

Chai~Lights



October 2016

28 Elul - 29 Tishrei 5776 — 5777

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

October 2016

28 Elul - 29 Tishrei

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6:00 p.m. Service 7:30 p.m.	3 Rosh Hashanah Day One 9:30 a.m. Tashlich 4:00 p.m.	4 Rosh Hashanah Day Two 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7 Ken Atlas <i>Mitch Harvey</i>	8 Shabbat Tshuvah 10:00 a.m. Havdalah 7:00 p.m.
9	10	11 Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	12 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m. Yizkor	13	14 Joyce Peckman	15
16 KJCC Sukkah Decoration 10:00 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Bernie Ginsberg</i> Sukkot celebrated	22 Havdalah 7:00— 9:00 pm, Agler Home
23 30	24 Shemini Atzeret Yizkor Simchat Torah 7:30 31 Boo	25	26	27	28 Beth Hayden	29

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President's Message Sam Vinicur



For the last five or six High Holidays, I'd guess — time blurs, since president's years are like dog years — Gloria has assigned me to read aloud, in English translation, the *Haftarah* portion the rabbis allotted to Rosh Hashanah Day One. Initially, I'm convinced, it was because she derived a minim (or more) of mirth by having me read passages from the Book of Samuel. Since then it has been, I suspect — any who have arranged major events will understand — one less thing for her to fret about each year.

I've learned that the Book of Samuel is part of what Hebrew Bible scholars now call the Deuteronomistic history — comprised of the Books of Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings. (I have also come to dislike the term "Old Testament," which by the laws of language and logic clearly implies that something "new and improved" is available to render it quaint and fusty and dispensable.) This group of books describes the history of ancient Israel during the crucial period of the last Judge (Samuel), the prophets and the early kings, especially Saul and David. They chronicle the period when casual governance by the tribes (and then Judges) gave way to the more centralized system of a monarchy.

The Day One *Haftarah* (I like the older translation, which I think is richer and more expressive) is at the beginning of the Book of Samuel. It tells the story of how Hannah (whose name means "woman of grace"), a beloved yet childless wife, goes against all tradition and, in the Temple in Shiloh (where the Ark then resided), petitions God directly to give her a son. Should that solemn wish be granted, she vows to give the precious child to the priests to live a life of service to God. From this prayer came Samuel, the last Judge, who God later chose to anoint both Saul and David as kings.

Why is this story repeated on Rosh Hashanah? Hannah's prayers were the first instance of silent, personal prayer to God. Before then all prayer had been aloud. Hannah was said to have "spoken from her heart." And this, the rabbis say, is the perfect example of our task on Rosh Hashanah, to not merely recite but to "speak from the heart." Hannah is offered as our paragon of prayer.

I've become very fond of Hannah. The High Holidays are here, and I look forward to sharing them with all of KJCC. Perhaps this year, if I tell her story well, you'll join me in my admiration for this complex and determined woman.

Nosh

Activities Committee Corner

We had a very active and successful summer, with events that included the annual Shabbabaque, a bus trip to Miami Marlins Jewish Heritage Day, and a sunset cruise bayside in Key Largo. After a hiatus for the High Holidays, we are taking suggestions for the upcoming season. Thoughts include movie nights, a sporting event such as the Dolphins, Panthers or Heat, another sunset cruise, an overnight cruise, a music event. (Last year we attended an Itzak Perlman concert), and a Miami Jewish Museum tour. Please email any suggestions to me, Mitch Harvey at harveyaicp@yahoo.com. I look forward to a having a fun new year. Shana Tovah!

Yahrzeit Plaque

IN MEMORY OF
HENRY WALTER ISENBERG
1/18/1927 - 10/5/2012
BELOVED HUSBAND, FATHER
AND GRANDFATHER
by Patricia Isenberg

Invitation to "Sit in a Succah"

We have again been graciously invited to the bayside home of Rabbi Richard and Mindy Agler for a pot-luck Sukkot meal and Havdalah ceremony. For many of us, a succah was a large structure attached to a synagogue, where people pushed through the crowd to grab a piece of pound cake. How fortunate we are to be invited to an intimate, personal space, where we can truly appreciate the mitzvah of "sitting (dwelling) in a succah." There will be challah, wine and food in the house, olives in the succah, and *etrog* and *lulav* to shake. Come at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 22nd to 168 Sunset Gardens Drive, Tavernier. Please RSVP and coordinate your dish with Erica Lieberman-Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

Oneg Sponsors for October 2016

October 7th - Mitch Harvey to mark his birthday.
October 21st - Bernie Ginsberg in memory of his mother Bea.

Havdalah at Linda Pollack's

A new tradition is born. After years of celebrating the end of Shabbat *Shuvah* (the Shabbat in between *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*) at Ocean Pointe, we accepted Linda Pollack's gracious invitation to hold our short, sweet *Havdalah* service at her house in Pirate's Cove, at 107 Long Ben Drive. On Saturday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m., halfway between the Days of Awe, we will enjoy sunset, watch for three medium stars, share food, sing our blessings over candle, spices, and wine, and return from the sacred to the secular world. Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett (hippiejap@hotmail.com) to RSVP and arrange to bring a dish.

Rabbi Agler's Shabbat Service Schedule:

Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss a minute of Rabbi Agler's stimulating series of monthly Torah learning services. Rabbi Agler's warm, informal and engaging services will resume on Shabbat morning, November 19th and continue on the mornings of Dec. 10 and January 21. Services begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. As always, refreshments will be served afterwards. You'll be glad you came.

Yahrzeit Plaque

IN LOVING MEMORY
LILLIAN ADLER GRANT
4/19/1920 - 3/21/1990
by Randi Grant

Shanah Tovah to All

Special KJCC wishes for a safe and healthy new year go to all our members who won't be here for Rosh Hashanah. You'll be in our thoughts.

Honoring *B'reishit* with Art

Rosh HaShanah, the traditional Jewish New Year, is upon us. Change is in the air. Soon we, together with every other shul worldwide, will roll our Torah back to the beginning of our story so we can tell it to ourselves again, one chapter at a time. Form will once again emerge from formlessness, light from dark, sky from sea, all one breathless moment (or eon) at a time. The original Artist, Creator of All That Is, G-d, is brilliantly at work.

KJCC is getting creative, too. Does anyone remember the last time our synagogue walls were painted? The answer used to be “no,” but now we can say “last month.” And here is another beginning that is really new: a rotating exhibit of artwork on those fresh clean walls by KJCC’s own member artists. The theme is *B’reishit* as we honor in color and myriad media the creative acts of the first six days. Wander the hall and rooms, look at the walls. We are grateful to the participating artists, most of whom have loaned us their work for the seasonal duration of the exhibit. Some may be for sale. Many thanks for their generosity go to Marcia Kreitman, John Hawver, Jan Hartz, Geri Felder Smith, Medina Roy, Sam Weis, Beth Kaminstein, Barbara Bernstein, Gloria Avner, Natalie Dorf and the late but not forgotten Rosie Biskar. Artists may be contacted directly if you wish to share feedback.

L’Shanah Tovah. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good, healthy and creative year.

Meditation Garden Tree

JACOB MENAHEM
SHABATHAI

1917--2016

LOVED AND HONORED
BY HIS SON JOSEPH &
BY KATHY SHABATHAI

Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RONALD HORN
FOUNDER OF KJCC
REMEMBERED ALWAYS



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN MEMORY OF
RONALD HORN
BY SUSAN HORN
AND DOT BROOKING

Meditation Garden Brick

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BILL AND HONEY FEINBERG



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN MEMORY OF
HENRY W. ISENBERG
by PATRICIA ISENBERG

Meditation Garden Brick

WELCOME TO THE WORLD
RHETT WILLIAM CASEY
DECEMBER 7, 2015
GRANDMA LOVES YOU

October Birthdays

2nd	Michael Gilson
4th.....	Michael Krissel
4th.....	Michael Kanarek
5th.....	Mathew Tainow
6th.....	Joel Bernard
6th.....	Mitchell Harvey
7th.....	Jordan Feig
11th.....	Olivia Landes
11th.....	Cynthia Arsenault
12th.....	Benay Krissel
13th.....	Richard Kaufman
14th.....	Paul Friedman
14th.....	Sidney Finkelstein
15th.....	Matthew A. Silverman
15th.....	Marcia Kreitman
16th.....	Kiersten Persoff
17th.....	Jay Hershoff
17th.....	Stacey W. Seewald
18th.....	Payton Borisoff
20th.....	Sydney! Faye-Davis
20th.....	Barbara Knowles
21st.....	Sammy Knowles
22nd.....	Daniel Tainow
22nd.....	Joseph Shabathai
22nd.....	Susan Roberts
24th.....	Stacy Temkin
25th.....	Richard Wolfe
25th.....	Landon Strasser
29th.....	Shyella Mayk
29th.....	Patricia Schocket
29th.....	Adriana Sherman
30th.....	Katie J. Schur

Leaf on the Tree of Life

In honor of 10th Wedding Anniversary
David & Angela Willner
by Johanna and Arthur Lee Willner

October Anniversaries

	Years
2nd	Jonathan & Arlene Line.....40
2nd	Paul & Barbara Bernstein.....22
6th	Suzanne Sigel & William Pomenti.....26
15th	David & Toby Goldfinger.....57
16th	Jerry & Barbara Herson.....17
22nd	Scott & Mary Anne Pearl.....28
25th	Todd & Maria Botwin.....24
28th	Michael & Suzanne Gilson.....15
31st	Harvey & Judith Klein.....62

High Holidays Feasting and Fasting

We feast and celebrate auspicious beginnings with auspicious foods. All over the word fellow Jews dip apples in honey in hopes of a sweet new year. We share a scrumptious Erev Rosh Hashanah "family" dinner in our Social Hall. Sisterhood provides a sustaining Kiddush-lunch for those who stay for Days One and Two Rosh HaShanah services. On Yom Kippur, of course, we eat nothing, as our prayers, contrition, and commitments to better ourselves nourish our souls. At its end, the final blast of the shofar and the dousing of the Havdalah candle in wine signal our return to secular life. Be part of the grand conclusion to the Days of Awe. Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett (hippiejap@hotmail.com) to reserve your place at the Rosh Hashanah dinner and to state what you will be bringing to the joyous dairy meal following the Yom Kippur fast. Please see the ad on page 10.



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN MEMORY OF RON HORN
by DOROTHY HORN

A Note from the Saxes in Texas

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly three years since we left the Keys and our beloved KJCC. It also took us that long to find a local congregation here that comes anywhere near to the *mishpocha* we share in Tavernier. We found congregation *Shir Tikvah* here to have the same openness and warmth as the KJCC, and Rabbi Heidi Barron Coretz was inspired to become a rabbi when she was a student and congregant of Rabbi Richard Agler in Boca Raton. What goes around comes around!

While we have joined *Shir Tikvah* here, we cannot completely let go of our ties to the KJCC. Enclosed is our payment to remain members for the current year. We do hope to see all of you again in the not too distant future.

With love and *Shalom*,

—Stuart and Lauren Sax

A Note from Freshman Joshua Bernstein

Thank you very much for the scholarship you awarded me. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it! It is the biggest scholarship I received, and definitely the most meaningful. I intend to use it for a laptop, because they're REALLY

expensive. I mean, you should see the requirements they have for the engineering program!

I will never forget the experiences I've had with the KJCC, and I will be back for a visit. Thank you again!

—Joshua Bernstein



Cole's Bar Mitzvah—November 5th

Jane Silverman, Dr. Michael Berman, Westley Silverman and Peter Silverman are delighted that Cole Meurig Silverman will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 5th at 10 a.m. Cole moved to Key Largo from London in 2012 and has loved being a part of the KJCC family. He has worked hard with Gloria to be ready for his big day. Over the summer, he went to Friday night services at the Westminster Synagogue in London, home of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Museum and Trust (www.memorialscrollstrust.org) and source of the beloved KJCC Holocaust Torah.

Cole is an avid sportsman and loves fishing and competing in soccer and lacrosse. He enjoys math (!) and has been accepted into a national STEM program called Program Lead the Way. His Mitzvah Project is fundraising for the American Cancer Society with a GoFundMe website (www.gofundme.com/ColeCancerCampaign) and a Donuts4Donations initiative selling donuts wherever people have a sweet tooth.

He is delighted that friends and family will be converging on the KJCC from London, New York, New Jersey, Colorado, California, Michigan, Georgia, Massachusetts, Virginia and Florida to join us in the celebration! Rabbi Agler will be officiating at the service and the Silvermans look forward to sharing this special day with our KJCC family.



Cole

BOOK PLATE

TO HONOR MY PARENTS
JOEL & SARA COHEN
BY LYNN NOBIL



Social Hall Chair Plate

JOE & KATHY
SHABATHAI



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN HONOR OF
MORT & GENE SILVERMAN

BOOK PLATE

ADAM AND JUDY STARR

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

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

CEMETERY INFORMATION: If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bernie Ginsberg, 305-304-1810.

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

PICTURE POSTCARDS: We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the 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 Beth Hayden at 305-773-0067 or email her at Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net.

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

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

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

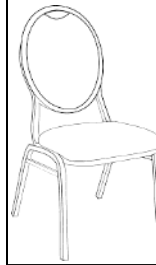
ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual rates.

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

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

Meditation Garden Brick

MADELYN RUBY POLLACK
BAT MITZVAH HONORS
WITH LOVE FROM
GRANDMA BUBBE LINDA



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN HONOR OF 24 YEARS AS
KJCC MEMBER -- LEE SCHUR

BOOK PLATE

IN MEMORY OF BOB SCHUR
AND LONG TIME
KJCC MEMBERSHIP

BY LEE SCHUR

BOOK PLATE

IN HONOR OF
SEAN KAUFMAN
AND HIS UPSHERIN

8/8/2016
BY PAULINE ROLLER



Social Hall Chair Plate

IN MEMORY OF ROGER STARR
by ADAM AND JUDY STARR

Meditation Garden Brick

FOR KIM KOCH
A SPECIAL PLACE
FOR REFLECTION AND REMEMBRANCE

MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING

When the Torah is read, we are granted an especially opportune moment to invoke blessing for those in need of divine intervention. So for hundreds of years it has been a tradition, before the Torah is returned to the ark, to recite the names of those who are ill, asking that Hashem, who blessed our founding ancestors, also bless those in need of healing. The person is not called by the standard Hebrew name (ex: *Moshe ben* {son of} *Amram*). Instead the mother's name is invoked (*Moshe ben Jochebed*.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

The KJCC is non-denominational, but we too have incorporated the *Misheberach* prayer into our Friday evening service, after the *dvar Torah* (Torah talk.) We maintain a list of long-term and short-term names, as well as inviting names to be called from the congregation. There are even post cards at the back of the room to be used by anyone who wants to inform a friend or family member that they have been the subject of our community's prayer.

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 305-852-5235. The website, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.



Keys Jewish Community Center

Yom Kippur Break Fast

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Dairy Dinner
after the final service

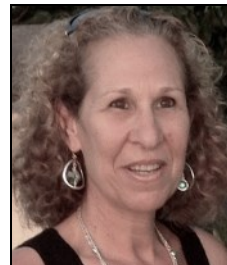
We welcome your home cooked dairy dish,
prepared with love, to share with your KJCC
Mishpocha

Please Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com
(305) 393-1162
to coordinate your dish and to reserve your
space

RSVP: by October 7th
Sponsored by the KJCC
No Charge

Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Happy 5777. After a long hot Keys summer, our New Year goes into full swing with our now annual Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner. I love beginning our New Year together, sitting down to a traditional matza ball soup and brisket dinner. Here in the Keys, many of us are far from our families, but we are not alone at the start of the New Year. We will gather collectively at KJCC, enjoying our scrumptious knishes, tsimmis, chicken, and of course honey cake. (You should have already contacted me to RSVP.) I would like to thank all the people of our KJCC Sisterhood who work very hard to prepare this special dinner for all our mishpocha, as well as all of the donors and sponsors. It gives us all the opportunity to enjoy, without having every-one slave over hot stoves!

As our High Holy Days begin, we all look forward to the lunches following our daily Rosh Hashanah services. This too, allows us to be together as family, and adds a wonderful touch to our services. Again, a lot of work and preparation go into these lunches, and I thank everyone for their efforts and their support. We all benefit.

As we delve into the heart of our services and holiday celebrations, we look forward to Shabbat Tshuvah, October 8th, the Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I want to thank Linda Pollack as she will again host a wonderful Havdalah service at 7:00 p.m. that evening at her beautiful bay front home. Contact me hippiejap@hotmail.com to RSVP and coordinate your potluck donation.

So after we have prayed, atoned, and fasted, we will have earned one of my favorite dinners, the Yom Kippur break-the-fast. Every year it seems to get better and yummier. We will have whole table for just fish! Oy! Our break-the-fast will feature whitefish salad, Marc Bloom's special herring, tuna salad, lox.... And of course there will be a smorgasbord of traditional Jewish dairy delicacies,

with special bagels brought all the way from the mainland by Joel and Toby Bofshever. Again, a lot of work by Sisterhood, contributions of cooked food, schlepping, along with special donations from many of our KJCC members, make this a wonderful evening to end the long day of fasting.

This year we are doing something special for Simchat Torah. After the service we will have a chocolate oneg extravaganza. Just because we need to eat a few more calories!

Then after our holidays end, we can begin our health kick and get back on track! We will always have healthy foods at our onegs and dinners, although it's hard to resist all the special yummy treats. But this will be the start to our year, and thanks to Jane Friedman who always brings us fresh fruit and vegetables, you can balance your treats with some salads.

Sisterhood continues to thrive thanks to your support and oneg sponsorships. We have received many responses to our oneg letters and encourage you to continue to sponsor your simchas and special events. We do have a new oneg chairperson, so please remember to contact Beth Hayden at hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net for any future onegs or dinner sponsorships.

Please think about joining us for our monthly Sisterhood meetings. We love fresh input and new ideas. We look forward to this New Year, and all our special events that will be held, not just food related, although I do like those, but also other special activities that will allow us to spend quality time together.

I hope that this year will bring you, and your family good health, many simchas, and special memories. ♦

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

Nobil, Lynn My parents, Joel & Sara Cohen
Roller, Pauline Sean Kaufman – Upsherin
Starr, Adam & Judy

Chai-Lights

Conklin, Wes & Rita
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica
Nobil, Lynn
Rose, Frank
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wohl, Joan P.

General Fund

Bolton, William & Donna
Conklin, Wes & Rita
Cooper, Alan
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Herson, Jerry & Barbara
Kaufman, Richard
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny
Margulies, Stanley & Jenny
Nobil, Lynn
Pollack, Roy
Robins, Harvey & Beverly
Ruthen, Melvin & Joyce

In Honor of

Sean's Upsherin

Aunt Pauline's 101st
birthday

General Fund

Carmody, Beverly
Hanley, Chris & Joanne
Singer, Mary Lee

In Memory of

Ronald Lewis Horn
Ronald Lewis Horn,
dearest of friends
Robert W. Singer,
Jon R. Singer

Holocaust Education Center

Dieckhaus, Roger
Isenberg, Patricia
Starr, Adam & Judy

Library Fund

Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia
Steinbock, Stephen

Meditation Garden

Faye-Davis, Sydney!

In Honor of

Linda Pollack

Meditation Garden

Feinberg, Arthur double brick
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra

In Memory of

— Bill &
Honey Feinberg
double brick — Les
Reitman

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Bofshever, Joel & Toby
Bolton, William & Donna
Davidson, Foster
Gould, Joe & Marla Berenson
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Kasinof, Steve & Amelia
Rose, Frank
Shabathai, Joseph & Kathy
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Steinbock, Stephen

Scholarship Fund

Conklin, Wes & Rita
Rose, Frank
Steinbock, Stephen
Tallent, Claire
Wohl, Joan P.

Sisterhood General Fund

Kasinof, Steve & Amelia

Sisterhood Onegs

Bofshever, Joel & Toby
Gordon, Susan
Hayden, Beth
Knowles, Richard & Barbara
Pollack, Linda Hannukah Shabbat Dinner
Pollack, Roy Will & Maddy Pollack Birthdays

Social Hall Chair Plates

Horn, Susan
Isenberg, Patricia
Silverman, Mort & Gene
Starr, Adam & Judy

Tree of Life - Leaves ***In Honor of***
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna honor 10th
Anniversary of David & Angela Willner

Yahrzeit Plaques

Grant, Andrew & Randi Lillian Adler Grant
Isenberg, Patricia Henry Walter Isenberg

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan	Jim Boruszak
Cooper, Claire	Sarah Sandberg
Dorf, Barry & Natalie	Dorothy Schafer
Grossman, Stuart	Margaux Grossman
Harvey, Mitchell	Beverly Harvey
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra	Len Roberts
Marmar, David & Pamela	Dorothy Marmar
Schulberg, Alan & Elaine	Martha Schulberg,
Harvey Kelman, Richard Schulberg	

Yizkor Book 5777

Agler, Richard & Mindy
Berk-Moshe, Zoe
Berman, Sylvia
Bernard, Joel & Joan Stark
Bofshever, Joel & Toby
Bolton, William & Donna
Brodie, Thomas & Renee
Cline, Meredith
Conklin, Wes & Rita
Emkey, Frank & Gerri
Feinberg, Arthur
Goldfinger, David & Toby
Gould, Joel & Marla Berenson
Grant, Andrew & Randi
Greenbaum, Marilyn
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Harvey, Mitchell
Horn, Susan
Isenberg, Patricia

(Yizkor Book 5777 cont.)

Itkin, Arthur
Kaplan, Marshall & Myra
Lieberman-Garrett, Erica
Marmar, David & Pamela
Riley, Michele
Rose, Frank
Shabathai, Joseph & Kathy

Silverman, Mort & Gene
Singer, Mary Lee
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Starr, Adam & Judy
Steinbock, Stephen
Swartz, George & Muriel
Willner, Arthur Lee & Johanna
Wohl, Joan P.

How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

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

Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the wonders that lie between these covers."

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

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

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



“Thou Shalt Take Out the Trash”

Israeli archaeologists recently came across a massive landfill consisting of layer upon layer of waste that was efficiently collected, piled up and buried some 2,000 years ago, what one team member said “may have been the result of the most sophisticated trash collection system in antiquity.” The find was discovered on the slopes of the Kidron valley, just outside the Roman-era walls of Jerusalem. Yuval Gadot, the Tel Aviv University archaeologist who led the dig, said that coins and fragments of pottery indicate that the landfill was in use for about 70 years, beginning in the first century CE until the period of the Great Jewish Revolt against the Romans, which ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE. Gadot indicated that the size of the landfill – it rose to close to 230 feet high – was unusual for the time. Large-scale collection and long-term storage of trash in a landfill was scarce. This ancient landfill is not just impressive because of its size; apparently there was a deliberate attempt to systematically cover the trash to prevent smells and deter scavengers by alternating layers of trash and soil. Researchers speculate that this alternating procedure may have developed out of a combination of Roman knowhow and the fact that Jews of early Roman Jerusalem followed strict guidelines when it came to purity. *Mikvahs* (ritual baths) proliferated at the time, and the Jews frequently used stone vessels which were believed to be impervious to impurity. Gadot said that “...it became a norm in Jerusalem that you have to take out the garbage, because it’s impure ...It’s not the municipality saying so: G-d says so...” (www.haaretz.com, 6-29-16)

A New Ben-Gurion Film

A six-hour 1968 interview with David Ben-Gurion has recently been rediscovered. The footage shows that Israel’s first prime minis-

ter opposed West Bank settlement and favored the immediate return of most of the land that Israel had captured a year earlier in the Six-Day War. At the time of the interview, Ben-Gurion had left politics and was living on *Kibbutz Sde Boker* in the Negev. (Segments of the interview appear in a new film called *Ben-Gurion Epilogue*.) “If I could choose between peace and all the territories which we conquered last year, I would prefer peace,” he said. (He did firmly believe, however, that Israel should hold on to East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.) Ben-Gurion criticized the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, saying Jews should instead settle the unpopulated areas of the Negev. Ben-Gurion served as prime minister from Israel’s founding in 1948 until 1953 and then again from 1955 to 1963. He died in 1973 when he was 87. (Interestingly, in 1973, when he was 86, he changed his mind about returning the land in exchange for peace. “... peace has not come to this day. They don’t want to make peace with us,” he said. He came to favor modified Jewish settlement on the West Bank, saying “Israelis should settle on every part of the land but not by displacing Arabs.” (www.jta.org, 7-25-16)

Closure for the Wallenberg Mystery

According to the diaries of Ivan Serov, a former director of the KGB - the Soviet spy agency - Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from being deported to the German death camps toward the end of World War II, was executed in a Soviet prison. The diaries – published this past summer – were found inside the walls of Serov’s home in northwestern Moscow. They were discovered by his granddaughter during renovation of the house. Wallenberg was a diplomat to Nazi-

occupied Hungary during World War II. Using that position, he issued protective passports to Jews in the final months of the Holocaust. Wallenberg disappeared in 1945 during the Siege of Budapest by the Red Army, when he was detained on suspicion of espionage. The Soviets later claimed Wallenberg had died of heart failure while imprisoned at the KGB headquarters prison in Moscow. In despair over his disappearance, both of Wallenberg's parents reportedly committed suicide in 1979; in November 2015, family members asked Swedish authorities to declare him officially dead. Serov died in 1990 when he was 84. It is believed that he hid the diaries around 1971. A 1991 joint Russian-Swedish effort (which ended in 2000) to discover what happened to Wallenberg ended with no definitive conclusion. (Surprise.) Because of his courageous acts on behalf of Hungarian Jews, Wallenberg has received numerous humanitarian honors. In 1981, the late United States Congressman Tom Lantos, himself one of those saved by Wallenberg, sponsored a bill making the Swedish diplomat an honorary citizen of the United States. Israel has designated Wallenberg one of the *Righteous Among the Nations*, and in 2012 he was awarded a *Congressional Gold Medal* by the United States Congress.

(www.nytimes.com, 8-6-16)

Res-Q-Cell

On September 5th, a multi-level underground parking garage under construction in Tel Aviv's *Ramat Hachayal* neighborhood collapsed. The Israeli rescue teams working at the site used a variety of technologies to track movement and sounds coming from under the rubble, including fiber optic cables, seismic sound technologies and cameras with voice and visual capabilities. But they also used a system called the *Res-Q-Cell*, first introduced in June and still in its final stages of development. It was created by *Israel Aerospace Industries* (IAI). *Res-Q-Cell* locates victims' cell phones by using signals that activate and detect the phones and can do so even if cellular networks collapse. The system then provides a highly accurate, 3-D mapping

of the location of the victims. It can precisely pinpoint a phone within a radius of less than three feet, better than cellular locators used in the civilian population. It also allows operators to scan much larger areas - about 1076 square feet at a time. (As of 9/12, six individuals were found dead, at least 23 injured and one still missing.)

(www.timesofisrael.com, 9-6-16)

Before Aly, There Was Agnes

If you watched the recent Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, you might have paid close attention to Jewish gymnast Aly Raisman (who also competed in the 2012 games in London). Raisman, 22, served as captain of the U.S. women's gymnastics team. At the 2012 Olympics in London, she won three medals (two gold, one bronze) making her the most decorated American gymnast at those games. (By the way, she performed her 2012 floor exercise to the tune of "*Hava Nagila*" and dedicated the routine to the 11 Israeli Olympians who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.) At the recent Olympics in Rio, she won one gold and two silvers. Raisman is the second-most decorated American female gymnast of all time.

Well, way before Aly Raisman, there was Hungarian Agnes Keleti. Keleti, born in 1921, began gymnastics at age four in her native Hungary. Her training came to a halt when Germany invaded Hungary in 1944. She was scheduled to compete in the 1940 and 1944 Olympics, but because of World War II, the games were cancelled and she went into hiding. Her mother and sister were saved by Raoul Wallenberg, but her father and the rest of her family perished in Auschwitz. Keleti didn't compete again until 1952, representing Hungary and winning four medals. At the 1956 games, at age 35, she became the oldest female gymnast ever to take home the gold. She won a total of ten Olympic medals - five of which were gold - making her the most decorated Jewish female Olympian of all time. Today, at age 95, she lives in Israel and still practices gymnastics.

(www.kveller.com, 8-19-16)

“A Victory of the Spirit”

A synagogue destroyed by the Nazis in Jaslo, a town in southeastern Poland, has been accurately reconstructed down to the very last detail at the Forest Hill Jewish Center in Toronto, Canada. Jaslo was once the heart of a small Jewish community and was totally destroyed by the Nazis 77 years ago. The Nazis occupied Jaslo in 1939 and set fire to the synagogue on Yom Kippur of that year. In 1945, the town was liberated by the Russian Army. After the war, the few dozen survivors scattered all over the world, some of them settling in Toronto. There they decided to reconstruct the synagogue – including the ornate Torah ark, hand-gilded with magnificent artistry – of their childhood. They commissioned *Lavi Furniture Industries*, an Israeli company located on *Kibbutz Lavi* in the Lower Galilee, to do the reconstruction. According to Micha Oberman, *Lavi's* CEO, the original Jaslo ark was dedicated in 1905. It was 38 feet high, 20 feet wide and “was one of the largest and most magnificent Torah arks ever built in any synagogue, anywhere in the world.” (It can hold up to fifteen Torah scrolls.) Oberman said that “the precise reconstruction of the original Torah ark was completed with the help of ... Tel Aviv’s *Beit Hatfutsot Museum of the Jewish People*.” The reconstruction is an exact replica except for a few minor changes to enable wheelchair access to the ark and the altar. Shalom Ashkenazi, *Lavi's* marketing vice president said, “... The synagogue restoration in Forest Hill represents a victory of the spirit over those who wanted to destroy the Jewish people. (www.israelhayom.com, 7-12-16)

In Memoriam

★ Philip “Fyvush” Finkel, the Emmy Award-winning actor whose career began in the Yiddish theater when he was nine years old, has died. He was 93. Born in Brooklyn, his father was a tailor who emigrated from Warsaw and his mother a homemaker who came from Minsk (now in Belarus). Finkel spent most of his early career on the Lower East Side of New York City performing in the Yiddish theater.

He became known to the broader public beginning in the mid-60s with the national production of “Fiddler on the Roof.” During the run of “Fiddler,” Finkel would end up playing several roles, that of Mordcha the innkeeper, Lazar Wolf, the butcher, and, often, Tevya himself. During his extraordinary 85-year career, he often crossed over into television. Finkel was nominated twice for an Emmy Award (he won best supporting actor in 1994) for his role as a public defender in the CBS series “Picket Fences,” which ran during the 1990s. He also had a role as an eccentric high school teacher in another television series, “Boston Public.” Finkel appeared in a variety of films, among them Sidney Lumet’s “Q&A,” where he played a corrupt attorney, Neil Simon’s “Brighton Beach Memoirs” and “Nixon.” (www.nytimes.com, 8-16-16)

★ Gene Wilder, one of America’s favorite comedic actors, best known for playing charming neurotic characters in three films directed by Mel Brooks, died at the end of August. He was 83. Born Jerome Silberman, Wilder adopted his stage name saying he “couldn’t imagine a marquee reading Jerome Silberman as Hamlet.” He was an accomplished stage actor as well as screenwriter, novelist and director. He made his movie debut in 1967 in “Bonnie and Clyde,” where he played an undertaker kidnapped by the infamous bank robbers. But it was teaming up with comic lunatic Mel Brooks that brought him fame and acclamation. He starred in Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein” (which he co-wrote with Brooks), “The Producers” (earning him an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor, playing opposite Zero Mostel), and “Blazing Saddles.” Among his other notable films are “The Frisco Kid,” “Stir Crazy,” and “Silver Streak.” He was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance as the title character in “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory.” Wilder was married four times, one of those to Gilda Radner, the Jewish comedian and *Saturday Night Live* original who died of ovarian cancer in 1989. Following her death, Wilder co-founded “Gilda’s Club,” a network of nonprofit support centers for people with cancer. (www.jta.org, 8-29-16) ◇



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YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Home To Israel

An Overdue Re-connection With My People

My August trip to Israel was not an ordinary trip, not just a regular visit, but a true reunion with relatives and old friends, people dear to me whom I haven't seen for a long time, in the special category of people one has known from childhood, children of my parents' lifelong friends or friends I met in Chile who had made *aliya* (immigration to Israel) many years ago. Yes, when you are in Israel you want to visit places, go sightseeing in this wonderful country. But for me, seeing my people was the important part of the trip. Seeing how their life in Israel is today. Seeing and understanding how Israeli society is coping with the challenging times in the Middle East.

Everywhere the reception was so warmhearted. Everyone wanted me to stay at their house. Every day they made plans to go to places they knew I would like to visit. Among the special qualities of Israelis is that they are great friends. You can live apart in distant parts of the world, not see each other for a long time, but when you come together, it's like you just saw each other yesterday. They invite you to their homes, prepare Turkish coffee and have your favorite pastries. There is so much to talk about. Conversations are long and profound; they are real friends

who are interested in your life, what you have gone through all these past years, and how you are doing.

On this trip, even Israelis I'd just met seemed more welcoming and eager for you to have a good time there. Israelis live an intense life; they love to go out, make trips, hike in natural parks and archaeological sites, visit historic settlements, see exhibits in museums, and walk in old neighborhoods in the cities. Perhaps they enjoyed me enjoying my

visit so much because it was an opportunity for them to get distracted from the struggles and harshness that infuse their everyday lives.

Friends and relatives could hardly wait to show me around. We went on a "nostalgic tour" to Haifa, my hometown; to Hedera, my grandmother's village; to old neighborhoods in Tel Aviv where my cousin Yael (whom you met at the KJCC) grew up; to Zikhron Yaakov and Binyamina, old settlements founded by the first Zionist immigrants, where our parents had worked in the vineyards and the train station. And we traveled to Jerusalem, my mother's home since the age of six after her family tricked the Persian government into letting them leave.

Jerusalem was the first



Yardena stands before the Kotel, the Western Wall of Herod's Temple in Jerusalem.

Again in the plaza before the Kotel, this time with Tzipi, her childhood friend from Haifa.



time feelings of insecurity arose. Threats of terrorist attacks always loom. But we were not deterred; I traveled with Tzipi, my best friend from childhood, and we had another “nostalgic tour” all over Jerusalem. Once we stepped out of the heavily guarded bus station and saw the mass of people in the streets, all concerns dissipated. We felt secure, safeguarded, fearless, experiencing the normal life of a city bustling with activity and a special energy. We went to *Ma-chaneh Yehuda*, the beautiful *shuk* (market), where my daughter and I had escaped a terror attack during the Intifada. And we went into the Old City, to the *Kotel* (Western Wall) to squeeze our little notes of prayers between the big stones of the old wall. It was a good feeling, a very good feeling.

Another trip we made was to the Galilee and the North Coast together with my old friends from Chile. We visited *Beit She'arim* ("House of the Gates"). It is the currently used name for the ancient Jewish town of *Bet She'arayim* ("House of Two Gates"). The partially excavated archaeological site consists mainly of an extensive necropolis (or cemetery) of rock-cut tombs and some remains of the town itself. In the 2nd century C.E. the Jews were expelled from Jerusalem and established several communities in the north, including *Beit She'arim*. The city was the site of the best-known Jewish burial ground at the time, as the Romans would no longer allow Jews to be buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

We continued south to Tzippori, in the

Tzippori National Park, another site that provides a glimpse into hundreds of years of ancient history. The Talmud said the city had 18 synagogues. Only one, built at the beginning of the fifth century C.E., has so far been discovered. Its prayer hall features a spectacular mosaic replete with Bible stories and Jewish symbols. Explanatory panels and drawings bring the synagogue alive. I got goose bumps while watching a video produced by the archaeologists of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who discovered the site.

On this trip I noticed the growing number of French immigrants; as with the Russian immigrants speaking Russian, now you can hear French wafting through the streets, restaurants and shops. The melting pot (an American concept?) is most obvious in Jerusalem. While strolling in the newly built Mamila neighborhood at the outskirts of the Old City, I saw Orthodox Jews, Conservative Jews, secular Jews, Ethiopian Jews, Israeli Arabs, Muslims, Arab Christians, Russian Orthodox Christians, and various other groups, all enjoying a beautiful sunset and a lovely evening.

No matter how much time you spend in Israel, it is not enough and you wish you could stay longer. It is such a dynamic country and filled with a wonderful quilt of dynamic people.

Shalom and Shanah Tovah. ♦

The entrance to the excavated catacombs in the northern city of Beit She'arim. Rabbi Judah Hanasi, who compiled the Mishnah, is believed to be buried here.



The L'Shanah Tovah Page

*The KJCC family, from here in the Keys and across the country,
send their wishes for the best possible New Year.
Here's to a happy, healthy and prosperous 5777 to all.*

**To My Family
At the KJCC
We Wish a
Healthy 5777.
The Bofshevers.**

**Wishing a
Happy and Peaceful
Year to All.
Linda Pollack**

**Gene & Mort Silverman
Wish All Our
Mischpocha
A Happy and Healthy
New Year**

**Wishing You
And your Loved Ones
Health, Prosperity,
Peace in 5777.
Joyce Peckman**

**L'Shana Tova
To All Our Friends
in the Keys.
Joe & Kathy Shabathai**

**To My Dear
KJCC Friends
A Happy and Healthy
5777.
Joan P. Wohl**

**Best Wishes
To All of the
KJCC Family
From Dot Horn**

**Alan & Elaine Schulberg
Wish Everyone a
Happy and Healthy
New Year**

**May You Be Inscribed
For Good Health and Joy
In 5777.
Adam and Judy Starr**

**Erica Lieberman-Garrett
Wishes our
KJCC Mishpocha
A Shana Tova 5777**

**A Healthy
Happy New Year
To All.
Steve Steinbock**

**Shalom
To All From
Roger Dieckhaus**

**Happy and Healthy
New Year
To My
Extended Family.
Lee Schur**

**L'Shana Tova
From Libby Shapiro**

**Shana Tova to
Our parents
Toby & Joel Bofshever.
With Love,
Dorie & Gena**

KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5777 (2016)

Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin

Sunday, October 2nd

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner	6:00 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 3rd

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1	
Shacharit (Morning Service)	9:30 a.m.
Break after Shofar Sounding	12:00 noon
Musaf Service	12:15 p.m.
Kiddush lunch	1:30 p.m.
Taschlich at Ocean Pointe	4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4th

Rosh Hashanah, Day 2	
Shacharit (Morning Service)	9:30 a.m.
Break after Shofar Sounding	12:00 noon
Musaf Service	12:15 p.m.
Kiddush lunch	1:30 p.m.

Friday, October 7th

Erev Shabbat Service and Oneg	7:30 p.m.
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Saturday, October 8th

Shabbat Tshuvah led by Bernie Ginsberg	10:00 a.m.
Havdalah Service at Linda Pollack's home	7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11th

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre Service	7:30 p.m.
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Wednesday, October 12th

Yom Kippur Service	9:30 a.m.
Yizkor (Memorial Service)	11:30 a.m.
Children's Service	11:30 a.m.
Break after morning service	12:15 p.m.
Musaf	12:30 p.m.

Afternoon activity times are approximate:

Informal "Fast" Talk with Rabbi Agler	2:30 p.m.
Jewish Meditation with Rabbi Agler	4:00 p.m.
Neillah (Story of Jonah) and Maariv Service	5:45 p.m.
Havdalah	7:30 p.m.
Break the Fast immediately following at sundown	

Sunday, October 16th

KJCC Sukkah Decoration	10:00 a.m.
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Friday, October 21st

Erev Shabbat Service/Sukkot celebration	7:30 p.m.
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Saturday, October 22nd

Havdalah Service and Sukkah at the Agler Home	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
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Monday, October 24th

Shemini Atzeret observed (Yizkor Service), plus Simchat Torah service and celebration (including Rabbi Agler's famous seven-minute Torah translation), followed by Chocolate Extravaganza Oneg in the Social Hall.	7:30 p.m.
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High Holiday Coming Attractions

A big part of what we look forward during High Holidays is listening to Rabbi Richard Agler's profound but accessible and engaging sermons and teachings. Below are the themes and topics that Rabbi Agler has chosen to address this year and the days on which he will be sharing his thoughts. The titles are short and stimulating. The talks will be deep and will resonate within us long after the Yamim Nora'im, the ten Days of Awe, are complete. If you have attended High Holidays with us before over the last three years or have participated in Rabbi Agler's monthly Torah Learning Shabbat morning services, you are nodding your head in agreement. We will be stimulated and uplifted, perhaps even challenged to rethink a long-held belief or two.

5777 Pulpit and Discussion Themes by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD:

- On Sunday, October 2nd, *Erev Rosh HaShanah*, a teaching titled "On the Use and Misuse of Power: A Lesson from the Talmud";
- On Monday, October 3rd, *Rosh HaShanah Day 1*, a sermon on "How Could People Do This?"
- On Tuesday, October 4th, *Rosh HaShanah Day 2*, a teaching about how "Judaism Says, 'Love Life!'"
- On Tuesday, October 11th, *Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei)*, a sermon on "How Could People Let This Be Done?"
- On Wednesday, October 12th, *Yom Kippur*, a sermon on "What Does it All Teach Us About God?"
- On *Yom Kippur* afternoon, teachings (in the classroom) on:
 - "Elie Wiesel: What You May Not Know but Should Remember."
 - "How to Walk the Path" (A one-person skit from the Traveling Jewish Theater).

Time permitting (either in the sanctuary or the classroom), Rabbi Agler will lead a discussion of this year's High Holiday themes and guide us in meditation.

If anyone needs extra motivation to attend all services, anticipation of these talks could well be a deciding factor. Informal, warm, and often interactive, Rabbi Agler's teachings make our High Holiday services personal, offering a highly meaningful way to begin the year 5777 with serious intention (kavanah) to become our better selves, leaving us with a feeling of spiritual renewal. L'Shanah Tovah.

—Gloria

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

Photo Gallery



Gloria had promoted summer as the ideal time for new service leaders to ascend the bemah, since the crowds at KJCC are smaller and more intimate. On August 26th long-time member and KJCC benefactor Donna Bolton took the plunge, paired with performing pro, Hebrew speaker and musician Beth Hayden. As you see from the three photos at top, it all worked out beautifully.



Cole Silverman is in final preparation for his November Bar Mitzvah. Here, in the three bottom photos, he helps Beth Hayden with the Kiddush and HaMotzi after services on September 2nd. (If you haven't already, see this issue's Nosh for detailed info about Cole's Bar Mitzvah.)



Behold, the many faces of a Rabbi Agler Saturday morning Torah service. These photos are from his first service of the new season, on September 10th. (Yes, even before High Holidays this year, an early New Year's gift to us.) Skip Rose and Bernie attend the Torah reading, while Foster helps with hagbah.



Religious school (below right) has officially started for the 2016-2017 school year. I hope to stir up the minds of our kids. They have learned a lot over the past few years about the holidays, Hebrew and prayers. This year we will continue the lessons and add some background and explanations of the songs/prayers we sing and why. If the meanings and time frame are understood then those lessons may sink in and last a lifetime.

This first week started with relearning the first part of the Hebrew alphabet and the prayer "Barchu," which each kid practiced leading and responding to.

We also talked about Rosh Hashanah and the importance and meaning of this time in the year. Apologies were heard, discussed and accepted. *Leshanah Tovah Tekatavu!*

—Randy Klein-Gross



Double the Pleasure:

Why Two Days of Rosh Hashanah?

by Joyce Peckman

We Jews certainly celebrate a lot of holidays, and unlike Independence Day or Thanksgiving, most of ours last for two days (or even eight). Outside of Israel, the Biblical holidays Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot are celebrated for an extra day at the beginning or end of the holiday. Leviticus, chapter 23, describes Rosh Hashanah: "In the seventh month, the first day of the month shall be a solemn rest to you...proclaimed with the blast of *truah*." So why celebrate two days, instead of just the one commanded?

In ancient times, the beginning of each month was determined through eyewitness testimony. Witnesses would testify before the *Beit Din* (the Rabbinic Court in Jerusalem) that they had seen the new moon. The Court would then publicly announce that a new month had begun. Unfortunately, without Twitter, communications were much slower back then. (Bonfires were lit on the Mount of Olives and onward to subsequent mountain



tops throughout the land.) News of the Rabbinic Court's announcement could not reach far-away communities, such as Egypt or Persia, prior to the onset of that month's festivals (and that was even before the discovery of the New World). Sukkot, for example, begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:34). If distant communities did not know the date of *Rosh Chodesh* (the beginning of the month), how could they count the fifteen days to know the proper date of the festival? So in the Diaspora, an extra day was tagged on as a safeguard.

Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot are now one-day festivals in Israel, but there are still two days of Rosh Hashanah. The historical reason for the doubling up of Rosh



Hashanah is that this is the only *yom-tov* (holiday) that occurs on the first of a Hebrew month, and even in ancient Israel, before the establishment of a fixed calendar, the rabbis were not always certain that the new moon had emerged until eyewitness testimony was brought. So a second day was, as with other Torah-mandated holidays, a good safeguard. A later rationalization of the second day links Rosh Hashanah – *yom ha-din*, the day of Divine Judgment – with the Talmudic rule that in legal cases involving life and death, a Jewish court should not complete the proceedings in one day, to allow for the possibility of overnight – in essence forcing justice to take a breath, considering the seriousness of such a decision – finding an argument in the accused’s favor.

(ohrSameach.edu)

The Reform Movement, from its beginnings in the 19th century, reinstated the Biblical standard of observing each festival day, including Rosh Hashanah, according to the calendar described in the Torah. Since relying upon the eyewitness

system for determining the calendar had long since given way to science, the reasons given for maintaining the “second festival day” called for in the Talmud (*Beitzah* 4b) seemed no longer compelling. (ReformJudaism.org)

Sukkot, which follows Yom Kippur by five

*In ancient times,
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eyewitness
testimony.*

days, is another elongated holiday. In the Diaspora, the first two days are considered full days of rest, with five intermediate days when work is allowed. At

Sukkot’s end come both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. In Hebrew, *Shemini Atzeret* means “eighth-day convocation,” deriving its name from Leviticus 23:36, which proclaims: “On

the eighth day you shall observe a holy convocation.” In Biblical times, Shemini Atzeret was a day for Jews to reflect on the just-

*So a second day
was, as
with other
Torah-mandated
holidays,
a good
safeguard.*

ended holiday of Sukkot before returning to their regular routine. Sukkot is an agricultural holiday, and over the years Shemini Atzeret became a day on which we recite a special prayer for rain. (In our KJCC Siddur, there is a note in the Amidah to add a special prayer for rain between Shemini

Atzeret and Pesach.) The second *Yizkor* memorial service of the year is also held on Shemini Atzeret. Simchat Torah (“the joy of the Torah”) celebrates the end and immediate restart of the cycle of Torah readings. In Orthodox and Conservative communities outside Israel, Shemini Atzeret is a two-day holiday, with the Simchat Torah festivities observed on the second day. In Reform communities and in Israel, which generally observe one day of holidays rather than two, Shemini Atzeret is celebrated concurrently with Simchat Torah. (ohrSameach.edu)

At KJCC, we will celebrate the two ending holidays together on Monday, October 24th at 7:30 p.m., with both a Yizkor Service and a joyous Torah celebration that includes Rabbi Agler’s famous seven-minute Torah translation. We hope to see you there. ◇



Sukkot: Success, Joy, and Fragility

by Gloria Avner

Sometimes *Sukkot* seems to come too soon. We are wrung out with *Yamim Nor-a'im*, the final days of prayer, atonement and fasting, ripe with good intentions, and then, just five days after *Yom Kippur*, we are told to get out of our comfort zone: it is time to celebrate again, but in the most humble of ways.

Remember, in our earliest days, *Sukkot* was known as THE holiday, not just the most joyous but also the most important. The hard work of crop-rearing had literally just paid off. The harvest was in and for seven days (in Israel) or eight days (here), the festival of *Sukkot* celebrated success, the time of year when Jews experienced the most abundance and were at their wealthiest – time to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and share the wealth.

What better way to gain perspective, not get puffed up, and remember our desert-dwelling roots, than to share our produce with G-d and neighbors while living directly on the earth in a humble hut where the sky shows through chinks in the *schach* (Rabbi Agler's favorite word), a slatted roof made of palm fronds. We not only accept our fragility and dependence on nature. We revel in it. The roof that does not separate us from sky lets in not only light and

weather but also divine presence, *Shechina*. (I am reminded of Leonard Cohen lyrics: "There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.")

Guests, historical and spiritual as well as friends and neighbors, are invited to eat with us in our rickety but beautifully decorated temporary dwelling places. The historical guests, called by the Aramaic word, *Ush-pizim*, are our forefathers, the souls of the seven great leaders of Israel – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and King David. The Zohar says they deliberately leave *Gan* (the garden of) *Eden* to partake in the divine light of the earthly *Sukkot*. Let's imagine them sharing wisdom with us as we sit together. All of us need to be reminded in the midst of our over-busy, technologically oriented

lives that we are not only connected to nature, her whims and her bounty, but we are also responsible for her continuity of care. As one of our prayers in the *siddur* says, should this earth be destroyed, there is no one to come after us to repair it.

Here in our temporary KJCC "booth" or *sukkah*, we engage all our senses, making the space visually beautiful by decorating colorfully with our children. (Thank you again, Alan Beth and Candy Stan-



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lake, for the living memorial you created in honor and memory of your parents in our living KJCC Meditation Garden.) The aroma and sight of the *etrog* intensifies our prayers as we bless the “four species” (*lulav* or date palm, *etrog* or citron, willow and myrtle), shake the *lulav* (all the species held together as one) in all sacred directions, listening to its *shh shh shhh*, the symbolic sound of gentle rain we will be praying for once *Sukkot* is over. (Our service leaders will remind us during *Amidah*, in which, between *Shemini Atzeret* and *Pesach*, a seasonal prayer for rain is added.) And we will taste, eating the fruits as we bless them.

Whether one’s *Sukkah* blows over, as the Aglers’ did during that heavy storm surge last year, or remains steadfast throughout *Chag Simchateinu* (holiday of our great joyousness), doesn’t matter. The holiday is literally “all good,” full to the brim with lessons and *mitzvot*. Let’s eat our olives, blessing and remembering the produce of the ancient land we are intimately connected to even if we’ve never set foot upon it. Join us in our KJCC *Sukkah* on Friday night, October 21st, as we celebrate after Erev Shabbat services. Then join Rabbi and Mindy Agler at their home and sukkah for a *Sukkot* celebration, potluck dinner and *Havdalah* service the next evening, on Saturday the 22nd. Happy times for our *mishpocha* continue unabated two days later when we unroll our Torah and begin the ceremonial cycle all over again.

And for those who sometimes question whether the rabbis understood the lives of all Jews or were merely concerned with concept and principle, consider this: If it starts to rain while you’re sitting in your *Sukkah* and your cereal gets soggy, *halacha* (Jewish law) says go indoors. G-d wants us to enjoy. ♦

Four Species of Lulav for Four Types of Jews...

According to Rabbi Shraga Simmons, the Kabbalists say that the four species of the Lulav represent four different types of Jews:

1) The *Etrog* has a good taste and a good fragrance. It represents a person with both wisdom (Torah learning) and good deeds.

2) The *Hadas* (myrtle) has a good fragrance, but is inedible. It represents a person who has good deeds, but lacks wisdom.

3) The *Lulav* (date palm) is edible, but has no smell. This represents the person with wisdom, but without good deeds.

4) The *Aravah* (willow) has neither taste nor smell. It represents a person with neither good deeds nor Torah learning.

Rabbi Simmons also adds a corollary: “there may be people we don’t like, but we still have to deal with. We cannot simply say that certain people are not part of our world, or that they do not belong to us. On the contrary, humanity is one indivisible unit. This recognition is basic to happiness because when we realize that we are all interconnected, we can be more patient and tolerant of others.”





KJCC Meditation Garden

Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.

Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, keysjewishcenter.com.



Dragons Against Breast Cancer

As most of you know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We know that this disease has been a part of the lives of many KJCC members, for themselves or for loved ones, and that a predisposition for the disease occurs in certain families. As she notes in this upbeat article (not in the beginning, but much later), Gerry Emkey was diagnosed with the dread disease in 2009. She doesn't dwell on the dark and fearful moments here, though they were certainly part of her story. But as a teacher, Gerry had good insurance, and enjoyed unwavering and strong family support. She reports here on an organization that helped her back to vibrant health and that also exists to help other women who might not have the help and support that Gerri had. We think you'll all be inspired.

by Gerri Emkey

There was a time, not too long ago, when upper body exercise was discouraged for breast cancer survivors, the conventional wisdom being that exercise caused lymphedema, a swelling of limbs caused by removal of lymph glands, something often done as part of the treatment for breast cancer.



Gerri (right) with twin sister Terri at a race.

In 1996 Dr. Don McKenzie, a sports medicine physician at the University of British Columbia, recruited 24 breast cancer patients to participate in dragon boat racing, a sport similar to crew but where paddles are used instead of oars. His goal was to prove that upper body exercise was actually beneficial, not harmful, to cancer patients, and in fact would reduce lymphedema, not cause it. He was right on both counts, and this has caused a monumental change in the lives and activities of breast cancer survivors over the past twenty years.

As you might guess from its name, dragon boat racing originated in China. What surprises a lot of people, some who perhaps don't know how far back Chinese culture goes, is that the earliest racing dragon boats are believed to have appeared in south central China some 2,500 years ago, around the same time that the popularity of the ancient Greek sporting games held at Olympia was at its peak.

In Chinese culture, the dragon sym-

The SOS dragon team finishing a race. Note the monogrammed paddles. (In color they're pink.)

bolized strength, prosperity, and blessings. It has traditionally also been the symbol of water, dominating the rivers and seas.

It isn't only about the healthy competition. Gerri and Terri make these beautiful baskets to sell at events, all the money going to the cause.



Since it was believed to control the clouds and rain, it was not a surprise that a primarily agricultural people, wholly dependent on rain, would worship its source. Veneration of dragons was also believed to avert misfortune and calamity,

which to an agricultural society were closely tied to whether there was enough rain for their crops.

Dragon boat racing has been a staple of their culture ever since, the ritual becoming a regular part of annual water festivals. Summer, the time for the festivals, was also the time for annual rice plantings. So it fits that the earliest dragon boat races took place in China's south-central rice bowl. Wherever there were rice paddies, there were also dragon boats.

But the racing

was also fun, and so the sport began to spread. The original dragon boats were made of teak imported from Indonesia.

But today they tend to be of lightweight fibers and synthetics. Once Dr. McKenzie proved that dragon boat racing was actually beneficial to the bodies of breast cancer survivors, the sport began to spread rapidly among these women. Today dragon boat racing is the fastest-growing aquatic sport in the world. Each team consists of ten or twenty paddlers, one drummer and one steerperson.

My entire life changed after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009. I was fortunate, because they caught my cancer early. After a double mastectomy in 2010, I have been cancer-free. The following year I joined a Miami-based dragon racing team called

Save Our Sisters, made up entirely of breast cancer survivors. There are currently a hundred breast cancer teams throughout the world. Our team, which trains in Biscayne Bay, is ten years old. We usually train twice a week.

Winning is nice, too. And Gerri's team wins a lot of trophies, ergo the big smile.



A panoramic shot of all the competing teams just before the start of a race. Note the huge cheering section.

We are the number one team in Florida and are ranked number thirteen in the world.

We travel to racing competitions often, to other states and to countries around the world. Because of the Chai-Lights deadlines, I'm writing this from Toronto, where *Save Our Sisters* is one of ten teams competing.

I could go on and on about the benefits to each participant in this program, both in fitness and in the benefits of surging energetically back into life with so

many fellow cancer survivors. But we also never forget that other women continue to face what we faced. Our team is very involved in seminars and makes sure to provide resource tables at events. A major focus is educating everyone about breast cancer, and funding mammo-

grams for those who can't afford them. We're like a support group on the water. *Save Our Sisters* is a non-profit organization. Our members are from all walks of life and range in age from 30s to 70s; like any other group, we have varied fitness levels and interests. But

we do focus strongly on the issue of breast cancer. (The reason why we feature the color pink.) Our goals are to educate the public,

serve as role models, mentor those newly diagnosed with breast cancer, assist those without access to breast cancer screenings or treatment, and raising funds for breast cancer-affiliated women's services.

Please see our website, teamsosmiami.org, where there is lots of additional information. *Save Our Sisters* will also be participating in the (Susan) Komen

Walkathon at Bayfront Park in Miami on October 15th. If you like, you can register to join us at the Komen website.

Some good things came out of my breast cancer. I now live every day to the fullest. I

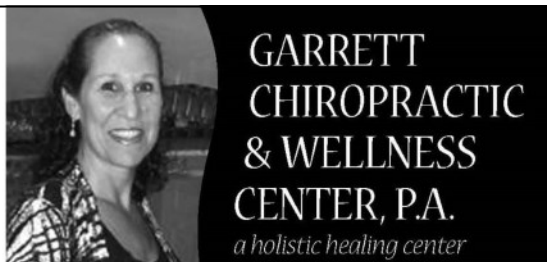
will also say that, during that very difficult period of my life, there were women from KJCC who helped me get through it. (The first in line has always been my twin, Terri, who has given me her love and sup-

port every step of the way.) I now appreciate and am very grateful for everything. I love my work with *Save Our Sisters*, I love participating in dragon boat racing, and together with hundreds of other survivors I love being a role model for all those looking to make the idea of tomorrow one of joy instead of fear and dread. ♦



The photo at top shows the entire crew, including drummer and steerperson (scull crews call them coxswains). Above, our Gerri getting that healing upper-body exercise. At right, ending a long race.





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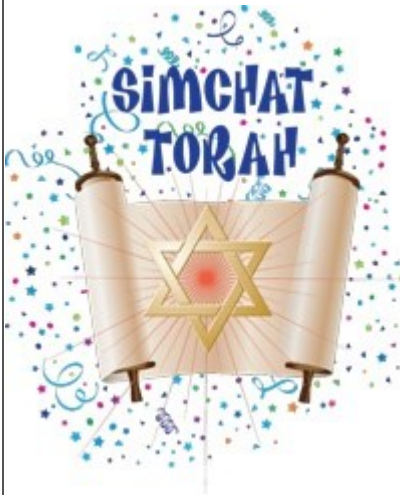
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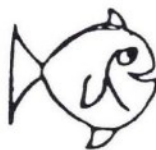
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