

September 1 - October 31, 2023 15 Elul 5783 - 16 Cheshvan 5784

Remembering Beth Hayden — Pages 16-17 High Holy Days — Pages 19-25 Joyce in Kenya — Pages 26-29



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Services are every Friday at 7:30pm				1 SEP Jane Friedman & Richard Knowles Barbara & Richard Knowles	2	
3 Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	4 Labor Day Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	5	6	7	8 Rivka Rizzo Sisterhood	9 Reverse Tashlich at the Bolton Home 10:30 a.m.
10 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	11 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner 6 p.m. Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin Sisterhood	16 Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30 a.m.
17 Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30 a.m. Tashlich at the Kaufman Home 4 p.m.	18 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Randy Klein Gross Sisterhood	23
24 Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.	25 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 a.m. Yizkor 11 a.m. Neilah 6 p.m. Break the Fast	26 Decorate the Sukkah 6 p.m.	27	28 Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom 12:30 p.m.	29 Erev Sukkot Joyce Peckman <i>Sisterhood</i>	30
Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	2 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Yizkor & Simchat Torah Joe Shabathai & Joyce Peckman Joyce Peckman	7
8	9 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Ken Atlas & Art Itkin Sisterhood	14
15 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	16 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	17	18	19	20 Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner Kathy & Joe Shabathai	21
22	23 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	24	25	26 Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom 12:30 p.m.	27 Michael Kaufman & Gloria Avner Sisterhood	28
29	30 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	31			te service leaders. As are Oneg sponsors.	

2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the bimonthly publication of the Keys Jewish Community Center chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas

ello. I hope everyone had a good summer, and is ready for life to return to normal.

I have just returned from a week in India. I told my parents I was searching for a New Delhi. But they didn't have any pastrami. Curry might not be as good, but it's pretty close. It was an amazing time. I really felt at home there. The people were very friendly. And in true Gandhi fashion, I forgot to eat my first day there. I discovered a number of similarities between our faith and the Hindu faith.



But speaking of fasting, yep, it's that time again. We are almost up to the High Holidays. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. And remember, zoom attendance is possible too. As usual, we will have both Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin leading us in person. They are a great team, and we are so lucky to have them. Our ritual team put on countless hours to make this work.

I wish you all a safe and healthy 5784. \diamond

Shabbat Service Leaders

Sept. 1Jane Friedman & Richard Knowles
Sept. 8 Rivka Rizzo
Sept. 15Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Sept. 22 Randy Klein-Gross
Sept. 29Joyce Peckman
Oct. 6 Joe Shabathai & Joyce Peckman
Oct. 13Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Oct. 20 Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner
Oct. 27 Michael Kaufman & Gloria Avner

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 2023

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Contact Steve Hartz
Friday, Sept. 1	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Jane Friedman & Richard Knowles
Sunday, Sept. 3	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 8	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo
Saturday, Sept. 9	10:30 a.m. Reverse Tashlich at Donna Bolton's home
Sunday, Sept. 10	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 15	6 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner. RSVP to Erica Lieberman Garrett 7:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service led by Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Saturday, Sept. 16	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service led by Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Sunday, Sept. 17	9:30 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service led by Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin 4 p.m. Tashlich at the Kaufman home
Friday, Sept. 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross
Sunday, Sept. 24.	7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre with Rabbi Agler & Cantor Dzubin
Monday, Sept. 25	9:30 a.m. Yom Kippur Service • 11 a.m. Yizkor • 6 p.m. Neilah Break the Fast Dinner following Services Yom Kippur afternoon events: discussions & more
Tuesday, Sept. 26	6 p.m. Decorate the Sukkah
Thursday, Sept. 28	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom
Friday, Sept. 29	Erev Sukkot. 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman
Sunday, Oct. 1	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Oct. 6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Yizkor & Simchat Torah Service led by Joe Shabathai & Joyce Peckman
Friday, Oct. 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas & Art Itkin
Sunday, Oct. 15	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, Oct. 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Donna Bolton & Gloria Avner
Thursday Oct. 26	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club on Zoom
Friday, Oct. 27	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Michael Kaufman & Gloria Avner

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Sisterhood Book club

The book club continues to Zoom on the last Thursday of each month. For July and August we had two delightful easy- reading historical novels from first time authors. Each was about a woman who refused to accept the vocational limitations of her time. The book we chose for September is both eloquent and thought-provoking - appropriate for this season of introspection. David Lasky's The Family is a beautifully researched narration that vividly brings to life three branches of his family, through six generations, beginning with the scribe Shimon Dov HaCohen, born in 1835 in what is now Belarus. They include pioneers of young Israel, victims of WW2 atrocities and famous, successful entrepreneurs in the U.S.A. We invite all members and their friends to read and discuss this important book with us.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

Many of us remember Erev Rosh Hashanah as a time when extended families came together around the table to feast on matzah ball soup, roast chicken, steamy potatoes and more. KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam hopes to recapture that festive family feeling with our Rosh Hashanah family dinner on Friday September 15th. The cost is only \$18 per person (free for members under 13 years old.) Look for the flyer on page 18. RSVP to Erica by September 10th.

Keep an eye on your mailbox.

You should soon be receiving a mailing from Sisterhood, with suggestions for dates when you can sponsor an Oneg Shabbat. As you can see if you look at the calendar on the front inside cover, there are plenty of open dates. This is your opportunity to honor a loved one or celebrate an occasion, while you perform a serious mitzvah. We look forward to receiving your replies. Loni Padden is coordinating the onegs. You can email her at <u>Dr.Padden@yahoo.com</u>. \diamond

Paradise Joins Chai-Lights

Next time you feel like looking at good art, by National and local artists, or need a great present, stop by and visit Our Place in Paradise (MM 88.7 Oceanside), our newest Chai-Ligbts Advertiser and gallery home to four KJCC Artists: Medina Roy, Barbara Bernstein, Jan Hartz and Gloria Avner. It's a lovely gallery.

ONEG SPONSORS				
Sept. 01	Barbara & Richard Knowles	Oct. 06	Joyce Peckman	
Sept. 08	Sisterhood	Oct. 13	Sisterhood	
Sept. 15	Sisterhood	Oct. 20	Kathy & Joe Shabathai	
Sept. 22	Sisterhood		Celebrating Joe's Birthday	
Sept. 29	Sisterhood	Oct. 27	Sisterhood	

Memorial Brick

In memory of Pearl & Stanley Goodman

Memorial Brick

In memory of Alfred Rimm 6/24/2023

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 <u>dr.padden@yahoo.com</u>.

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 <u>dr.padden@yahoo.com</u>.

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.

JULY & AUGUST 2023

Yahrzeit	In Honor/Memory of
Adam & Judy Starr	Norman James Schuman Manya Starr
Patricia Isenberg	Margaret Isenberg Roger Starr
Elaine Schulberg	-
Beth Horowitz	Sheldon David Horowitz
Jeff & Cheryl Margulies	Josephine Margulies
Lillian Tallent	Ida Tallent Ralph L. Tallent
Gary Margolis & Laurie Blu	m Burton Margolis
Adam & Judy Starr	Irving Kopecky Olga Schuman
Rosalyn Koffler	David Kofler
	Fred Goldfaden
	Freida Goldfaden
	Harry Goldfaden Pagil Goldfaden
	Rebecca Goldfaden
	Robert Goldfaden
	Rose Goldfaden
	Samuel Goldfaden
	Lillian Kofler
	Marcus Kofler
Joyce & Mel Ruthenl	
Karyn ZorenI	Pauline Roller & Al Roller
Meditation Garden Stuart & Lauren Sax	Beth Havden
Leaf on the Tree of Life Linda Pollack	Beth Hayden
Unrestricted Alan Beth & Candace Stanl	,
Maria Cartagena Donna Bolton	,

- SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

Oneg

Jane Friedman	Celebrating Her Anniversary
Barney Coltman	Remembrance of his first anniversary with Ellen
Nadine Thompson .	Celebrating Mom Miriam Frankel's 98th birthday
Ken Atlas	Honoring Barney Coltman
	as New treasurer
Loni Padden	Celebrating Lily's Birthday and Her Own Birthday

General

Michael and Lorena Kaufman

- D&D DONATIONS -

Gold Leaf on the Tree of Life

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis .	Beth Hayden
Elaine Schulberg	Jerome Lundy

Siddur Book Plate

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Other

Michael & Lorena Kaufman Steve & Jan HartzIn memory of Beth Hayden In honor of Barney Coltman In honor of Linda Kaplan Susan Tatelman & Anne Steinman In honor of Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis

Scholarship Fund

Arnold & Tina Klein Claire Tallent Lillian Tallent Susan Gordon Linda Pincus

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CONT.

New Year's Greeting

Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow Mindy & Richard Agler Michael & Lorena Kaufman Erica Lieberman Garrett Joan Wohl Susan Gordon Nadine Thompson & Miriam Frankel Kathy & Joe Shabathai Joyce Peckman Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Gloria Avner Mark Avner

High Holy Days

Ion Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow **Bill & Donna Bolton** Linda Pollack Erica Lieberman Garrett Barnet O. Coltman Lillian Tallent Stuart & Geri Smith Steve & Ian Hartz Robert Temkin Kathy & Joe Shabathai Joyce Peckman Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Gloria Avner Mark Avner Medina Roy Joel & Mary Roth

Meditation Garden

Steve & Jan Hartz Jamie & Laura Goodman Medina Roy

Security

Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow Bill & Donna Bolton Arnold & Tina Klein Claire Tallent Lillian Tallent Medina Roy

Yizkor

Ion Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow Bill & Donna Bolton Linda Pollack Mindy & Richard Agler Frica Lieberman Garrett Barnet O. Coltman Joel Bernard & Joan Stark Lillian Tallent Bernard Ginsberg Ioan Wohl Stuart & Geri Smith Marsha Garrettson Harvey & Judith Klein Iane Friedman Patricia Isenberg Robert Temkin Thomas & Renee Brodie Susan Gordon Svlvia Berman Steven & Barbara Smith Roos-Mary Benowitz David & Pamela Marmar Art Itkin Iamie & Laura Goodman lames Brush Nadine Thompson & Miriam Frankel Linda Pincus Muriel Swartz Kathy & Joe Shabathai Iovce Peckman Iamie & Laura Goodman Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Elaine Schulberg Murray Blitzer & Beverly Strumor-Blitzer Gloria Avner Medina Roy Joel & Mary Roth Richard & Barbara Knowles

Holocaust Education

Claire Tallent Lillian Tallent Patricia Isenberg Tzeddakah Fund Linda Pincus Medina Roy

Chai-Lights Support Linda Pollack Susan Gordon Linda Pincus Muriel Swartz Kathy & Joe Shabathai Johanna Willner

Library Lillian Tallent

Tikkun Olam

Linda Pollack Arnold & Tina Klein Mindy & Richard Agler Alan & Chely Markowitz Linda Pincus

Unrestricted

Nancy Cohn Sam & Leslie Janowitz Joan Wohl Steve & Jan Hartz James Brush Kathy & Joe Shabathai Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Bírthdays

September

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4th	Michael Kanarek
4th	Michael Krissel
5th	Mathew Tainow
5th	Shayne Robinson
6th	Joel Bernard
7th	Jordan Feig
11th	Olivia Landes
12th	Benay Krissel
13th	Richard Kaufman
14th	Paul Friedman
15th	Marcia Kreitman
15th	Michael Tallent
16th	Kiersten Persoff
17th	Beth Lindenbaum
17th	Jay Hershoff
17th	Stacey W. Seewald
18th	Payton Borisoff
20th	Barbara Knowles
21st	Sammy Knowles
21st	Susan White
22nd	Daniel Tainow
22nd	Joseph Shabathai
22nd	Susan Roberts
23rd	Joe Levi
24th	Stacy Temkin
25th	Landon Strasser
25th	Richard Wolfe
29th	Adriana Sherman
30th	Katie J. Schur
30th	Mark Hitzig
31st	Brittany Schur

——— Anníversaríes —

Septe	mber	Years	October	Years
7th	Jay & Nancy Hershoff	24	2nd Paul & Barbara Bernstein.	29
9th	Neal & Cathy Rakov		22nd Steve & Luzviminda Levin	e11
9th	Steven & Barbara Smith		28th Michael & Suzanne Gilson	22
15th	Rita & Harry Rzepka		31st Harvey & Judith Klein	69
	Marsha & Tom Garrettson			



In Memoriam – September 2023

Goldie Berman By Sylvia Berman

Jim Boruszak By Joan Boruszak

Leo Rosenberg By Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

Sonia Silverstein By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross

> Abraham Kaplan By Sandy Kaplan

> > Sadie Klimpl By Michael Klimpl

Beverly Harvey By Linda Perloff

Stephen Berman By Sylvia Berman

Lillian Goldstein By Joan Boruszak

Sandra Ellen Schultz By Jane Friedman **Leah Kamely** By Yardena Kamely

Minnie Kaplan By Sandy Kaplan

David J. Levine By Steve & Luzviminda Levine

> **Toby Mitchell** By Linda Pollack

Mae U. Stark By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

Evelyn O. Coltman By Barnet O. Coltman

H. Melvin Berkon By Jamie & Laura Goodman

Leonard Roberts By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Martin M. Katz By Melissa Katz-Fusco

Erik S. Persoff By Lynn Nobil Lorraine Martell By Frank Rose

David Gulkis By Elaine Schulberg

Roger Starr By Adam & Judy Starr

Charlie Temkin By Robert Temkin

> **David Schur** By Lee Schur

Mrs. Freda Shipman By Shirley Stein

> **Larry Weber** By Judith Weber

Solomon Felder By Stuart & Geri Smith

Erik S. Persoff By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Phillip Fine By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Leaf on the tree of life:

To Honor Alfred Rimm 6/28/2023

Leaf on the tree of life:

Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr Sweetness and Light Forevermore



In Memoriam – October 2023

Perren Gerber By Gloria Avner

Shirley Leventhal Strumor By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

> Harriet Feder By David & Suzi-Sara Feder

> > Simon Skolnick By Susan Gordon

Rebekah Levy By Yardena Kamely

Neel Christensen By Nancy Kluger

> Joel S. Cohen By Lynn Nobil

Fanny Grossman Bernard By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark

> Ida Hitzig By Wes & Rita Conklin

Muriel Catanase By Jane Friedman

Henry Walter Isenberg By Patricia Isenberg **Ron Levy** By Beth Kaminstein

Eliza Christensen By Nancy Kluger

> **David Frank** By Linda Pollack

Gertrude Widlan By Norbert Birnbaum

Abraham Kanowsky By Wes & Rita Conklin

Stanley J. Goodman By Jamie & Laura Goodman

Michal Kamely Levy By Yardena Kamely

> **Sol Levy** By Beth Kaminstein

Jose (Pepe) Cohen Charaf By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

> **Rosalyn Rose** By Frank Rose

Maurice Singer By Lee Schur Mr. Harry Stein By Shirley Stein

Carol Steinbock By Stephen Steinbock & Rosemary Barefoot

> Zara White By Susan White

Jon R. Singer By Mary Lee Singer

Joel S. Cohen By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

> George Swartz By Muriel Swartz

Esther Gold Willner By Johanna Willner

Morton I. Singer By Mary Lee Singer

Saunders G. Cohen By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

> **Beverly Tobin** By Andrew M.Tobin

Leaf on the tree of life:

To Honor Beth Hayden Devoted Friend, Dog Lover, & Eishet Chayil Forever in our hearts - Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis

Leaf on the tree of life:

Beth Hayden Musician, Leader, Editor, Intellectual All Traits Tried and True Thank You for Sharing with Us - Linda Pollack

The Release that Brings Peace August 2023 - Elul 5783

by: Lucinda Kurtz

This new moon of Elul I paddle toward the radiant light The sun pointing the way To a timeless realm of possibility Where forgiveness unlocks The trembling troubled world.

This month of Elul I hear the piercing cry of the shofar Early each morning Shake my fragile knowing Awaken an ancient holding Jagged edges that yearn for repair.

Elul is our sacred time To sense our unique place In the eternal flow of being To question how we have lived How we have opened our hearts To heal and become whole.

I cherish this return to Still quiet within, To hear the voice of my soul.

Invisible fingers Comb columns of clouds In the azure sky Untangling knots Tied over centuries Freeing me to breathe more deeply In this present moment.

Despite the shifting currents Threading the shallows With internal navigation I find my way home.

Stepping on the pebbled beach I offer a prayer of gratitude For the journey and return For the known and unknown For the release that brings peace.



WORLD JEWISH REPORT Medina Roy



A First for the National Portrait Gallery

More than 50 years after she became the first woman to be ordained by the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College Seminary, Rabbi Sally Priesand will also be the first female rabbi to be featured later this year at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. Priesand was ordained in 1972. She retired from a New Jersey pulpit in 2006. The exhibit, which will open in October and will run through November 2024 - is part of a 21-work collection titled "Recent Acquisitions" that mostly features portraits of women. The portrait was made by Joan Roth, who is known for her photographs of Jewish women around the world. It shows Priesand wearing a multi-colored tallis while holding a Torah scroll whose cover displays the word avoda, the Hebrew word for "worship" or "service." Rabbi Priesand's photo will hang next to those of other pioneering women, including popstar Beyoncé, sci-fi author Octavia Butler, Hollywood icon Greta Garbo and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. the late (notorious) Jewish Supreme Court Justice.

Another exhibit recently began displaying a portrait of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the 19th century rabbi who founded Hebrew Union College in 1875. Wise's portrait is currently on display as part of the museum's "Out of Many: Portraits from 1600 to 1900" rotating exhibition, whose works are switched out periodically. Wise was a major figure in the establishment and growth of the Reform movement. Among other changes, he promoted mixed-gender services, sans curtain or balcony. (*www.timesofisrael.com*, 6–22–23)

Neo-Nazis Ordered to Pay

The organizers of the deadly neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, VA back in 2017 have been ordered to pay \$4.91 million to plaintiffs for legal costs in a lawsuit. This is in addition to the penalties that are already facing the close-to-bankrupt group of extremists. The rally organizers were sued by residents of Charlottesville claiming both trauma and injuries due to the deadly riots. The amount for legal costs is substantially less than the \$13 million plaintiffs initially sought, but it adds to the debt that will forever follow the defendants. "Fact discovery in this case was complex, expansive and voluminous," said Magistrate Joel Hoppe. "When plaintiffs filed this lawsuit..., the world had seen and heard reports of the torch march, overtly racist and anti-Semitic chants, and violent clashes in Charlottesville a few months earlier. But 'Itlhe world had not vet seen or heard about the planning and coordination that enabled the conflagration'," he added. The plaintiff's lawvers were funded by donations and by Integrity First for America, a nonprofit set up to litigate the case. "The impact of this case will be felt for years to come," said Integrity First's executive director, Amy Spitalnick. "Not just on the defendants...but also in the broader fight against extremism, as it serves as a model for accountability." (www.jpost. *com*, 3-10-23)

Church of Canada's New Prayer

The Anglican Church of Canada recently voted to remove a prayer from its prayer books calling for the conversion of the Jews. The decision ratifies a move that was announced three years ago to replace the prayer with one calling for reconciliation with the Jews. At that time, the Anglican bishop of Quebec said the change "would help the church acknowledge and repent for its participation in antisemitism and help it to stop

singling out Jews as a target for our evangelistic efforts, and to assume a humbler and reconciliatory stance with our Jewish elders in faith." Rabbi Adam Stein of Congregation Beth Israel in Vancouver, in a statement on behalf of the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus and Canada's Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, said, "We commend the General Synod for this important decision. Authentic interfaith dialogue requires respect. Any attempt by one to convert the other is the antithesis of respect. Changing this prayer represent a milestone in Anglican-Jewish relations and invites Anglicans to assume a reconciliatory stance with the Jewish community." The church's new prayer, "For Reconciliation with the Jews," was written in consultation with the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus. (The Anglican Church was originally split off from Catholicism in England when Henry VIII was angry at the Pope for not sanctioning one of his divorces. In the United States the term most used for the church is not Anglican but Episcopalian.)

The decision comes as efforts to eliminate anti-Semitic elements from Christian liturgy and practices increases. Citing a rise in anti-Semitism back in December – including among Christian nationalists – the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations urged churches to take a hard look at their own practices and change those that can incite hatred against Jews.

In the past several years, many of the world's largest Christian denominations have begun to address anti-Semitism in their liturgy and history. In 2022, the Episcopal Church announced that it would review its pre-Easter readings that blame the Jews for the death of Jesus, offering an alternative. In 2021, Pope Francis restricted the use of the Latin Mass that includes a praver for the conversion of Jews out of concern that it was being used by those who did not accept the Catholic Church's 1965 statement declaring that the lews were not responsible for the death of Jesus. The Pope has also condemned anti-Semitism. And the Church of England recently apologized to Jews for the anti-Semitic laws that led to their expulsion from Great Britain 800 years ago. (www.jta.org, 7 - 5 - 23

Another Award for Babs

In a return to its tradition of honoring Jewish celebrities for their lifetime of achievements, the Genesis Prize – also known as the "Jewish Nobel Prize" – will be awarded to Barbra Streisand later

this year. The iconic singer, actress and director is receiving the prize, awarded since 2013, in recognition of her contributions to a number of fields, including the arts and philanthropy. The prize was endowed by a group of Russian Jewish billionaires. Last year's Genesis Prize was awarded to lewish activists and nonprofits in Ukraine. It was the first time in its history that the prize was not given to a single individual. Streisand, 81, has sold more than 100 million records and has had more albums chart in the Top 40 than any other female recording artist. She is also one of just eighteen people to receive an EGOT - an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. The prize's goal is to stimulate Jewish giving by raising awareness of particular needs. She will donate her \$1 million award to four diverse groups whose goal is to protect the environment, promote women's health, combat disinformation in the media and aid the people of Ukraine. "I am delighted to... support organizations that seek to better society and our shared humanity," Streisand said. "I am very proud of my Jewish heritage and have always been moved by the Jewish tradition of *tikkun* olam, to repair the world ... "

The award honors "extraordinary individuals for their outstanding professional achievement, contribution to humanity, and commitment to Jewish values." The prize has generally gone to celebrities who put their Jewish identity out publicly. She will be honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles in October. (www.haaretz.com, 5-2-23)

In Memoriam

• Richard Barancik, the last surviving member of the Allied military corps - unofficially known as the "Monuments Men" - that hunted down and recovered numerous artworks stolen by the Nazis, died recently. He was 98. As a member of what was officially known as the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) section, Barancik was sent to Salzburg, Austria in 1945, where he and a fellow soldier moved stolen art treasures to the central repository of the U.S. Property Control Branch. When he volunteered for the MFAA, he only had training in basic engineering. But he had a love for art. (By the way, the "Monuments Men" included a few women.) Some 350 men and women, mostly academics, art historians and other antiquities experts served in the MFAA. Between 1943 and its dissolution in 1946, the group recovered thousands of paintings, sculptures, gold

and other cultural objects in both Europe and Asia. It was a rescue mission that allowed Jewish survivors, the families of victims and others who had been stripped of their assets by the Nazis to recover many of them in the years after the war.

Born in Chicago, Barancik's mother was an immigrant from Russia who gave piano lessons; his father ran a hospital division in France during World War I and was chief of staff at Jackson Park Hospital and South Chicago Hospital.

After the war, Barancik went on to become a prolific architect and eventually became known for distinctive high-rises along Chicago's upscale "Gold Coast." In 2015, he was part of a delegation of former "Monuments Men" who traveled to Washington, D.C. where they received the Congressional Gold Medal, the United States' highest civilian honor. "This is a small group of people who, acting purely on their passion and courage, reclaimed the world's most valuable treasures," Representative John Boehner, then Speaker of the House, said at the ceremony. (*www.nytimes.com*, 7-22-23)

• Rabbi Harold Kushner, one of the most influential congregational rabbis of the 20th century, died at the end of April at the age of 88. Kushner's works of popular theology resonated with millions of people, especially with his 1981 New York Times best seller, "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." This title has sold more than four million copies in at least a dozen languages.

Shortly after he arrived to lead *Temple Israel of Natick* in Massachusetts – and on the day his daughter Ariel was born – his three-year-old son Aaron was diagnosed with progeria, a fatal premature aging condition. "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" was Kushner's attempt to make sense of Aaron's suffering and eventual death, which occurred just a few days after his 14th birthday.

The book was turned down by two publishers before being released by Schocken Books, a Jewish imprint. In the book, Kushner struggled to "reconcile the twin Jewish beliefs in God's omnipotence and his benevolence with the reality of human suffering." Kushner's view challenged traditional Jewish teaching about God – you'll need to read the book...it isn't long, and you'll be glad you did, just as you should read and ponder our own Rabbi Rich Agler's "The Tragedy Test," written from the same well of searing loss and pain, and which carries a blurb recommending it by Rabbi Kushner – and brought criticism from some Orthodox Jews and also caused other Jewish theologians to oppose his views. Eventually, Kushner stepped away from his duties at his synagogue and was able to devote his time to writing other books, tackling subjects such as the meaning of life, overcoming disappointment, among others.

Harold Kushner was born in Brooklyn and educated in the New York City public schools. He was ordained in 1960 at the *Jewish Theological Seminary*. He had his military exemption waived and for two years he served as a military chaplain in Oklahoma. When he stepped down from the pulpit at age 55, his congregation felt he was too young to be named rabbi emeritus and so they made him their rabbi laureate, a title held by only a few American spiritual leaders.

Kushner collected a large number of accolades: he was honored by the Christophers, the Roman Catholic organization, as someone who made the world a better place. The organization Religion in America named him clergyman of the year in 1999. Then, in 2004, he read from the Book of Isaiah at the state funeral of President Ronald Reagan. Working alongside novelist Chaim Potok (author of many Jewish-themed books, including "The Chosen"), Kushner edited the New England region of its rabbinical association's 2001 *Etz Hayim Torah commentary*. In a 2008 interview, Kushner said, "How do I live a fulfilling life is the question. And Judaism is the answer." (*www.jta. org*, 4–28–23)

Did You Know...

 Gal Gadot is the first Israeli actor to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. "I'm so grateful and thankful and humbled," she said. Gadot, 38, began her career as a beauty gueen and model. In 2009, she played a retired Mossad agent in her Hollywood debut film, "Fast and Furious." Since then, she has acted in many films and TV shows in both Israel and Hollywood. Her role in "Wonder Woman" made her an A-list star in 2016. The film was an international success. Two years ago, she starred in "Red Notice," which is considered the highest budget film in Netflix history. She is planning to produce and star in a series about the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra, playing the lead role herself. In case you're wondering, today there are 2,789 stars on the sidewalk of Hollywood Boulevard. (*www.haartez.com*, 6-27-23) ◊

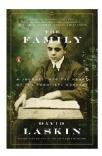


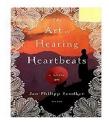
Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, September 28, 2023 ~ The Family by David Laskin via Zoom Thursday, October 26, 2023 ~ The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker at Linda's house

An epic work of twentieth century history through the riveting story of one extraordinary Jewish family.





The story follows Julia Win, a young attorney, who attempts to track down her father, a well-known New York lawyer and Burmese national, who suddenly disappears. The catalyst for her search is the discovery of an old love letter from her father to an unknown woman in Burma.

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



Display the services in the sanctuary were broadcast to those who could not attend at KJCC.

The book club continues to Zoom on the last Thursday of each month. For July and August we had two delightful easy- reading historical novels from first time authors. Each was about a woman who refused to accept the vocational limitations of her time. The book we chose for September is both eloquent and thought-provoking - appropriate for this season of introspection. David Lasky's The Family is a beautifully researched story that vividly brings to life three branches of his family, beginning with the scribe Shimon Dov HaCohen, born in 1835 in what is now Belarus, through six generations: the pioneers of young Israel, the victims of WW2 atrocities and the entrepreneurs of the U.S.A. We invite all members and their friends to read and discuss this important book with us.

Sisterhood gift shop will open before the holi-

days, stocked with useful, beautiful and interesting items for the season.

A big thanks to all of you who continued to sponsor onegs through the summer. We celebrated birthdays and anniversaries of members near and far, sending our good wishes across the miles. Loni Padden and Erica Lieberman Garrett will soon be sending out requests for sponsors for the coming year. In the prayer book there is a special blessing for those who provide wine and challah to the community. Sponsoring an oneg is a wonderful way to commemorate a happy event or honor the memory of a loved one. Please watch for the letter and respond generously.

We are looking forward to Rosh Hashanah with its promise of cooler weather soon after. Sisterhood will be arranging for Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner on Friday night September 15th. Cost will be only \$18 per person. RSVP to Erica Lieberman Garrett at *hippiejap@hotmail.com*. Sisterhood will also be serving lunch after Rosh Hashanah services, and of course a break-thefast after *Neilah* prayers on Yom Kippur night.

We wish you and your loved ones a peaceful, healthy and happy $5784.\diamond$







Beth was a friend and mentor. When I took over the position of KJCC President from her, she spent hours at my home teaching me the intricacies of sending congregational messages though the Constant Contact app. She hadn't been well and was very relieved to hand the job of president over to me but was eager to give me any help that I might need. She was incredibly organized and competent and tried (with only a little success) to give me those skills. She was devoted to KJCC. Even though she was not a fan of throwing parties or working in kitchens, she agreed to take on the job of Sisterhood President. The magnificent Sisterhood cookbook is a testament to her organizational abilities. Her music and her dogs were her life. I often felt that their needs came before hers. Several years ago, I was glad that I could facilitate her trip to Israel by taking Ollie.

Beth was a brilliant musicologist. Whenever we drove to Miami, I would put on a classical music station. She would critique the performance, mentioning other versions and telling stories about her experiences with pianists and conductors. She dreamed of offering a class in music history. She would often send me internet links to recitals or concerts, from contemporary to classical. She opened my eyes and my interest, and I am grateful.

~ Joyce Peckman

Beth Hayden wanted to contribute. She did important work for years benefitting AIDS organizations. And then she came to us and served as President. In the last segment of her life's wild ride, she satisfied three goals: saying a loving goodbye to Ollie, visiting Avery and family, her best friends in Israel, and taking on the Adult Education Committee. She did contribute. And I am grateful to have known her.

– Gloria Hvner

How good that she was able to have that trip to Israel. She was the type of person who gave as much of herself as she could. Adam and I are glad we got to know her.

- Idam and Judy Starr

"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body - but rather a skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, 'Wow, what a ride!' ~ Anonymous

If you emailed with Beth you will recognize the words following each of her missives. How ironic, but how beautiful, these words are, given Beth's situation.

Beth was a long time friend. We lunched together, dined together at numerous Passover seders and dinners, discussed our love for music, our shared history in Miami, our dogs, our activities at the KJCC and our love for our KJCC mishpochah. Beth was a Past President of the KJCC, a Past President of the KJCC Sisterhood, and most recently she chaired the committee for the KJCC Cookbook, Recipes From the Rock. This book is a reflection of Beth totally as she saw to it that it was personalized to our congregation. We are fortunate to have this long time memory.



I feel like I I've known Beth Hayden my whole life. And the loss of her presence will never be replaced. From the moment I met Beth, I was struck by 3 things. 1. She was a woman of great talent. 2. She was a highly motivated person, with a strong desire to get things done. 3. She had amazing attention to detail. I served on the board for her 2 years as president. And though we were in very good hands with her leadership, it was her time as recording secretary, I'll remember best.

Among her accomplishments, is the shared success of the FEMA Security Grant. It was Beth, along with Steve Hartz, who got the ball rolling. The paperwork and application process were a daunting task. I'm sure everyone else will talk of her piano skills and other talents. I will skip that, but I too, recognize the talent they was there. I loved to hear her talk about Israel. I learned more about our other homeland from her, than any other source.

When I took over as president, I was lost. I probably still am to some degree. But Beth gave me lots of help and pointers until Joyce returned from vacation after my swearing in. That first month's help was essential. So thank you Beth, for all you did for myself and for KJCC. You will be greatly missed. But I hope you are happy in heaven.

~ .Ken Atlas

She was so dedicated to the KJCC, and contributed so much. She will be missed, and I will miss her friendship.

- Marcia Kreitman

Sincere condolences from the Markowitz family on Beth's passing.

- Hedy Markowitz



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER Congregation Ohr HaYam Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

invites you to our Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner

On Friday, September 15th, 2023, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a haimische dinner followed by 7:30 pm Services led by Rabbi Agler and Cantor Dzubin

Meat Dinner with Vegetarian Options Available

Rosh Hashanah Oneg following services

We invite you to bring a favorite dish to share with your KJCC Mishpacha. Please RSVP to Erica Lieberman-Garrett hippiejap@hotmail.com (305) 393-1162 by September 10th to coordinate your dish and to reserve your space.



WELCOME TO HIGH HOLY DAYS

he High Holidays have been called "a turning point in endless time." I like that description. It recognizes that while time may be infinite, formless, and perhaps, endless, it nevertheless allows us put down markers that enable us to define our lives.

Rosh Hashanah 5784 is almost upon us. Long ago, the Rabbis calculated that the world would be that many years old today. Science tells us differently, of course, but we still think

of Rosh Hashanah as the anniversary of Creation. It is a time to celebrate, yes, but it is also an opportunity for spiritual renewal. And, when we are together in community, that opportunity comes most alive. The High Holydays have a power that can be difficult to match.

In the wake of the pandemic, and the necessary responses of isolation, video-streaming, and all the rest, there is something to be said, a lot actually, for coming together, live and in person, with friends, family, and neighbors. It gives us the opportunity to acknowledge that in spite of everything, we survived a plague-like virus. At the same time, it reminds us that we are all human, we are all vulnerable, we are all searchers. and that we all fall short. Acknowledging this, especially in person, gives us the opportunity to embrace, forgive, better understand, and ultimately strengthen one another.

Seeing each other's faces, singing together, hearing the venerable melodies, even, especially, sharing chit-chat, creates an experience that watching onscreen cannot match. If it is at all possible for you to do so, I invite you to make the effort to attend in person. Think of it not only as a benefit you will receive, but as a gift you will be giving to everyone else.

Once we assemble, the real business of the High Holidays begins. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are holidays like no others. They commemorate no historical event. Rather they direct our focus to our personal lives—individual and communal. We could go so far as to call them the "Me Holidays", or the "Us Holidays." And who doesn't need some



well-structured "me time" these days? And where is the community that could not benefit from some well- grounded "us time," as well?

These days are an opportunity to acknowledge our shortcomings, which despite our best efforts, continue to snag and trip us. Why did I say that? Why did I do that? How could I have handled that better? Just asking these questions can open doors of understanding and compassion that can only

improve our quality of life.

And as far as our communities go (plural, because we all belong to several of them), let's be honest, they, too, are in need serious healing. In these polarized times, how can we find a way to embrace both our own beliefs and what may be the essential decency of those who see the world differently? How can we learn respect through disagreement? How can we put water, instead of gasoline, on the fires we have set? How can we understand that empathy can bring us what self-righteousness cannot?

These are neither small questions nor small challenges. But these are not small days. The good news is that our tradition, if we are wise enough to put it to use, offers much of the balm we need. For openers, we can look to one of our Hebrew Prophets. "Have we not all one father? Has not One God created us all? (Malachi 2:10) Working through the metaphor to contemplate the essential truth of that ancient verse cannot help but bring us closer to one another—and to a higher path.

There is, of course, plenty more where that came from. We could do worse than open ourselves to as much of the High Holy Days' message as we can.

Mindy joins me in expressing gratitude to the members of Congregation Ohr Ha-Yam—the Keys Jewish Community Center, for the honor of serving as rabbi again this year. We look forward to being with you. \diamond

L'shana tovah! Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

Kjcc High Holiday Service Schedule

5784 (2023)

Rabbi Richard Agler & Cantor Michael Dzubin All services will be held live and on Zoom.

Saturday, September 9 Reverse Tashlich • 10:30 a.m. • Home of Donna Bolton

> Friday, September 15 Dinner • 6:00 p.m.• RSVP by Sept. 10 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service • 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 16 Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Service • 9:30 a.m.

Light lunch after services

Sunday, September 17 Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Service • 9:30 a.m. Tashlich • 4 p.m. • Home of Michael Kaufman

> **Friday, September 22** Shabbat Service • 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 24

Erev Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service • 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 25

Yom Kippur Service • 9:30 a.m. Yizkor Service • 11 a.m. Neilah service followed by Break-the-Fast • 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 26

Decorate Succah • 6 p.m.

Friday, September 29

Shabbat Service • 7:30 p.m. Followed by Oneg in Succah

Friday, October 6

Shabbat Service and Yizkor Service • 7:30 p.m. With Simchat Torah Celebration Followed by Oneg in Succah

HEARING THE CALL

Reprinted with permission By Rabbi Nicole Guzik.

Any of us look forward to Rosh Hashana to hear the blasts of the shofar. The shofar's blasts, a set of notes that often connote brokenness, awaken us to crying. Our internal cries and the cries of those within our community and around the world. Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf writes, "The call of the shofar is the sound that wakes us up so that we will make a choice for clarity, for awareness, for a fully constructive and purposeful life."

But what happens when we don't blow the shofar? This year, Rosh Hashana falls on Shabbat. According to Jewish law, we don't blow the shofar on Shabbat. Come to services on the second



Hashana, vou will see the familiar ram's horn and hear a tekiah. But not on Fridav evening or Saturdav morning. How do we celebrate Rosh Hashana without one of the most central images, sounds, and experiences?

day of Rosh

A memory from 2019. How good it will be to be live in the shul with our leaders once more.

Simple. When you cannot hear the shofar, be the shofar. As it is said in Pirkei Avot, "In a place where there are no men, strive to be a man." What does it mean to be a shofar? Where we see brokenness, let us not merely recognize pain but also be willing to act as a comforter. Where we see abuse, let us not close our eyes to the injustice experienced by others. Where we see opportunities to be a light unto others, let us not expect someone else to provide the match. Being a shofar is raising our hand to be called upon as God's messenger, God's partner, God's amplifier of goodness.

We rarely hear the actual shofar. The days of Elul and Rosh Hashana and end of Yom Kippur are yet but a reminder of what



Jonah Gross-Klein will once again be our shofar blower. Come listen to the most remarkable "Tekiah G'dolah," on Day 2 Rosh HaShanah and on Yom Kippur.

we should already know. There is an alarm clock within each of us ready to ring. The question is whether we will silence the alarm or heed its call. Shabbat Shalom \diamond



Bernie Ginsberg may be observing Rosh HaShanah in California, but we miss him and are grateful for all the years he blew the shofar for us.

New Year's Greetings

Wishing everyone a happy & healthy New Year Jon & Terry Tainow

Shana tovah to our KJCC family Mindy & Rabbi Richard Agler

ser a

Wish all KJCC members Happy High Holidays Míchael, Lorena, and Sean Kaufman

ser a

Wishing our mishpocha a healthy 5784. Shana Tova Erica Lieberman Garrett Shanah Tovah to my dear friends at Ohr HaYam Sending love, Joan Wohl

ser a

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year Adam and Judy Starr

Wishing you health & Joy in 5784! L'Shanah Tovah Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

May 5784 be a good year for all of my KJCC family With Love, Susan Gordon

Wishing all a happy and healthy New Year Frankel/Thompson family Shana Tova Umetukah to all our friends at KJCC Joseph & Kathy Shabathai

Wishing a year of peace, health and joy to all my KJCC family here and everywhere Joyce Peckman

Wishing all our friends A healthy New Year Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

son

Happy Healthy New Year, dear mishpocha Gloría Avner



As was written above the Ark in the synagogue I grew up in, and in many congregations: one must "Know before Whom you stand".

uring the summers of 2011-2013, I had the honor of serving as the lone Jewish Chaplain at Philmont Scout Ranch. With over 1,000 staffers and almost 23,000 hikers from all over the world each summer (300-500 hitting the trail each day), Philmont is the biggest summer camp in the world, and with over 214 square miles of mountains in northern New Mexico, the biggest high adventure base in the country! With that many trekkers arriving each day and hitting the trail the next morning, they only had time for one religious service in base camp, so all four religions represented in camp (Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and LDS) held services at 7pm each evening in their respective chapels, conducted by religious leaders of their faiths (holding the Boy Scout leadership position of Chaplain).

While conducting services every evening, I was surprised to learn that most of my 'congregants' were not Jewish. While there were a number of lewish Scouts and leaders there, it was fairly common for the Scouts and leaders of all faiths to take the opportunity to see what the services of other religions were like. So, I decided to make it a "Learning Minyan". While we still did the complete service, we paused along the way to explain the meaning of some of the prayers, the reason we do things in the service, wear the things we wear, etc. It was a great opportunity to help answer a lot of questions and dispel numerous misunderstandings that the non-lews in attendance may have had (and even some that the Jewish hikers had forgotten, or never learned about themselves!).

I would explain that in the time of castles, kings and queens, if you had a dispute with someone,



you had to bring your argument before the king. but vou couldn't just walk into the throne room unannounced: you had to wait vour turn and receive permission to enter the room to see the king. Then, when vou received permission to enter.



it was customary to bow as you entered and only take three steps as you approached the throne before you stated your case. Of course, once you entered your audience with the king, you wouldn't dare even think about turning to speak to someone else, or turning around to leave when you had finished your conversation with the king, for if you turned your back on the king, you could be thrown in the dungeon, or possibly had your head separated from your body for showing such disrespect! And so, one was required to back out of the room, bowing repeatedly to demonstrate one's respect for the king.

If we had to follow such strict rules to show respect to earthly kings, how much more so, that we should demonstrate such respect and reverence to the King of Kings! Therefore, before we begin our one-on-one conversation with God in the Shemoneh Esrei (literally, "18", named for the 18 blessings that were originally in the Amidah (Standing Prayer), even though there are 19 now), we take three little steps back (especially if the row we are in doesn't give us enough room to take the required steps forward), take a moment to clear our minds and prepare ourselves for this private audience with the King of Kings, and then take three steps forward, symbolically entering God's presence. Once we have entered into this virtual, spiritual throne room, we are forbidden to speak with anyone else around us; in fact, the rules say that we are forbidden to even acknowl-



edge a greeting from a close friend or VIP with even a nod of the head, as only an emergency justifies the interruption of one's conversation with God!

Similarly, one takes three steps backward at the very end of the Amidah before reciting the sentence 'Oseh Shalom Bimromav' (May He Who caused peace to reign in the Heavens). While saying it, the custom is to slightly bow three times from the waist: first towards the left, then towards the right, then forward. This was how a subject took his leave of his king, and so we do the same as we exit from the presence of the King of the universe.

After explaining this to my congregants at Philmont, I noticed something interesting. Unlike most of the Jews in all of the congregations that I have led or participated in, who would quickly take the three steps back, bow, then take the three steps forward and be off to the races to get through the Amidah as guickly as possible, those in attendance (especially the non-Jews) took my explanation to heart. I first noticed it out of the corner of my eye (but during later services, I confirmed it by looking around), as after I had briefly paused before taking my three steps forward. it wasn't until about 10 seconds later that the Govim (it has been used as a derogatory term to refer to non-Jews, but it literally means "nations", and Israel/Jews are called Goy Kadosh, the Holy Nation) would step forward when they felt that they were ready to step into the presence of the King of Kings!

Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) teaches: "Who is wise? One who learns from everyone." I am grateful to my Govim attendees at Philmont, who reminded me to reclaim my Kavanah (spiritual intent) during my prayers, and to share this reminder with others. When I attend services during the year (and am not serving a congregation by leading the davening). I have often found many around me who seem to consider it a personal challenge to finish the silent Amidah, and even the Bentching (Grace After Meals) before everyone else. I would point out that it's not a competition. We don't just rush into the Sh'ma, where we accept God as our King, and the Amidah, which is a time for us to pour our hearts out to God; there is a procedure to prepare ourselves. We say the morning blessings, then the P'sukei D'Zimrah (the Verses of Song, from the Book of Psalms and other places in the Tanakh (the Jewish Bible) to prepare us mentally and spiritually for that intimate connection. And despite it often feeling like we are racing to get ready, we don't just rush into Shabbat. After possibly rushing to complete the physical preparations, we begin Friday Night Services with prayers taken from the Book of Psalms, called Kabbalat Shabbat (the Receiving or Welcoming of the Sabbath) to calm us down and prepare us to focus on the "meat" of the service. the Sh'ma. Amidah. etc.

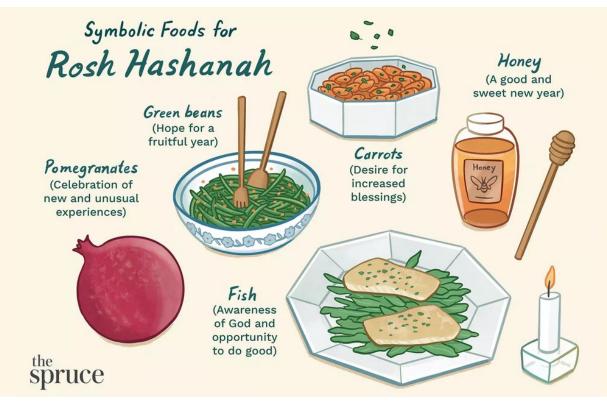
The Sages taught us that the Amidah should be said quietly to oneself, based on the example set by Hannah (who became the mother of our great prophet Samuel): "Hannah spoke in her heart: only her lips moved, but her voice could not be heard." This is why it is sometimes called the "Silent Prayer. However, there is also a requirement that the words we say must be audible to ourselves: our mouths need to verbalize the words like Hannah did (we can't just read them silently in our minds, like we read a book), but not to the point that we disturb the concentration of other worshippers around us. This may have something to do with why it seems that I take so much longer than most of the congregation to finish! The minimum level of Kavanah is to at least have a sense of standing in the presence of God, and the intent to fulfill one of His commandments.

Without this, we are not praying; we are simply reading from a book. The next level of Kavanah is to know and understand what we are saying. The next rung on the ladder is to free one's mind of all extraneous and interfering thoughts, to concentrate on the prayers, and the highest level is to think about the deeper meaning of what one is saying, while also praying with extraordinary devotion.

As we prepare for the Yamim Nora-im (Days of Awe), let us learn from Hannah, as well as my former congregants from Philmont to not rush headlong into and through our services, trying to win the race, but to take a breath, and prepare ourselves mentally, spiritually and emotionally, to have an intimate conversation with God, to really think about what we are saying to Him, and asking of Him, to have a relationship with Avinu Malkeinu (Our Father, Our King). I am honored that you have invited me back to share these High Holidays with you for a ninth High Holyday season as your Shaliakh Tsibbur, and I pray that this year, we will all be able to physically be together, and pray together, in good health! \diamond

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu! (May you all be inscribed for a Good Year!) Cantor Michael Dzubin







by Joyce Peckman

A frican Safari had never been on my bucket list. I figured between National Geographic, Discovery Channel and the Bronx and Miami Zoos, I pretty much had it covered. But when Rabbi and Mindy Agler sent out an email asking if anyone was interested in joining them for a trip to Kenya, I immediately hit "reply." I became part of a group of 16, including the Aglers with a dozen of their friends and relatives, and my friend Miriam. We met on Zoom and group chatted about the problems of vaccinations and visas before finally meeting in Nairobi mid-August.

Miriam and I arrived a day early to explore Nairobi. The hotel arranged for a driver for us. Our first stop was Kenya's National Museum. The museum is fairly small, but set up to clearly explain each exhibit to the many local families and schools that visit. After a lifetime of learning about early hominids, to be right in front of the actual skeletons of the earliest known pre-homo sapiens, with their crude stone tools, near the place where they lived, felt like touching the



1.6 million year old homo erectus.

deepest roots of my own ancient tree. There were also exhibits about the history of Kenya and surrounding countries with shared tribes and languages. They clearly explained how colonialism, slave trade and missionaries affected the culture of Kenya. The museum prides itself on being honest and free of corruption. Our driver commented that corruption is a fact of life in much of the rest of the country, evidenced in the traffic lights which have not worked for years despite high taxes paid to the government.



Young giraffe thigh bone.

Our next stop was the colorful open-air market held every Sunday in the court parking lot. This is not a place for two white women to wander alone. Our driver immediately found an agent who works in the market. He took us around, keeping the hordes of boys and peddlers from pestering us,

gathered the items we were interested in. and answered our questions, really protecting us. Then we sat down with him and got the prices, bargained down his supposed discounts and were able to use a credit card. Days later we



Sunday Market





realized that when traveling, the first stop should always be a hotel gift shop to get a general idea of what is easily available and at what price. While the market experience was memorable and I am pleased with the items, it is ob-

vious that we contributed generously to the economy of Nairobi.

Nairobi's downtown business district is beautiful and modern, and sections of the city house wealthy residents whose homes are hidden behind high walls and electrified wire. There are many fairly new four and five story walk-up apartment buildings where middle-class workers live. But many of the people seem to live in tiny, corrugated metal or



Rothschild Giraffe

stone homes behind rows of pocket-sized shops on dirt roads. The crowded open-air markets make the "shuks" of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem seem clean and glamorous.

More of our co-travelers arrived the next day, some having traveled through the night. Our activity for the afternoon was the Giraffe Center, a breeding program for endangered Rothschild Giraffes. There was one active male, three pregnant moms and seven babies aged seven months to two years. They live happily in a natural environment with a warthog named Pumba who has a symbiotic relationship with them. Hordes of paying visitors feed the animals pellets. At aged three the young ones are taken to a separate habitat where they learn to eat only the native vegetation, then shipped off to nature reserves around the country. Inside the visitor center, a guide passed around the thigh bone of a two-year-old giraffe



Our group at the hotel.

that had been killed by a lion in one of the reserves. The bone is extremely dense and very heavy; clearly a kick from such a leg could be deadly.

The next day the sixteen of us were bussed out of the central Nairobi business district, away from the wealthy gated communities, past schools and colleges landscaped with rows of pots of flowers for sale, into

the outskirts of the city where the masses live in run-down walk-up apartments and sheet metal houses. There are no sidewalks and few paved streets. The shops are tiny holes in the wall, with wooden beds and couches in front of the small

furniture shops and dresses or plastic containers hanging from the balconies to advertise what is inside.

Fifty feet down a dirt road, behind a tall stone wall topped with electrified wiring, behind a locked solid metal door







TAGS Staff

with no identifying sign, a guard let us into the Talia Agler Girls Shelter. In the yard under a rented tent, plastic chairs were set up and seventy girls in white t-shirts welcomed us with song and dance. By the second dance, they were pulling us in to join them. Edith Murogo, the founder and director, told us

the history of the shelter. It was the first, the best and is now the model for shelters around Africa for abused and trafficked girls. She is proud that this year they recently spearheaded a conference for all of these shelters. TAGS receives girls aged 10-22 referred from local police and welfare groups. Some are pregnant or come with infants. I sat next to a 16-year-old girl with a one-year-old on her lap.

The staff introduced themselves. There are four house mothers who take care of the seven babies and the girls. There is a music teacher who works with two small keyboards and a simple sound system. Music and dance are important tools to bind the girls into a community. Then each girl came up and introduced herself in a few English words. Many were proud and confident, but even the two who arrived this week shuffled forward, eyes downcast, and spoke a sentence in Swahili. All eventually go to school; some bussed to local schools, others attend boarding schools, and later vocational training or even college. (All schools were on holiday, so the girls were "home" at TAGS.) The older girls are powerful role models for the younger and newer students.

We were given a tour of the building by the



Drawing session with TAGS.

social worker and two of the airls on summer leave from hiah school. They are proud of their media room with four old computers, and their small well-organized library of worn textbooks and novels. The kitchen is primitive beyond belief. The girls sleep in bunk beds with thin mattresses and worn cotton blankets: six to a small room with a half locker per girl for personal storage.

In preparation for the Kenya trip, we were asked to prepare a 30-minute lesson for groups of the girls, to broaden their horizons. Three of our younger travelers spoke about high school and the transition to college. They later reported that the girls listened intently and asked intelligent questions. One retired lawyer brought his

banjo. He explained how enslaved people from Africa brought the instrument to the U.S., and then played blue-



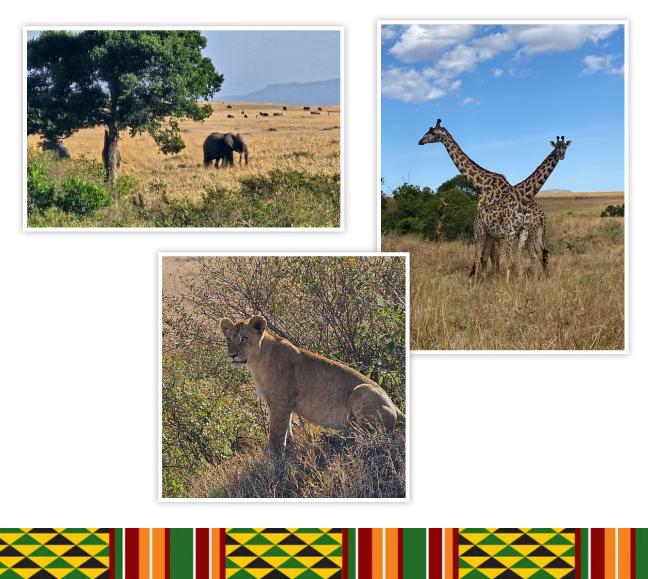
Tony and his new art book.





grass, Mozart and some songs the girls could sing. A group of four of our ladies taught them an Israeli folk dance, which they loved. I could see even the newest girls smiling. I was the last, bringing pictures of brightly colored birds to talk briefly about shapes, then passing out colored pencils, erasers and paper. Some drew birds, others designs or flowers... all working intently... even the 3 year old joined in. The music teacher, Tony, came over to me, saying how needed and important this was. I gave him the pencils along with a drawing instruction book I had bought, and now he is eager to start an art program. For security reasons, we are not allowed to take photos of the girls. But you can see Tony happily receiving his new art book.

STAY TUNED FOR PART 2 IN THE NEXT CHAI-LIGHTS.



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Sukkot: Success, Joy, and Fragility

by Gloria Avner

Sometimes *Sukkot* seems to come too soon. We are wrung out with *Yamim Nora'im*, the final days of prayer, atonement and fasting, ripe with good intentions. 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 davs (in Israel) or eight davs (here), the festival of Sukkot celebrated success, the time of vear when lews experienced the most abundance and were at their wealthiest - time to make a pilorimage to lerusalem 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 *shchach* (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. Guests (*Ushpizim*, our seven ancient forefathers and teachers as well as friends and neighbors) are invited to eat with us in our rickety butbeautifully decorated temporary dwelling places. All of

us are reminded in the midst of our over busy technologically oriented lives that we are not only connected to nature, herwhims and her bounty, but we are responsible for hercontinuity of care. As one of our prayers in the *siddur* says, should this earth be destroyed, there will be no one to come after us to repair it.

Here in our temporary "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 Stanlake, for the living memorial you created in honor and mem-

ory of your parents). The aroma and sight of the etrog intensifies our prayers as we bless the "four species," shake the *lulav* in all sacred directions, listening to its *shh*



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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*). And we will taste, eating the fruits as we bless them.

Whether one's Sukkah blows over, as the Agler's did during a heavy storm surge 7 years ago 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 both Friday

nights, the first and the last day of Sukkot, as we celebrate in our Sukkah with an oneq after Erev Shabbat services. Happy times for our *mishpocha* continue unabated when we dance with our Torahs and begin the ceremonial cycle all over again. 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. This year we look at the world around us and even as we enjoy, we pray especially hard for those who have lost their homes and loved ones in fires. floods and windstorms. We could easily be in their shoes. Sukkot reminds us to be compassionate and helpful as well as joyous. \diamond



HEAL THE SEAS: REVERSE TASHLICH

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. Place: Home of Donna and Bill Bolton 140 Canal Street, Tavernier, FL 33070

We are participating in a new and expanding tradition of taking sins OUT of the water. REVERSE TASCHLICH, a program begun and expanded by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. As part of Tikkun HaYam (Repair the Sea), we will do our best to preserve our planet by taking debris out of the sea. Be a part of this effort along with hundreds of other synagogues in 18 different countries.

HOW TO:

Wear closed shoes or boots for walking along the shoreline and among mangrove roots. Garden gloves, long handled nets or grabbers will be useful. A hat,

sunscreen, and bug repellent will be helpful.

PHOTO GALLERY



Gloria Avner starts a new Summer series of Bird portraits on natural birch wood panels.

Jan Price and Luigi enjoying a sweet New York Summer moment



We We were so sorry to lose our dear friend and stained glass artist Veronica Gutierrez this summer. But we are happy too, for us and for Joyce to have this memento as a piece of art in her home.





As much as Shabbabeque has always been about Independence day and July 4, it was also always about Pauline's birthday. Maybe going forward we could add honoring our other elders moving close to that special centennial birthday. I'm thinking of those in their tenth decade, like Mickey, Skip, Art, and Jules.



A huge thank you to Michael and Lorena Kaufman for organizing this great outing. Everyone had a great time. It would have been even better if more people had come.

past to present.



President Ken Atlas, V.P. Susan Gordon and Linda Pollack were part of the KJCC GANG that, along with Sean and Exec. VP Michael Kaufman, attended a special pre-game event as part of Jewish Heritage Day at the ballpark. Author of the book "The Baseball Talmud", Howard Megdal shared with us the history of several Jewish Major League Baseball Stars from



T-shirts for all the KJCC baseball fans at the Marlins game for Jewish Heritage Day. Thanks for organizing this, Michael Kaplan.

Player Bryan de la Cruz with Sean after the game. Hard to tell who is happier.





Hey people in robes, what is this all about!

Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman thoroughly enjoyed their seven-week experience in Italy and Croatia this spring, a celebration of Oran's retirement from his full career in food systems non -profit leadership, philanthropy, higher education and business. Oran's interest in developing his skills in ceramics led them to Tuscany and La Meridiana Ceramics School for a four-week immersion in throwing and glazing pottery. Lucinda enjoyed a oneweek class in silk-screening photographic images onto clay.

Their trip almost completely overlapped the 49 days of counting the Omer between Passover and Shavuot. After visiting the Old Jewish Ghetto in Rome and a Passover Seder there with friends, they counted the Omer and wrote a blog relating their experiences to the specific combination of the Divine attributes of the Tree of Life



each day of the Omer represented. It provided a powerful foundation for their journey, instilling each day with meaning and intention.

They visited synagogues in each city they explored, particularly marveling at the Sephardic Synagogue in Dubrovnik, Croatia where they started a seven-day boat/bike trip of the islands on the Dalmatian Coast. They returned to Ann Arbor, Michigan the day before Shavuot and were able to davven with their congregation there, grateful to be home after such a thrilling and fulfilling adventure.







KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER Congregation Ohr HaYam Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

Yom Kippur Break Fast

Monday, September 25th, 2023 Dairy Dinner at Yom Kippur's end

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

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

> RSVP by September 20th Sponsored by KJCC Sisterhood No Charge – Donations always welcome





Beth Hayden's cremains along with seven of her beloved pets ashes are taken out to sea accompanied by Susan Gordon, Avery Jochnowitz, Steve Steinbock, Linda Pollack and Captain Roy Pollack.







Gloria Avner, Sheilah Eddison (Linda Perloff's Sister, and Sam Weis, one time co president of Sisterhood, bring the vibes of Key Largo, Mt. Desert Island, ME, and Iowa together for noshing and summer beauty.



Tashlich

KEYS JEWISH

Congregation Ohr HaYam

Y CENTER

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 Time: 4:00 p.m. Place: Home of Michael and Lorena Kaufman

Once again, we will meet

to pray, sing and metaphorically throw our bad deeds, the ones that missed their mark, when we were not our best selves, into the water in the form of bread (bagel?) crumbs. Tashlich is a short traditional ceremony in a beautiful place with expansive ocean view. Let the ocean carry away your bad behavior, leaving room for new and good.

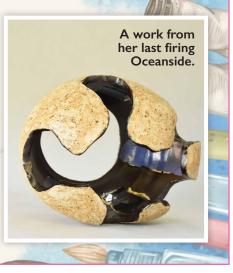




Beth Kamínstein Wins The South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant

The South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant Program offers the largest regional, government-sponsored artists' grants in the United States, awarding \$15,000 and \$7,500 grants to resident visual and media artists from the counties of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach. Since it was established in 1988, the Consortium has awarded over to \$4 million in grants to over 300 artists. In addition to receiving the grant, the artists take part in an exhibition hosted and organized by a visual arts institution in one of the five counties. The SFCC Celebrated 30 years in 2018.

Beth received the Grant for Monroe County along with Tyler Buckheim Trosset. There will be an exhibition of the work of all recipients at the Art and Culture Center/ Hollywood that opens on October 14th from 5-8 p.m. and runs through January 21, 2024. Beth invites us: "Come to the opening!"







SHEMINI ATZERET YIZKOR SERVICE & SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 7:30 P.M.

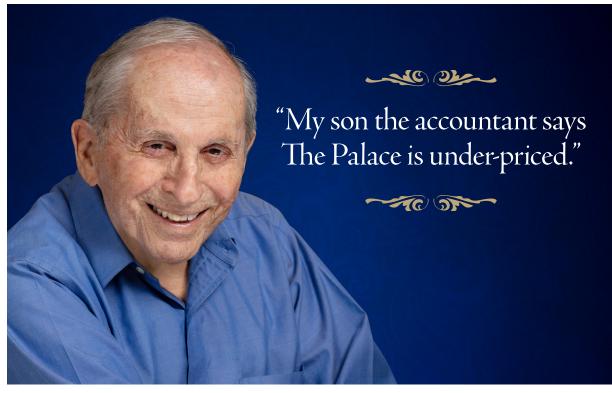
Please join us live and on zoom for a combination Shabbat – Simchat Torah – Yizkor service.

We remember our dear departed and celebrate our Torah – back to the beginning.

Services will be led by Joe Shabathai & Joyce Peckman



Zoom invitations will be sent out by Joyce.



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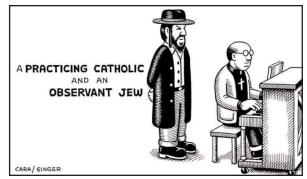
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