Gross
26th	Marshall Kaplan

27th	Beth Hudson
28th	Arthur Itkin
28th	Yardena Kamely
29th	Beth Kaminstein
29th	Jeffrey Boruszak
30th	Kristen M. Schur
Falaman,	
February	
	Roy Pollack
2ndJax	son Brandon Lebofsky
2nd	Max Gordon Trent
3rd	Beth Horowitz
5th	Rebecca Smith
6th	Evan Harvey
7th E	rica Lieberman Garrett
9th	Linda Pincus
9th	Ron Garrett
9th	Rosemary Barefoot
12th	Johnny Knowles
12th	Paul Roberts
13th	David Levi
22nd	Harry Friedman
23rd	Sienna Rose Lebofsky
24th	Muriel Swartz
25th	.M'Liss Regent-Cunha
25th	Rita Conklin
26th	John D. Schur

Anniversaries

Februa	ary	Years
14th	David & Loni Padden	15

WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



A New Leader

By now, we are all familiar with the three college presidents who, during a Congressional hearing in December, failed to state that calls for the genocide of Jews would violate their schools' codes of conduct. The testimony of all three - Claudine Gay of Harvard, Liz Magill of the University of Pennsylvania, and Sally Kornbluth, MIT - drew a huge amount of criticism. Penn was already dealing with a crisis related to antisemitism in the weeks prior to the barbaric Hamas attack of October 7th, when a festival featuring Palestinian writers drew criticism. Magill's testimony before Congress drew criticism from Pennsylvania's Jewish governor, Josh Shapiro, and even from the White House. After Magill backtracked her remarks, she resigned her position with Penn. And so, the board of the university selected Julie Platt, the board's vice chair, to replace Magill.

Platt is one of the most prominent Jewish communal leaders in the United States. A 1979 Penn graduate, Platt has been on its board of trustees since 2006. She is also the chair of *Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)*, the umbrella of 147 local Jewish communal bodies that has collected more than \$700 million – and allocated more than \$240 million – to drive the American Jewish philanthropic response to the October 7th attack on Israel.

Platt, 66, is the daughter of Joan Schiff Beren, a philanthropist, and Robert Beren, an oil magnate and philanthropist. Of her five children, four are Penn graduates. (Actor Ben Platt is one her children and her husband is Hollywood producer Marc Platt.) The family has been involved in a large number of Jewish educational initiatives. Julie Platt became the second woman to lead JFNA's board last year. The Platt family has also supported local Jewish communities in the U.S. in strengthening their own response to antisemitism through an initiative, LiveSecure, which was created in 2021. (By the way...the JFNA was responsible for staging

the largest Jewish rally in American history on the National Mall in Washington, DC this past November.) (www.timesofisrael.com, 12-11-23)

Outrageous (Again)!

Back in September, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and declared ancient Jericho to be a World Heritage Site. That's the good news. Ancient Jericho is indeed a site of great significance, largely regarded as one of the oldest cities in the world. (There is evidence of human settlement in Jericho going as far back as some 11,000 years.) The city is mentioned many times in the Hebrew Bible and was the site of the Israelites' first battle in their conquest of the Land of Israel. This is documented in the Book of Joshua (who upon the death of Moses, remember, became the Israelites' leader). The city was an important center during the Hasmonean (Maccabees) and Herodian periods. The remains of several extraordinary synagogues have been uncovered in and around the city. But UNESCO's inscription omits all of that information. "...vestiges from the Middle Bronze Age that reveal the presence of a large Canaanite city-state occupied by a socially complex population" - that's the portion of the text that accompanies the site's designation as a World Heritage Site. There is absolutely no reference whatsoever to the city's Jewish history or its connection to the biblical narrative.

But that's not the worst of it. UNESCO is attributing Jericho to the "State of Palestine," not only erasing the city's Jewish heritage but also conspiring with Palestinian efforts to claim Jericho as their own. This is not the first time UNESCO has played along with Palestinian attempts at taking over Jewish history. Since 2012, these three other West Bank locations also designated as World Heritage Sites have been attributed to

the "State of Palestine" - Hebron, home to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, one of the holiest sites in Judaism; Battir (known in ancient times as Betar), the site of an ancient Jewish village and a consequential battle during the Bar-Kochba Revolt against Rome; and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. And the Palestinians intend to submit additional sites for consideration such as Nablus (ancient Shechem), Mount Gerizim and Qumran, the archaeological site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, among others. The fact that there currently is no "State of Palestine" is the reason the United States and Israel withdrew from UNESCO after the so-called "state" was admitted to the U.N. General Assembly in 2011. (It was actually after the Bar Kochba revolt - the third and final lewish rebellion against Roman rule - that Rome renamed the entire region Palestine, the name taken from, ironically, the Philistines, who lived in today's Gaza. That territory - it has never been a country - included what is now the country of Jordan for almost two thousand years, until the British carved out Transjordan in 1922 to appease oil-rich Arabs. Most of the population of Jordan is Palestinian Arab.) (www.jpost.com, 9-19-23)

Helping the Deaf in Times of War

For the first month of Israel's war with Hamas, Shani Bibi spent every night with her parents at their apartment in Ramat Gan. Both her parents are deaf and would sleep through the air raid sirens. She stayed with them in order to wake them and get them to the shelter. They had 90 seconds to get there.

Bibi is the entrepreneur behind CODA (Children of Deaf Adults), a startup that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to turn the spoken word into instant sign language. But there had to be something better to address the situation regarding the deaf population during times of war. Searching for a solution, she found a smartwatch and downloaded the siren app offered by Home Front Command, which most Israelis have on their smartphones. It makes the watch vibrate and wake the user. Bibi tested 20 different makes and models of smartwatches and found one - the Xiaomi 8 - that would readily connect with siren apps and had a function where she could set the length and intensity of the vibration. As of December 14th, she has distributed over 300 watches to the deaf community in Tel Aviv. There are almost 800,000 deaf or hearing-impaired people among Israel's

9.3 million population, of whom some 50,000 are deaf or deaf and blind. "I speak with deaf people every day who tell me they can't sleep at night," Bibi said. "The husband will stay awake while the wife is sleeping and then they'll change shifts. She'll stay awake while he sleeps. It's crazy that people have to live like that." She is planning next to raise 80,000 shekels (\$20,700) to provide some 400 watches for Holon residents and after that, she's looking to expand to other cities. (www.israel21c.org, 12-14-23)

A Troubling Message

Back in November, there was an initiative to rename the Anne Frank Day Care Center in Tangerhütte, a small town in northern Germany, to World Explorers, alleging that children have a hard time understanding the message behind the story of the iconic Jewish girl murdered in the Holocaust. Many German leaders have consistently voiced their commitment to promoting Holocaust awareness and education across all of Germany. Debate over the center's name drew negative attention across the country, but Mayor Andreas Brohm defended the school's move. German media reported that "parents wanted the center to push a message more focused on international diversity." The International Auschwitz Committee, which was founded by Holocaust survivors, strongly condemned the renaming. The school has had the Anne Frank name since 1970. Christoph Heubner, deputy chairman of the International Holocaust Committee, said, "If you are willing to dismiss your own history so carelessly, especially in these times of new antisemitism and right-wing extremism, and if Anne Frank's name is perceived as unsuitable in public space, you can only become fearful and anxious when it comes to the culture of remembrance in our country." The renaming decision led to Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan's call for reconsideration. In a letter to Brohm, Dayan urged him to preserve Anne Frank's memory. Dayan wrote: "Anne Frank's story serves as a lasting reminder of the enduring human spirit and the need to combat hatred and intolerance. She is a beacon of hope and inspiration. I sincerely hope that, upon reflection, you will reverse the decision to change the center's name and reaffirm Tangerhütte's commitment to Holocaust awareness and education."

At last check, it was reported that Brohm said that the day care center had decided to end the discussion about changing its name following the outcry. Anti-Semitic incidents have spiked across Western Europe since Oct. 7th, when Hamas, after months or years of planning, brutally attacked Israel, killing 1,200 Israelis and kidnapping hundreds. (www.jpost.com, 11-6-23 and www.jpost.com, 11-8-23)

In Memoriam

- The 444 Israeli soldiers (as of this writing) who have been killed since the October 7th barbaric massacre by Hamas. We continue to pray for all the wounded and the safe return to Israel of all the hostages.
- Gunther ("Guy") Stern, a German-Jewish refugee and one of the last known surviving members of the celebrated WW II military intelligence unit known as the "Ritchie Boys," died in early December, a little over a month shy of his 102nd birthday.

Born in Hildesheim, Germany, Stern saw many of his friends sign up to join the Hitler Youth. When he was 15, he became the only member of his family to escape death at the hands of the Nazis when his parents managed to find the resources to send him to stay with a relative in St. Louis. He tried in vain to find a stateside sponsorship for his parents and siblings but because he ended up dealing with a dishonest lawyer, he was unable to find a sponsor who would grant them secure passage. His entire family was murdered in the Holocaust.

Stern became a U.S. citizen and was drafted into the Army in 1943. He joined a select group of Jewish refugee soldiers who trained at Fort Ritchie in Maryland and became an intelligence operative. As a native German speaker, he was a valuable resource for interrogating Nazi prisoners of war. These "Ritchie Boys" – some 2,000 of them – were responsible for about 60 percent of the United State's usable intelligence during the war. Their job was top–secret and remained largely under wraps for decades; many of the veterans, unlike Stern, died without fully telling their stories.

After the war, Stern earned his bachelor's degree in 1948, followed by a master's and later a Ph.D. in German at Columbia University. He became both a comparative literature and Holocaust scholar. He also worked as a university administrator and served several top roles at Detroit's Wayne State University and the University of Cincinnati. Most recently Stern was a central figure in Ken Burns' 2022 PBS documentary "The

U.S. and the Holocaust." Prior to that, he appeared in a "60 Minutes" special. (A few years ago, KJCC's Jewish Film Festival held a screening of "The Ritchie Boys.") During his life, Stern received many honors for his service. In 2021, the U.S. Senate honored the Ritchie Boys' service with a bipartisan resolution. (www.ita.org, 12-13-23)

Did You Know...

- According to a recent report by scholars at Haifa University's Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies, American Jewry raised \$1 billion for Israel in just the first month of the war with Hamas. The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is responsible for \$602 million and the remaining \$400 million came from donations to other communal and private organizations with a Jewish affiliation, including friendship associations, hospitals, and emergency services among others. "Just as the war has united Israeli society..., so has the American Jewish public rallied around the common cause...," the authors of the report wrote. (www.timesofisrael.com, 12–14–23)
- Long Island (NY) Republicans have selected Mazi Melesa Pilip, an Ethiopian Jewish Nassau County legislator, to run in the special election to replace George Santos, who was expelled after he was exposed for alleged fraud and lies, including the untruth that he was Jewish.

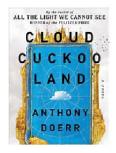
Pilip, 44, is an Orthodox Jewish mother of seven who served as a paratrooper in the Israeli army. She campaigned in Israel for better representation of Ethiopian Jews and now has taken a leading role in campaigning against the spike in antisemitism in New York since Hamas terrorists massacred 1.200 people in Israel on Oct. 7, launching Israel's current war. Pilip was 12 during Operation Solomon, the 1991 airlift that brought Ethiopian Jews to Israel. After a stint in the paratroop division of the army, she studied occupational therapy and diplomacy at Israeli universities. She ran for her seat on the Nassau County legislature in 2021 in part because of the antisemitism she said her son faced in middle school. Pilip ousted a Democrat to win her spot in 2021 after asking Jewish supporters to put her up over Shabbat so she could visit synagogues. She was reelected in November. Pilip was among many Long Island Republicans who denounced Santos and called on him to resign as soon as his almost unfathomable list of deceptions were revealed. (www.jta.org, 12-15-23) >



Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, January 25, 2024 ~ Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr, home of Jan Price
Thursday, February 29, 2024 ~ Israel--A Simple Guide by Noah Tishby, home of Joyce Peckman



The novel centers around an
Ancient Greek codex that
links characters from
fifteenth-century

Constantinople, present-day
Idaho, and a
twenty-second-century
starship.



Chronological timeline
spanning from Biblical times
to today that explores one
of the most interesting
countries in the world Israel

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

All sessions are at 12:30 p.m.

Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman



t the start of 2022 the world was beginning to emerge from the trauma of a pandemic. The Keys Jewish Community Center, Congregation Ohr HaYam, small to begin with, had faced the challenge of remaining an active community with a closed building. Now we had to reopen, re-energize and grow. We knew our actions that coming year would be crucial to ensure the survival and growth of KICC. We were still "wobbly" from being apart, uncertain how to reopen, and needing to select officers. We needed time to make sure that we were solidly on our feet. We knew that Sisterhood would be key to that process. It provides much of the social activity that brings together old and new members, creating a community.

There was no younger, energetic person with enough experience at KJCC to take on the important role of Sisterhood president. Each of us had worked very hard the past few years- running the Zoom communications that kept us together, continuing the momentum of providing onegs (even if virtual), keeping the membership lists, maintaining and upgrading the building and grounds. Each of us still had huge responsibilities at KJCC, not to mention grandchildren who were calling us away. Each of us had served for two years as president of Sisterhood in the past. We felt that we could do this critical job if we did it together.

We are overjoyed to report that KJCC is back firmly on its feet. We will never forget the feeling of joy experienced when we sat together in the social hall for the first time after so long! We are back to providing delicious food on Friday nights, encouraging members and guests to stay and schmooze. We have held potluck dinners, book club meetings, challah bakes, Rosh Chodesh women's circles and Sisterhood-led Shabbat ser-

vices. We have welcomed new members into our KJCC family. `

Looking to the start of 2024, we see plenty of activities on the calendar. Our first meeting will be Sunday, January 7th, when we hand the gavel to incoming President Loni Padden. On Tuesday, Ianuary 9th at 3 p.m., Lucinda will lead a women's Rosh Chodesh Circle, welcoming the month of Shevat on sacred ground behind the sanctuary. On Wednesday, January 17th at 3:30 Luz Levine will lead a mandel bread workshop, sharing the secrets of the outstanding dessert she brings to our dinners. Book club will meet Thursday, January 25th at 12:30 p.m at the home of Jan Price and on Zoom. On February 11th we host the luncheon that will follow KJCC's annual general meeting. Sisterhood will lead Shabbat services on Friday, February 16th, a much-anticipated event for many. The Advertisers/New members' dinner. coordinated by Medina Roy, will be held on Friday, February 23rd. The final Sunday of February will feature Nadine Thompson, who teaches crocheting at the Joy Center, leading a workshop at KJCC. If people like it, we can continue on a regular basis.

We are thrilled with the incoming Sisterhood board. Loni Padden's creativity and positive energy make her a perfect leader. Vice President Jane Friedman's dedication and hard work are beyond description. Erica Lieberman Garret has been an outstanding treasurer and will continue performing this critical task (along with everything else she does). We gladly welcome Jan Price as our new secretary. This will be our last message as Sisterhood co-presidents. We send our love and a huge thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make our term successful. \diamond



Age-ing to Sage-ing: Claiming Your Wise Elder

An adult education class offered at Ohr Ha Yam by Lucinda Kurtz & Oran Hesterman

"Age-ing to Sage-ing: Claiming Your Wise Elder," a four-week class presented by Lucin-da Kurtz, M.A. and Oran Hesterman, Ph.D., will offer powerful practices for identifying and claiming the wisdom of our maturing lives. The class invites participants to create a new vision of our eldering years, one that allows us to revel in our accomplishments and harvest the fruits of our life experience.

Lucinda and Oran are certified Sage-ing Mentors trained at the Yerusha Sage-ing Legacy Program. Their intention is to help us discover our life's wisdom and explore our soul's journey. Their teaching is based upon the work of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi z"l, the founder of the Jewish Renewal movement and his book, From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older.

In his book, Reb Zalman provides a roadmap for expanding our perspective of the aging process that invites us to create healing in our relationships, find forgiveness for ourselves and others, and identify how we can manifest the wholeness of ourselves free of the constraints and ego needs of the first half of life.

Reb Zalman states, "Elderhood is a time of unparalleled inner growth having evolutionary significance in this era of world-wide cultural transformation. It is a call from the future, a journey for the health and survival of our ailing planet Earth." A key goal of the class is to help participants feel empowered to use their talents to benefit the next generation, the global community, and the earth.

Critical to this work, too, is understanding how to transform fears of aging and our mortality and reside in a place of greater equanimity and acceptance. We are invited to discover the preciousness of every moment of life and free ourselves of old patterns that no longer serve us. This enables us to become a Sage, "a person who deserves respect and honor and whose work it is to synthesize wisdom from long life experience and to formulate this into a legacy for future generations." (The Live Oak Project)

Class time will include brief lectures on key topics of "spiritual eldering," visioning and meditation exercises, journaling, and group discussion. This is not primarily a lecture class, but rather a set of experiential exercises. We also include music, poetry, video presentations, and chanting as part of the curriculum. We have fun in this class!!

Lucinda and Oran have shared this course of study at different locations in the U.S. and Mexico and are now bringing this program to Ohr Ha Yam, the Keys Jewish Community Center. The class will meet once a week for two hours on four successive Thursday late afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 PM: February 8, 15, 22, 29. It will cost \$36 per person for four sessions. Participants are expected to attend all four sessions.

For more information and to register for class, please contact Lucinda at *Lucinda@ lucindakurtz.com* or 734-635-9441. ♦



PHOTO GALLERY



Our KJCC members add so much to the lifeblood of this community. Here is Linda Pollack, playing ukulele with the JOYful band.

Jane and Rivka lead Kiddush after their lovely service.





Rivka, after leaders a beautiful service, salts the most delicious homemade challah ever, made by Jane Friedman.



Medina and Erica start out their post service oneg with Kiddush.



KJCC/Ohr HaYam members make up nearly half of those gathered at Settlers Park to honor and remember those paupers who died homeless in the Florida Keys this year. While we remember them and become their family for a day, we also remember Steve Steinbock's wife Carol Steinbock of blessed memory, who initiated our participation in this 18 year old tradition, always taking place on the Winter Solstice.



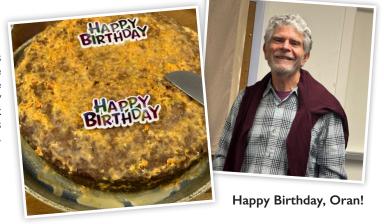


Thank you, Steve. We so appreciate oneg sponsors.



Erica Lieberman Garrett, Donna Bolton and Jane Friedman regularly prepare colorful, healthy refreshments for Onegs, our gatherings after services.

Delicious gluten free carrot cake created by Lucinda Kurtz for Oran's celebration.





Libby Peckman, 15 year old granddaughter of Joyce Peckman gets a taste of the power of group action at the pro-Israel March on Washington. See poem on page 27.



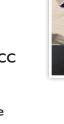
We are so proud of Harry Friedman. Mazel tov to the whole family on a successful five years of hard work.



Rabbi Zucker and his son-in-law travelled from Key West to Bud and Mary's rooftop with latkes and donuts to sing, dance and celebrate Chanukah with us.













Rachel Levy, Jane Friedman and Luz Levy, a trio of lovely women and fine bakers.







Geri Smith proudly wears her themed sweater to our Chanukah dinner.



Joyce Peckman's son Keith and his family light the lights.





Sunday Funday with Stan Margulies, Stuart Smith, Steve Steinbock, Linda Pollack, and Joyce Peckman.



Geri Smith plays 5 Crowns with Jeff and Cheryl Margulies, joined by their son, Brian.



The Brodies add their voices to the Kiddush after services led by Joyce and visiting Cantor.



We love celebrating our members' birthdays at sponsored Onegs



Joyce happily wields her challah cutting knife after leading services.

Joyce leading Kiddush with Cantor Wendy Shermet and family.





Following longstanding tradition, when few if any restaurants were open on Christmas Day, Jews go out for Asian food (or bring it in). This year 25 of us enjoyed a meal and cheerful fellowship at our favorite Restaurant, Num Thai.





A note to Rachael from Yardena Kamely. The bench is new, in honor of Rachel's mom and dad. Ellen and Marc Bloom. May their memories be a blessing: "Hi Rachael I visited yesterday my father's grave for his Yahrzeit. I get very emotional to see your Dad's grave next to my father's. And now your Mothers."



Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman.

KJCC HOLDS ART WORKSHOPS

Ten members had a good creative time learning about the ancient art of paper cutting and putting it into practice, using patterns designed by Artist Jeanette Kuven Orin. Here is a collage of their creations. Potters Medina, Lucinda and Oran went even farther and figured out how to make stencils of the designs to use on their pottery. Be inspired by Mickey, our 98 year old participant holding her blue peace dove. There are no limits.









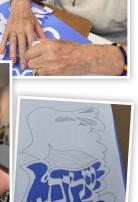


















Marcia Kreitman glows with obvious delight at the wondrous reception given to husband John David Hawver's new artwork at Hale Gallery. It's not too late to go. Have an art date with friends. Show is on until lan 22.



Artists appreciating the show mingle with KJCC members.



Challah makers unit to celebrate Shabbat around the world, the Shabbos project. Yum. Thank you, Jane Friedman, for your expertise and guidance.

JOHN HAWVER SOLO SHOW



Artist John David Hawver and gallery owner Taylor Hale could not be happier with the well-attended, joyous reception for John's new work.



Jon and Terry Wilner-Tainow know the neighborhood spots where the inspiring photos behind the paintings were taken.



Sunday Fun Day Game Day

Join your friends for an afternoon of game playing and camaraderie. We are meeting at the KJCC on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Sunday January 7, 2024 Sunday February 4, 2024 Time: 2-4 p.m.



Games will be provided beginning with Mexican Train, 5 Crowns, Phase 10 and Wahoo. If you would like bring a different game, by all means do so.

Thank you to Jeff and Cheryl Margulies for facilitating this enjoyable activity. If you have questions or input, they can be reached at \sim

Cheryl 201-681-8182 cherylmargulies@aol.com Jeff: 201-923-5013 jazzy316jeff@aol.com

Please RSVP to Susan Gordon so we can prepare for the day.

susangordon424@yahoo.com

305-766-3585



Lifting Up Our Light

December 2023 Tevet 5784 by Lucinda Kurtz

At this darkest time of year When the skies are blazing Red fire of anger and hate The new moon of Tevet Shines its wan light.

Can the bright candles of Chanukah
Light our path forward
Through the twisted tunnels
Of ancient feuds that
Tear us apart?

We hold our breath
Fearful of more destruction
As the embers of mistrust
Are fanned into uncontrolled flames
Spreading mourning and grief.

Can we rise above our scalding anger that
Consumes our energy
Triggers violence and pain,
Find the key to
Unlock the truth of our history

Stretch our imagination Envision a new story Encompassing us all?

We each are present
In this critical moment
For a purpose,
To make our unique contribution to
A cosmic tikkun
A transformational healing
By claiming power to
Shine our light.

In this month that has been, over history,
Time of great turmoil and trial
Let us penetrate necrotic layers
Of confusion and despair
Lift up our light
Illuminate a road to forgiveness
Discover a passageway through this morass
Creating a just and peaceful
Future for us all.





NEVER AGAIN IS NOW: THE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL

hirley Stein started this committee with its mission to help Israel with a call to all members after the October 7 Simchat Torah attacks. Thirteen of us responded, and we got together on November 2 around Shirley's kitchen

table. Some us came in person, and some of us by Zoom on a laptop in the center of that table. And so a working committee, the Committee for Israel, was born. We have met every other week since then, and hope to continue meeting in the foreseeable future. Our primary goal is to support Israel in her hour of great need. We also want to support Jewish students contending with anti-Semitism on their college or university campuses.

We are encouraging each other and all KJCC/Ohr HaYam members to support Israel in every way we can. Through the President's email, we recently sent out a list of a number of organi-

zations and their contact information. These are organizations that support Israel or help students on campuses in the shadow of anti-Semitism, or do both. They include: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; American Jewish Committee, Jewish National Fund, AMFDA, FIDF, AIPAC, Aish,

Hillel, Alums for Campus Fairness, Leket, Greater Miami Jewish Federation Israel Emergency Fund, and Faces International Israel (indicate for protective vests and helmets for soliders).

We also encourage you to contact our elected

representatives in Washington, D.C.: Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott and Congressman Carlos Gimenez. They deserve our thanks for their support of Israel, as well as our encouragement to continue that vital support from the Senate and Congress. You may also wish to thank President Biden for his strong stance after the attacks and urge him to continue that support of our great ally despite opposing pressure from certain quarters, as of this writing. You can find the contact information for these officials on their websites.

A friend of mine has said, "Never Again Is Now." How true those words ring at

these too-troubled times.

We hope to have more to report in your next issue of Chai Lights. Till then, may the months ahead bring us all better news, and a lifting of the clouds of insufferable hatred, prejudice, and war. Am Yisrael Chai. \diamond





THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

by Libby Peckman

Blue and white ribbons in the sky
In the shape of my soul

300,000 Jewish people and families praying, singing, crying.

In between each word spoken, was silence In between each sentence was applause

Each name was read with strength, love and fear

The truth was our lifeblood. "BRING THEM HOME" was shouted by our thoughts and words.

Hope for safety and freedom echoed in our minds.

We couldn't help but remember our Hebrew school teachers. At 5 years old they carved the words NEVER AGAIN into our brains.

NEVER AGAIN

NEVER AGAIN will we forget the generations of prejudice we had to endure.

The attempted genocide can never happen again.

At the time, never again felt like meaningless words spoken in a classroom.

But, never again is NOW. We must say NEVER AGAIN to the rallies supporting terrorists.

To the people shouting "FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA"; calling for the death of Jews.

To the uneducated who bully and harass us. Making comments they don't understand.

300,000 people rallied in Washington DC in support of Israel. We sang and shouted so loud as if the sound could travel to Israel.

We also cried out to the uneducated, the misanthropes, and the group conformers.

They are larger than us in number. So we are louder.

We must be louder.

WE MUST SHOUT NEVER AGAIN

EYE ON THE ARTS

Art Under the Oaks

Saturday, January 13th • 9–4 San Pedro Church Gardens at MM 89.5. Enjoy fine art, crafts, baked goods and live entertainment in a lovely garden.

artundertheoaks.com

Art Guild of the Purple Isles

Its wonderful Juried Art Show will again be displayed at the History and Discovery Center 82100 Overseas Hwy from January 14-March 14th. Open Tuesday-Sunday, the entrance fee to the museum will be waived for the show. How many works by KJCC members will we find? For information visit agpi.us

The Hale Gallery

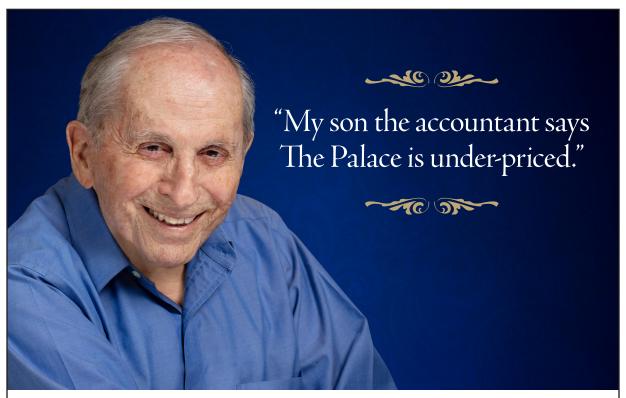
The Hale Gallery, 81888 Overseas Highway, continues its solo exhibition of works by our own John David Hawver until January 22. *Thehalegallery.com*

Florida Keys Concert Association Series
Beginning on January 15th and 16th. World
class concerts featuring mostly classical
music will be held 7:30 p.m. Mondays at the
Marathon HS Performing Arts Center, and
Tuesdays at Coral Shores HS Performing
Arts Center. The season opens with Delirium Musicum, mixing music from Brahms,
Shostakovich and the South American Andes.
On January 22 and 23, Zlatomir Fung,

cellist, with Benjamin Hochman on piano will play music from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The Shelest Piano Duo will perform on January 29th and 30th with works including Copeland, Bernstein and Gershwin. On February 12th and 13th Balourdet String Quartet will feature music by Hayden, Beethoven and Schubert. Trio Con Brio Copenhagen will perform on February 19th and 20th. The series ends on February 26th and 27th with rising star pianist Eric Lu. For information and tickets, go to floridakeysconcerts.com

Florida Keys Community Concert Band will be joined by Mangrove Swamp Band Performing outside of the Murray Nelson Center at MM 102 Key Largo on Saturday, January 27th from 4–5 p.m. The theme is TV, cartoon and movie tunes. Relax on your folding chairs or blankets if you don't score a seat at a picnic table. On Saturday, February 12th from 4–5 p.m. the FKCCB will be in Islamorada at Founders Park with animal themed music and doggie activities.

Third Thursday Morada Way Art Walk continues on January 18th and February 15th from 6-9 p.m. This delightful event in Islamorada features late night gallery openings, local artists and craftspeople, live music and vendors with food and drink. info@moradaway.org ◊



"It should cost you more," he says. "They are giving you way too much for your money."

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- 3. You have more precise start times. You don't have to wait for me to arrive at your home or business.
- 4. We go online remotely at YOUR convenience, including Sunday appointments at no extra charge.
- 5. You don't physically share your screen with me. You have your monitor and I have mine and we both work together.
- 6. You remain safe in your home and dress as you like, without the intrusion of a technician in your home.
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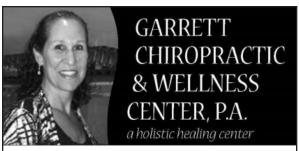


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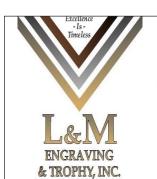


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Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees,

ver the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting - over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

Mary Oliver

