

Chai~Lights



September 2016

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

September 2016

28 Av - 27 Elul

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Beth Hayden & Richard Knowles	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9 Joyce Peckman, Susan Gordon & Art Itkin <i>Steve & Barbara Smith</i>	10 Rabbi Agler Shabbat Torah Service 10 a.m.
11 First day of KJCC Sun- day School 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16 George Swartz	17
18 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	19	20	21	22 Autumn arrives	23 Barney Coltman <i>Toby & Joel Bofshever</i>	24 <i>S'lichot</i> Service, Pizza and a Movie 6:00 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30 Gloria Avner & Sam Vinicur <i>(Happy birthday, Lisa)</i>	

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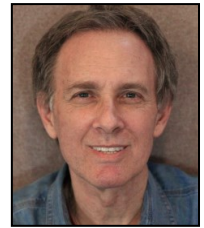
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33070@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Sam Vinicur



The other day at KJCC, waiting for the air-conditioning tech to inspect our systems and then report his findings, I did what I typically do when free time beckons. I went looking for a book, in this case from the burgeoning KJCC library. My eyes met Herman Wouk's "This is My God." I plucked it and sat down to read. This is not a Jew-in-non-Jewish-America novel, such as the younger Wouk's tale of Miss Morganstern spreading her wings as the post-Jewish Marjorie Morningstar. It's Wouk's earnest attempt (written in the late 1950s, but still fresh) to reconcile the traditional rhythms (and meaning) of Judaism with the lives of modern, assimilated Jews, those with good secular education and with tailoring and home decor and entertainment tastes very like those of their presumably Christian, but certainly ethnically anodyne, suburban neighbors.

Being a novelist, Wouk introduces the conflicts he wishes to discuss through character and not dialectic. He presents to us a modern, successful American Jew. This man has earned several academic degrees, lives in a nice house, enjoys classic literature, sails on the weekends. His grandparents were observant, his parents less so, and he now happily grills

pork chops on the bar-becue alongside steak. He and his wife discuss whether they should join a neighborhood Temple for the children's sake, though both find the faith alien. He is described as a warm, decent, and intelligent American.

Walking after work one evening toward the train to Long Island, he sees two men coming toward him. They are dressed in medieval Jewish garb and are conversing animatedly in Yiddish. He is instantly repelled, and resentful. He screams out silently: "if you are Jews, I am not a Jew!" He rails silently because shouting it aloud would make no difference. To the world, and even deep in his own heart, despite the different clothes and tastes and attempts at distance, he is one of them.

Most of us, I think, recognize this conflict, feel it within, and wrestle with it our own way. What does our Judaism mean to us? How deeply is it a part of our core, and how does it help define us? A new season is about to begin at KJCC, another cycle in the eternal attempts to learn and sort and understand. There is no safer space in the world to explore these complex questions of identity than at KJCC. Our little shul is not one thing, or one idea, or one way. It's a bridge, and a mirror, and a smile. ♦

Nosh

S'lichot – Pizza and a Movie

The tradition continues... On Saturday evening, September 24th at 7:30, we will have S'lichot prayer, pizza and a movie to announce the beginning of the High Holidays. (Please see the house ad on page 12.) Prayers will be led by Bernie Ginsberg, the pizza will be sponsored by Linda Pollack and Steve Steinbock, and the movie is to be announced. To add a little thought-food to this item (actually, much more than a little), we thought you might like to see part of an e-mail exchange where the movie choice was discussed. Here's Rabbi Agler, discussing the S'lichot movie in context of the entire High Holidays: "As we know, S'lichot represents the beginning of the High Holidays, which focus on, among other things, the great themes of human shortcoming and repentance, moral imperatives and our undying hope for existential comfort. Any films that reflect such themes might be appropriate stage-setters for the holy season." We've never seen a better brief description of the whole complex period. You?

BOOK PLATE

In Celebration and Honor
of the 101st Birthday
of KJCC Founder

Pauline Roller

presented by Arthur and Ann Plutzer

Torah Learning Services Begin

Partly because the High Holidays begin late this year (not until October), and partly because our teacher has a generous nature, Rabbi Agler will begin our season of Torah learning services on Saturday, September 10th. Be at KJCC by 10:00 a.m. for an uplifting, engaging, worthwhile experience. These services, warm, stimulating and informal, always start on time. You don't want to miss any of it.

Sunday School starts Sept. 11th

Sunday School will begin on September 11th, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Randy Klein-Gross will be the teacher this year, and is already planning fun and educational activities for the children. They will learn about the holidays, Hebrew and prayers, and the background and explanations of the songs we sing. She is hoping to give lessons that will last a lifetime. There will be celebrations and holidays to honor throughout the year, so we hope to have the continued support of the congregants. If anybody is interested in helping out in a class, please email Randy at razzklein@gmail.com or text 310-702-7276. Contact Susan Gordon at 305-766-3585 or susangordon424@yahoo.com if your child is not yet registered.

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of

Harry Friedman

Earning the Eagle Scout Award
Mazel Tov
from Muriel and George Swartz
5/14/2016

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory

Ida Tallent

Devoted Mother & Grandmother
4/11/1970

Sisterhood Meeting Sept. 18th

Rather than meet over Labor Day weekend, Sisterhood will meet on Sunday, Sept. 18th at 10 a.m. We will be planning to provide the meals and snacks that feed our bodies so our souls can handle the prayers. Remember that Sisterhood membership is included in KJCC membership, so if you are a "sister" come to join the fellowship and help out your KJCC family.

Oneg Sponsors for September 2016

September 9th - Steve and Barbara Smith in honor of their anniversary.

September 23rd - Toby and Joel Bofshever to celebrate Joel's birthday.

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Louis R. Coltman
by Barnet Coltman

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Robert S. Coltman
by Barnet Coltman

A New Simcha Contact

The new Contact Person For KJCC Onegs is Beth Hayden. Contact Beth via email at : Hayden.Elizabeth@Comcast.Net or by phone at 305-773-0067. Our onegs are legendary, and there is always so much to share.

A Note From Nyan Feder:

Dear KJCC,

Thank you so much for giving me this endorsement for my future endeavors. It's going to help me so much, and I greatly appreciate it. I've been working a lot here in Tallahassee, and it's been extremely busy in these past couple of months, but ultimately enjoyable and very rewarding. I am currently performing, rehearsing, and recording in six different local bands that occupy a wide array of genres in town. In the course of a typical work week I will have played a mixture of funk, neo-soul, rock, rock/fusion, neo-jazz, alternative, blues, and straight ahead jazz (which is my current area of study). I don't usually go for longer than four days without a performance of some sort; be it a gig, a rehearsal, recording session, or compositional session. I tend to split my time equally between playing the guitar and playing the saxophone, which is comforting and will end up being a good thing for my future, as I will be able to market myself as an accomplished multi-instrumentalist.

There have been lots of exciting musical moments recently, including performances at large venues and huge festivals in Live Oak (the next of which will be Hulaween at the Spirit of Suwannee Park), but I think the most exciting moment so far has been the opportunity to play in a recording session with the musical legends George Clinton and Fred Wesley. I played the baritone saxophone part in a six-piece horn section for Mr. Clinton's next record, and Mr. Wesley wrote and performed the horn lines with us. It was surreal being with Mr. Clinton in his private studio (which is 15 minutes down the road from my apartment, by the way!), knowing that he was a huge part of the legendary funk groups: Parliament, Funkadelic, and (the merging of those two) P-Funk. On top of that, I got to work directly with Fred Wesley (dubbed the "funkiest trombonist of all time"), who gained most of his fame playing with James Brown, and with countless other music legends afterwards. They were both amazing people with great stories of the celebrities we only ever usually get to see through the dilution of the media. I will definitely be spending more time hanging out in that studio now that I've been introduced and the invitation to come back has been extended. Soon, I will be heading up to North Carolina to record and work on material with my band Leah & the Aviators. We've been pushing hard to grow our fan base in Tallahassee, and so far it's been fruitful. On top of all of that, classes are going great; I currently have a 3.8 GPA, and I'm on track to have a relatively easy-going final two semesters here at Florida State. So all is going extremely well, and it's going even better with the financial help I have received from you all. Once again, I am extremely grateful for all you do to help me out in this stressful-yet-exciting part of life!

With Much Love,
Nyan

September Birthdays

1st.....	Mildred Finkelstein
2nd.....	Lloyd Wruble
4th.....	Chase Barrett
4th.....	Debby C. Block
6th.....	Steven Greenbaum
7th.....	Morton Silverman
7th.....	Stellar Levy
7th.....	Mindy Agler
8th.....	Susan Horn
9th.....	Maria Botwin
9th.....	Jacob Klimpl
10th.....	Gerri Emkey
13th.....	Lisha Lane
13th.....	Andy Tobin
16th.....	Larry S. Schur
17th.....	Ellen Ecker
18th.....	Shirley Krissel
18th.....	Avery Haviv
19th.....	Barbara Bernstein
19th.....	Steven Schur
19th.....	Joel Bofshever
19th.....	Brenna Nobil
22nd.....	Fred Hudson
23rd.....	Lauren Schur
23rd.....	Maryon Gould
24th.....	Noah Bitton
25th.....	Michel Bitton
25th.....	Marla Berenson
26th.....	Joan Kay
28th.....	Jonathan Line

Yartzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory
Morris I. Estrin
 Devoted Father & Grandfather
 2/9/1968

Radio Host Stu Sax

KJCC past-president Stu Sax is now a Texas radio personality. He hosts a weekly one-hour radio program called “Someone You Should Know,” interviewing local and even national per-

September Anniversaries

	Years
7th Jay & Nancy Hershoff	17
9th Neal & Cathy Rakov.....	32
9th Steven & Barbara Smith.....	38
30th Ira & Anita Krieger.....	38
30th Marsha & Tom Garrettson.....	26

sonalities with interesting vocations and/or backgrounds. Some guests you may know, but most you will not know.

His station, KVGI Radio, is a digital radio facility and, as such, is available everywhere. You can tune in on your computer at kvgiradio.com/ or download the KVGI Radio app and listen on your smart phone.

While the show airs live each Friday at 10 a.m. central time, it is re-broadcast each day of the week.; Saturdays at 8 a.m., Sundays at noon, Mondays at 11 p.m., Tuesdays at noon, Wednesdays at midnight and Thursdays at 5 a.m. Lauren wrote that the show is “Going great! Out of 12 shows KVGI broadcasts, Stu’s program is #1! In fact, Keys girl Kim Cheshier from ‘Girls Nite Out’ will be on Oct 21st and I am going to co-host with Stu. It should be a blast!”

Stuart added: “This is a longtime dream coming to reality. Please let me know what you think and tell others about the show and the station. And don’t be surprised if one day you become a guest on ‘Someone You Should Know.’ ”



BOOK PLATE

In Memory of
Bea Ginsberg
 Beloved mother of
 Dr. Bernard Ginsberg
from Muriel and George Swartz

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory
Samuel Tallent
Devoted Father & Grandfather
11/11/1938

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory
Ida R. Estrin
Devoted Mother & Grandmother
7/31/1980

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Grandpa's 90th
Love, *Elliana and Aaron Willner*

BOOK PLATE

In Honor of
Mom & Dad's 50th
Golden Anniversary
Love, *David and Angela Willner*

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, idevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

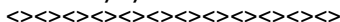
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam September 2016

In Memory Of

Sam Roazen

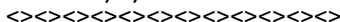
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Goldie Berman

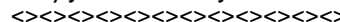
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Mae U. Stark

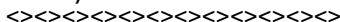
By Joel Bernard & Joan Stark



In Memory Of

Molly Feldblum

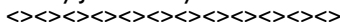
By Marc & Ellen Bloom



In Memory Of

Morris Abramson

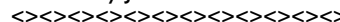
By Joel & Toby Bofshever



In Memory Of

Jim Boruszak

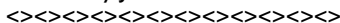
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Lillian Goldstein

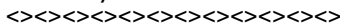
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Sydney Edelman

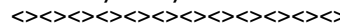
By Dale Chasteen



In Memory Of

Ronald Repka

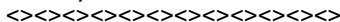
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Evelyn O. Coltman

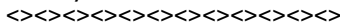
By Barnet O. Coltman



In Memory Of

Ida Hitzig

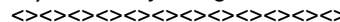
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In Memory Of

Leo Rosenberg

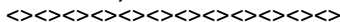
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In Memory Of

Albert Improta

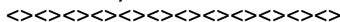
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

Hannah Improta

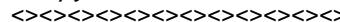
By Carol Field



In Memory Of

H. Melvin Berkon

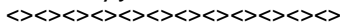
By Jamie & Laura Goodman



In Memory Of

Nettie Gorson

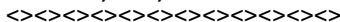
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Paul Gould

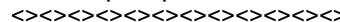
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

H. Robert Walters

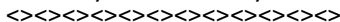
By Maryon Gould



In Memory Of

Beverly Harvey

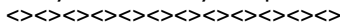
By Mitchell Harvey



In Memory Of

Leonard Roberts

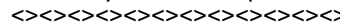
By Marshall & Myra Kaplan



In Memory Of

Sadie Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl



In Memoriam September 2016

In Memory Of

Anne Hendin Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

Toby Mitchell

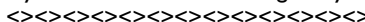
By Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Melvin Richardson

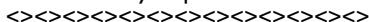
By Lori Richardson & George Smyth



In Memory Of

Lorraine Martell

By Skip Rose



In Memory Of

David Gulkis

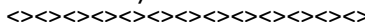
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

David Schur

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

Max Rosenfeld

By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Mollie Silverman

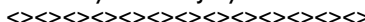
By Morton & Gene Silverman



In Memory Of

Irving Kopecky

By Adam & Judy Starr



In Memory Of

Roger Starr

By Adam & Judy Starr



In Memory Of

Charlie Temkin

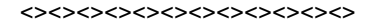
By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

Jim Boruszak

By Joan Boruszak



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

We cordially invite you to our
**Erev Rosh Hashanah
Dinner**

On Sunday, October 2, 2016, at 6:00 pm, we will gather at the KJCC for a traditional fleishich meal of matzo ball soup, chopped liver, brisket, turkey, kasha and knishes, along with vegetarian options, ending with honey cake and more.

Reservations are necessary. Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett by September 25th if you would like to attend. Prepayment is requested, payable to Sisterhood. Mail to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

Members - \$20

Member Children under 13 - no charge

Non-Members - \$25

Non-Member Children under 13 - \$10



RSVP: Erica

Lieberman-Garrett

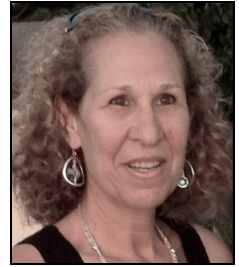
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(305) 393-1162



Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



Summer in the Keys gives us the time to regroup, recuperate, and reorganize. We take the opportunity to travel, spend time with family and friends, and get a fresh prospective on our upcoming New Year and High Holiday season. But even during the summer months Sisterhood remained active.

We held our first ever potluck dinner and clothing exchange. We gathered together on June 25th, after clearing out our closets and clutter. It didn't take too long to assemble tables and racks of clothing, purses and accessories, and then we spent some time trying on and modeling our new acquisitions. We enjoyed getting together, noshing, and spending some leisure time getting to know each other. It was a lot of fun, and a great success. (The extra items were donated to MARC.) We enjoyed it so much that we plan on doing it again during season so that more women will be able to join us.

We helped to celebrate Pauline Roller's 101st birthday at KJCC's annual Shabbabebique, a lovely evening and dinner organized by Mitch Harvey. We also celebrated the Kaufman's *simcha* for Sean's third birthday and *upsherein* (ceremonial first haircut) at our August 5th Shabbat dinner, sponsored by the Kaufman family. Lorena went over the top with the most beautiful birthday cakes at both of these events. It makes our gatherings and dinners even more special when generous members like the Kaufmans go above and beyond just sponsoring. It is one more example of the support and love our members, their families and guests have for our KJCC .

I look forward to services each week, but if I am being honest, I especially look forward to the onegs. This summer we celebrated something almost every week: special birthdays (including one for a brave dog), anniversaries, graduations, a new home, new grandchildren, an *upsherein* , memories of loved

ones and just KJCC hospitality. Each oneg adds a sweet and delicious addition to our Shabbat services, and I look forward to seeing what delicious cake or treat is going to be enjoyed by all. During my presidency, I have seen great support and commitment to our weekly onegs from everyone who makes them happen. Joyce Peckman has kept track of the sponsors each week for the past 13 years. We thank her for her commitment and time and are grateful for the important job that she has done. We are excited that Beth Hayden has graciously volunteered to take the baton and will now be our oneg chairperson. She will be the contact person, as well as the Sisterhood treasurer, simplifying our future oneg organization. You will have seen this reflected in the recent letter from Sisterhood. Please share your *simchas* and special occasions with your KJCC *mishpocha* by sponsoring your special day. I also want to add a huge "Thank you!" to Jane Friedman, who shops for, grows, and brings delicious fresh food to our onegs each week. We thank all of you for your continued support of Sisterhood.

September 18th at 10 a.m. will be our next Sisterhood meeting. I hope to see all of our women joining the meeting, as we will be making our final plans for our High Holiday celebrations. We begin on Sunday, October 2nd at 6 p.m. with our traditional Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner, featuring scrumptious matza ball soup, brisket, chopped liver and knishes. Yummy! Such a great way to start our New Year together. And this is just the beginning! Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah events follow in October.

This is what Sisterhood and the KJCC is all about! Looking forward to a fantastic, delicious, healthy and happy 5777.
Shana tovah. ◇

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.

Bookplate

Peckman, Joyce
Plutzer, Arthur

Celebration of 101st birthday of
Pauline Roller

Schur, Lee Longtime Membership in KJCC
Swartz, George & Muriel Harry Friedman earning
Eagle Scout Award

Coltman, Barney
Schur, Lee
Swartz, George & Muriel

In Memory of

Louis R. Coltman
Bob Schur
Bea Ginsberg, beloved
mother of Dr. Bernard Ginsberg

Chai-Lights

Bofshever, Joel & Toby Aglers becoming grandparents
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Susan Gordon becoming a
grandparent
Bofshever, Joel & Toby Harry Friedman making
Eagle Scout

Pollack, Linda
Roy, Medina
Sheinker, Miltra

General Fund

Agler, Richard & Mindy
Bofshever, Joel & Toby

David Marmar – in gratitude
Wishing good health to
Ellen Bloom

Bofshever, Joel & Toby Wishing good health to
Gene Silverman

Gilson, Michael & Suzanne

Grant, Andrew & Randi Wishing a speedy recovery
to Alan Schulberg

Hartz, Steve & Jan Jane Friedman and Joyce Peckman
Kwalick, Teresa Pauline Roller's 101st birthday
Peckman, Joyce birth of Jonah Agler
Peckman, Joyce Sean's birthday
Pollack, Linda bat mitzvah of Seraphina Atlas
Pollack, Linda Michael & Lorena Kaufman and
Sean's *upsherin*

Pratt, Bob for Painting
Rose, Frank Sean's *upsherin*

In Honor of

Grandchildren
Celebration of 101st birthday of
Pauline Roller

In Memory of

Louis R. Coltman
Bob Schur
Bea Ginsberg, beloved
mother of Dr. Bernard Ginsberg

General Fund

Sachs, Joseph & Susan
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam
Solas, Elaine

General Fund

Altman, Patricia
Goldman, Steven & Talia
Goodfellow, John & Teresa
Goodman, Dr. Jamie & Laura

Margulies, Stanley & Jenny
Moskovits, Lewis & Miriam
Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Linda
Pollack, Linda
Pollack, Linda
Rothbaum, Brad & Linda
Smith, Stuart & Geri
Wasserberg, Gary & Mimi

Holocaust Education Center

Roy, Medina
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam

Meditation Garden

Gordon, Susan

Pollack, Linda

Roy, Medina

Steinbock, Stephen
Steinbock, Stephen

Meditation Garden

Faye-Davis, Sydney!
Horn, Dorothy
Sax, Stuart & Lauren
Sherman, Gary & Lyn
Steinbock, Steve
Steinbock, Steve

In Honor of (cont.)

In Memory of

Ron Horn
Ron Horn
Ron Horn
our friend,
Ruth Lillian Taub
Bea Ginsberg
Ron Horn
Ron Horn
Patty Lawler
Bea Ginsberg
Ron Horn
Ron Horn
Yom HaShoah
Ron Horn

In Honor of

brick – welcome to the world
Rhett William Casey
brick-honor Maddy Pollack's
bat mitzvah

Joshua Bernstein's graduation
Sean's *upsherin*

In Memory of

Bea Ginsberg
brick- Ronald Horn
Bea Ginsberg
Linda Dubowsky
Ron Horn
Ben Steinbock

Contributions, continued:

Rabbi & Cantor Fund

Peckman, Joyce
Pollack, Linda
Roy, Medina
Sachs, Joe & Susan
Salant, Renee & Weis, Sam

Scholarship Fund

Roy, Medina
Tallent, Lillian

Sisterhood General Fund

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena
Steinbock, Stephen
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

Sisterhood Onegs

Agler, Richard & Mindy
Atlas, Ken
Bloom, Marc & Ellen
Hartz, Steve & Jan
Hayden, Beth
Itkin, Arthur
Kaufman, Michael & Lorena

Social Hall Chair Plates

Schur, Lee 24 Years of KJCC Membership
Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy
Horn, Dorothy Ron Horn

Sunshine Fund

Sax, Stuart & Lauren Harry Friedman
becoming an Eagle Scout

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 bemaah 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.

S'lichot

Saturday, September 24, 2016

6:00 pm Pizza and Movie

followed by

Slichot Services

led by Steve Steinbock and Bernard Ginsberg

INFORMATION ABOUT MOVIE TO FOLLOW.



WATCH YOUR EMAILS AND KJCC BULLETIN BOARDS.



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World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Ilomantis Ginsburgae

Scientists at the *Cleveland Museum of Natural History* announced that they have identified a previously unknown species of praying mantis and named it *ilomantis ginsburgae*. If that name sounds vaguely familiar, it's to honor associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg because of the *jabot* (the ruffled lace collar) she often wears with her judicial robe. The insect has a neck plate that resembles Ginsburg's *jabot*. The honor was also given to Ginsburg for her "relentless fight for gender equality." (An interesting reference to "gender equality," since when mantises mate the female often snacks on her partner's head and then devours his corpse for nourishment.) It's not uncommon for a new species of animal to be named after a celebrity. Have you heard of *coloborhynchus spielbergi*? That's a pterosaur found in Brazil and named to honor you-know-who.

(www.washingtonpost.com, 6-1-16 and www.forward.com, 6-7-16)

Intelligent Socks

There are more than 130 million diabetic patients around the world, many of whom suffer diabetic neuropathy, a type of nerve damage associated with ulcers of the foot. These ulcers are a result of poor blood supply and oftentimes this condition leads to amputation. Now, an Israeli team of scientists and doctors at Jerusalem's *Hebrew University and Hadassah Medical Center* is working on a unique solution to help prevent the development of ulcers, thus lessening the possibility of amputation. *SenseGo* is a machine-washable sock that contains dozens of micro-fabricated pressure sensors. These sensors monitor changes in pressure due to incorrect posture, anatomical deformation or poorly-fitting shoes. Electrical signals are then re-

layed to a smartphone app, and the patient is informed of the developing risks. (*World Jewish Digest*, July 2016)

Secret Tunnel Discovered

A 100-foot-long tunnel at the Ponar Forest massacre site in Lithuania has been uncovered by an international research team. Used by Jewish prisoners to escape the Nazis, it was revealed by electrical resistivity tomography, a relatively new technology that locates underground structures. The discovery was made by the combined efforts of several organizations, including the *Israel Antiquities Authority*, the *University of Hartford*, the *Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum* and "NOVA," the PBS series. Some 100,000 people – of whom 70,000 were Jews from Vilnius (a major Jewish cultural and scholarly center, Jews always referred to it as "Vilna") and the surrounding area – were shot and thrown into pits over a four-year period during World War II. When German forces on the eastern front retreated and the Red Army advanced, the remaining Nazi units forced prisoners to cover up the atrocities by digging up the bodies and burning them. The prisoners – about 40 of them – knew they would be killed once their job was completed, so they devised an escape plan. For three months they dug a tunnel using only their hands and spoons. Guards discovered them when they crawled through the tunnel. Most of the escapees were shot and killed, but some fifteen of them managed to cut through the camps' fence and escape into the forest. Eleven reached partisan forces and survived the war. Researchers have known about the existence of the tunnel for years but only recently has it been found. PBS's "NOVA" is working on a

documentary about the history of the Jews of Vilnius and the discovery of the tunnel. It's scheduled to air in 2017.
(www.tabletmag.com, 6-29-16)

They're Watching You...

EBay, the giant online marketplace that allows users to sell and bid on products, recently announced that it has bought *SalesPredict*, an Israeli startup that predicts consumers' buying habits. Based in the coastal city of Netanya, *SalesPredict* was founded in 2012. The company's technology is a form of artificial intelligence that studies consumers' buying behavior through database analysis. It is said that *EBay* agreed to pay between \$30 and \$40 million, although neither company has released that information. Founded in 1995 and valued at about \$28.6 billion, *EBay* currently has over 900 million listings.
(www.israelhayom.com, 7-12-16)

In Memoriam

★ Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel, the soft-spoken, transformative figure whose eloquence spoke for those who had been silenced forever in the Holocaust and who dedicated his life to perpetuating the memory of the millions of Jews murdered by giving voice to the survivors, died on July 2nd. He was 87. Wiesel often said that to forget the victims means killing them a second time.

To list all of Wiesel's accomplishments, citations, commendations, and accolades would fill this entire issue of *Chai-Lights*.

Born in Sighet, Transylvania in 1928 (then Hungary, today Romania), he was deported to Auschwitz with his family when he was fifteen. His mother and one sister were murdered there; his father died of starvation in Buchenwald. Wiesel was liberated from Buchenwald in 1945. He and two of his sisters would survive the war. Wiesel studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and in the late 1950s moved to New York. He was a philosopher, a professor and prolific author, writing some 50 books. The 1955 publication of his seminal work "Night," seared his personal Holocaust memories into the public conscience.

The book, now standard reading in high schools across the country, helped create a global awareness and remembrance movement. (Interestingly, the first version of "Night" – originally titled "And the World Remained Silent" – was buried for decades and just recently discovered among more than a million of Wiesel's documents stored in 330 boxes. It was a "scathing indictment of G-d and anyone who believed in him during the Holocaust." It also harshly admonished Jews – and Jewish leadership – who shut their eyes to what was happening and remained silent.)

Wiesel was the recipient of over 100 honorary doctorates. The Nobel Prize Committee called him "a messenger to mankind" when they awarded him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. He was fluent in five languages: Yiddish, Hungarian, French, Hebrew and English. While tirelessly educating the world about the atrocities of the Holocaust, he also spoke out against the massacres in Bosnia, Cambodia and Sudan, apartheid in South Africa and sought to fulfill the promise of "never again" for all future victims of genocide. To the very end of his days, he mourned that his message had "yet to inspire the action he envisioned." His life was dedicated to ridding the world of hate and intolerance. Wiesel is often quoted as saying "the opposite of love is not hate; it is indifference." (www.nytimes.com, 7-3-16, www.forward.com, 7-2,3-16, www.tabletmag.com, 7-2-16, *et al.*)

★ Frank Towers, a U.S. Army officer who, in 1945, helped liberate some 2,500 Jews on a German train bound for Theresienstadt – the concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia where they would have been exterminated – died in July. He was 99. Towers participated in the invasion of Normandy and later fought in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. About a week before the liberation of *Bergen-Belsen* concentration camp, 2,500 Jewish prisoners were forced to march more than six miles to the town of Celle and were put on the train. After six days of traveling, the SS guards were ordered to destroy the train and drown the passengers in the Elbe River if they couldn't reach Theresienstadt. A regiment of the U.S. Army's 30th

Infantry Division knew of the Jewish prisoners on the train. As the Americans approached, the prisoners ran out of the train. Lt. Frank Towers, the division's liaison officer and a non-Jew, orchestrated the dramatic rescue, using ambulances, jeeps and trucks. Towers also helped liberate Jewish prisoners from the forced labor camp near Magdeburg. In 2011, he was invited to Israel, where he met 55 of the 700 children who had been on the train to Theresienstadt. Towers managed to contact 226 of the survivors from the train, either via e-mail, the telephone or meeting them in person. He spent his later years speaking at Holocaust programs around the United States. (www.haaretz.com, 7-22-16)

★ Goldie Michelson, named the oldest living American just four months ago, has died. She was only one month away from her 114th birthday. The daughter of Russian Jewish parents, her family immigrated to Worcester, Massachusetts in 1904, when she was two. She earned a master's degree examining why many of Worcester's older Jewish-immigrant residents failed to seek American citizenship or learn English. After a wave of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union came to Worcester in 1989, Michelson – then in her late 80s – volunteered to help settle them into American society. She worked as a social worker, taught religious education, and was involved with the community group that helped found *Brandeis University*. She also acted and directed most of her life and was the director of a "Fiddler on the Roof" performance when she was almost 100. (www.jta.org, 7-10-16)

Did You Know...

★ This past June, a gift of \$400 million was given to Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev. The gift is thought to be the largest ever to an Israeli university. A substantial portion of the money is earmarked for BGU's water research. The gift comes from the estate of Dr. Howard and Lottie Marcus of San Diego, California. The Marcus family made its fortune by investing with Warren Buffett. Both Howard and Lottie began their involvement with BGU in 1997 because of the university's

work with desalination, sustainable water resources and desert farming. But they had other reasons to connect with Israel. Both of them fled Nazi Germany having lost the majority of their families. (www.forward.com, 6-24-16)

★ The final round of the 2016 *Scripps National Spelling Bee*, the nation's most prestigious spelling competition, was won by Nihar Janga, 11 and Jairam Hathwar, 13. Hathwar was asked to spell "*chremslach*." *Chremslach* is the Yiddish word for small, flat fried matzah meal cakes traditionally eaten at Passover. For the third consecutive year and after 39 rounds, the contest ended in a tie. (www.jta.org, 5-27-16)

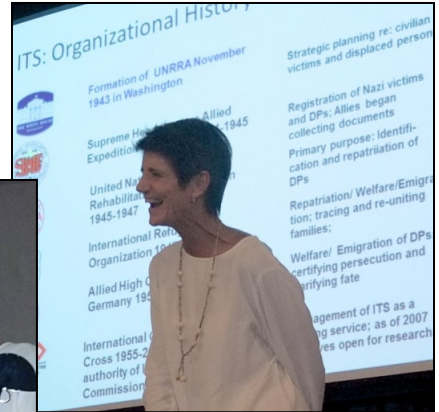
★ Mordechai Alvw is the hairstylist for both Melania and Ivanka Trump. Originally from Israel, Alvw now divides his time between New York City and Israel. He created an all-natural and organic hair-care line he named *Yarok* (the Hebrew word for "green") as a result of his allergic reactions to the hair-care products he was using. An all-organic color at Alvw's salon, *Yarok Beauty Kitchen* in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, will cost you \$300. (www.forward.com, 6-29-16)

★ Daniel Berger, from Jupiter, Florida, became the first Jewish golfer in twelve years to win a *Professional Golf Association* (PGA) title when he won the *Fed Ex St. Jude Classic* in Memphis in June. (Jewish golfer Jonathan Kaye won it in 2004.) Berger, 23, was only in his third season as a pro golfer. In 2015, he won *PGA Rookie of the Year*. He started playing golf when he was 11 and turned pro in 2013 in his sophomore year at *Florida State University*. (There's also a KJCC connection: Daniel is the grandson of Dr. Paul Berger, Chai-Lights advertiser and periodontist whose office is in Key Largo's Pink Plaza at MM 103.) (www.sun-sentinal.com, 6-12-16)

★ *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine recently named Tel Aviv-Jaffa as one of the five best culinary cities in the world. Cape Town, South Africa came in first, followed by Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Dubai, Hong Kong and Buenos Aires. There are some 3,400 restaurants and cafes in Tel Aviv. (www.timesofisrael.com, 7-8-16) ◇

Photo Gallery

On May 8th, KJCC member Professor Rebecca Boehling (at right) treated us to a fascinating talk about her three years in Germany as head of the International Tracing Service. Since the end of WW II, the ITS — a consortium of nine nations formed to preserve European Holocaust information — has helped thousands of people trace family members who survived the concentration camps, or perished in them. Some of the audience is shown below.



The photos at right and below are all from the Torah Learning Service on Saturday, May 28th. At bottom right, Rabbi Agler and George Swartz assist as Steve Hartz reads from the Torah. It was to be Rabbi Agler's last service of the season until Sept. 10th.

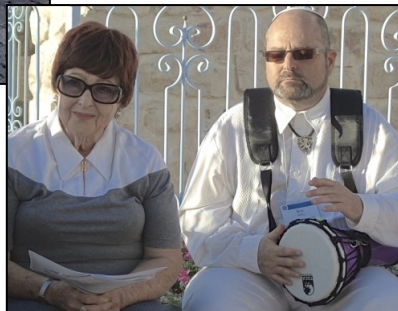




At right, Lee Schur is all smiles at granddaughter Brittany's confirmation in San Antonio, Texas.



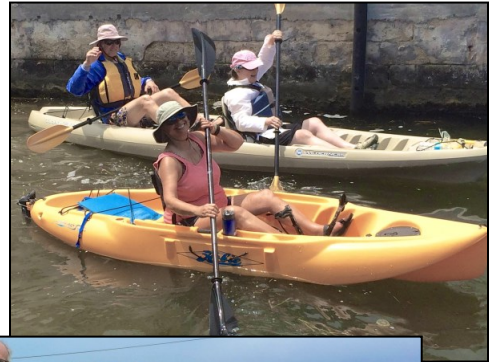
Above, Rick Wolfe traveled with his drum and his mom Dotty to Israel and the mystical city of Tzfat for Lag B'Omer. The celebration includes dancing a Torah through the Old Quarter and up to the main street, where shopkeepers put out food and (strong) drinks for the celebrants, while people toss candy from balconies.



Shyella sent Sam these photos of former KJCC President Bea Graham at the New Jersey beach near Nissan and Israel's house. (On the finally rebuilt boardwalk destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.) The first photo is Bea with Nissan and Israel. (The woman on the left is Bea's caregiver.) The photo of Bea on the scooter is...Bea on a scooter. (According to Shy, Bea said "why didn't they have these when I was growing up?") The three beach beauties are Bea at left, granddaughters Liati at top and Shyella at right.

A group of KJCC “chai-yakers” led by Dave Mont joyously headed out on one of the most gorgeous days of the year. A mix of sun and clouds and a light May breeze made for perfect kayak weather. We were joined by Gloria’s sister Rhona and family on our paddle through the mangroves. Many of us leave our kayaks in Dave’s yard, so he has plenty to lend out. Let him know if you are interested in any future trips, often planned at the spur of the moment. Reach him at moogoodave@yahoo.com or by phone (305)393-9883.

At bottom right are our tired, happy paddlers, safely back ashore.





As is our promise, KJCC held Erev Shabbat services every Friday night throughout the summer. Even with snowbirds gone, we no longer have a problem making a *minyan*. At left, two Lindas light the Shabbat candles on June 3rd.

On June 10th, Shavuot was celebrated in the traditional way — with a dairy dinner, religious services including Yizkor, and after services Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a tradition begun by the mystics so that we might never again risk falling asleep and missing the gift of the Torah, as almost happened to those at Mt. Sinai. The tradition also includes telling the story of Ruth, which for us was narrated in fairy tale mode by Bernie Ginsberg, at bottom.



The Erev Shavuot service was capably led by Gloria Avner and Beth Hayden, shown at left lighting the candles to initiate Shabbat, just before all enjoyed the evening's dinner provided by Sisterhood.



Shabbabaque

KJCC's Shabbabaque each year celebrates American Independence Day, but July 4th is also the birthday of now 101-year-old Pauline Roller. So each year we celebrate both. This year's bash was on Friday, July 1st. There were two birthday cakes (with not nearly enough candles, by order of the Fire Marshall) and lots of hot dogs and hamburgers. We also tell Pauline to invite whoever she likes, so as usual, since everyone knows Pauline, celebrants came from the entire Keys community.



Our thanks to Gloria Avner and Erica Lieberman-Garrett for the photos on this page and the next.



Susan Gordon, who did all the decorating for the Shabbabaque, stands with Sylvie Coeurjoly and daughter Mikhaela Bitton.



Shabbabaque cooking in the heat is quite a job. Below, Marc Bloom serves up the hot dogs (he'd pre-steamed them at home), while Joel Bofshever and Skip Rose man the barbecue. Thanks, guys!



At right, Dorothy Wolfe. Below, Toby Bofshever with Erica.



There is almost 100 years difference in age between Maddie Bloom and Pauline, but both love birthdays and hugs.



At right, Erica almost never sits at dinners. But here she is with Mitch Harvey.



Flanking Pauline, above are long-time Keys friends John Cooper and Sylvia Murphy, with twins Terri Weisberg and Gerri Emkey behind.

Below, some of KJCC's hardest-working ladies took time to celebrate Joyce's birthday on July 9th.



At right, the sweet oneq sponsored on July 8th by Terry Willner-Tainow and Jon Tainow in honor of the birthdays of their grandchildren Milo and Millie.



On July 20th we cruised into the sunset from Key Largo, relaxing with drinks, sandwiches and snacks. It was all organized by Mitch Harvey's Activities Committee.

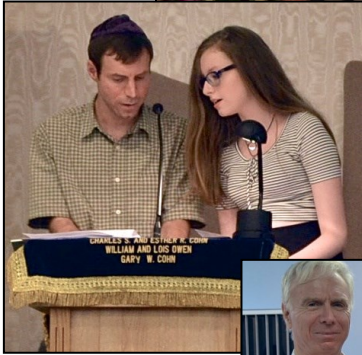


With many members headed north for the summer, it is sometimes a challenge to find service leaders. This summer was made sunnier by the presence of a young visitor. Michelle Greenfield was here as a summer intern at Dolphins Plus. Originally from Arizona, she is an undergraduate at Princeton University, and is vice-president at the Hillel there. One Friday evening she just showed up for services, then became a regular. Gloria noticed how familiar Michelle was with all elements of the service, and so asked her to lead one before going back to school. A confident, personable young lady, she did a magnificent job. We hope that she keeps her promise to return.





On July 22nd, Ken Atlas and daughter Seraphina (Ken usually calls her Sera, pronounced as if spelled “Sarah”) led services, Sera after a three-year absence and about ten vertical inches. (She’s now 13 and had her Bat Mitzvah in May.) The other family members in attendance were Ken’s wife Nicole, at left below, who offered the *D’var Torah*, and Ken’s parents Bob and Shirley Atlas, at right.



Jonah Gross, our esteemed shofar blower (Bernie’s protégé) and trumpet player, graduated from Key Largo School, earning the John Philip Sousa Award as top musician, and the Silver Presidential Award. The photo was sent to us by proud mom Randy Klein-Gross.

On August 5th, Michael and Lorena Kaufman sponsored a KJCC Friday night dinner in honor of Sean's *upsherin* (the ceremonial first haircut given three-year-old boys), to take place the next day. At left, Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon, who co-led that evening's Erev Shabbat service following dinner, light the candles



to get the festivities underway. Sean warily guards his birthday cake, at left.



At right, Erica ladles out her home-made vegetarian matzah-ball soup. It tasted just as delicious as it looked.



Sean looks less delighted with the gorgeous cake than his friend Maddie, far left, but we don't have a photo of his joyous face a few minutes later when they gave him a slice. At left with Michael and Lorena just before "happy birthday."





As the dinner's sponsor, Michael Kaufman joins Susan, Bernie and Joyce in Kiddush and the blessing over challah just prior to the food being served.



Sean's birthday cake was truly something to behold. Lorena takes parties to a whole new level!



At left, Sean blowing out the candle, as Madie watches.



Members of Lorena's and Michael's families, seen at right, joined us for the dinner and festivities, and stayed for the Friday night service.



A Jewish Response to the Orlando Horror

By Rabbi Richard Agler

On June 13th a Community Memorial Service was held at Islamorada Hurricane Memorial in honor of all victims of the Orlando Pulse Nightclub mass murder. Rabbi Richard Agler was among the local clergy asked to speak. The event, organized overnight through social media by Mike Forster of Mangrove Mike's Restaurant and by the local Islamorada gay community, drew several hundred people. The service opened with the playing of Taps by a local trumpeter. We thought everyone would want to see Rabbi Agler's powerful remarks.

Shavuot is the holiday that celebrates the giving, and receiving, of the Ten Commandments, the Jewish people's great gift to the world. One of those Commandments is *Lo Tirtzach* —You shall not murder.

The holiday began on Saturday evening. Later that same night, as we know, that commandment was horrifically violated. Whatever it is that separates us, on this we can agree: Murder is as foul a crime as we, created in God's image, can commit.

Actually there is a crime worse than murder — and that is mass murder. Last month, I served as a leader on an educational mission to a number of death camps in Eastern Europe. Those camps brought mass murder to a level not seen before or since. But the crimes of the Holocaust and the crime at Pulse, the Orlando nightclub, were brothers — each the offspring of twisted ideology and hate.

On the trip, walking through the former death camps, I asked our students, High School seniors, to contemplate three questions:

- 1) How could people do this?
- 2) How could people allow this to be done?
- 3) What does it all tell us about God?

I didn't expect complete answers. Frankly, I'm not sure that any exist. But we can search. And we can wrestle. Those questions are appropriate if we are studying the 1930s -



40s and they are appropriate today.

Tonight we'll set aside Questions 1 & 3. To understand how people could do this, we would have to live inside their heads; and that is something none of us want to do. To understand what it tells us about God would require a lifetime's worth of nights.

But "How can *people* allow this to be done?" THIS we can address. We know that we are deeply flawed vessels. We know that murder has plagued the human race since Cain and Abel. But we believe, nay we *insist*, that *we are better than this*. We *can* be better than this. We **MUST** be better than this. If we *cannot*, if we *are* not, then heaven help us.

And friends, "Heaven help us" is not an acceptable response to mass murder. "Heaven help us" is not what heaven needs to hear. "*How can we help heaven?*" is the question for the day.

I wish I could tell you I have the whole solution. I don't. But I do have faith that one is possible. We, too, can search and wrestle. We can find a better way. There is always a better way than hate.

My prayer is that this time our *actions* will be more than the sum of our "words, thoughts and prayers." For our own sake. For God's sake. Thank you and *shalom*. ◇

KJCC High Holiday Service Schedule

5777 (2016)

Rabbi Richard Agler and Cantor Michael Dzubin

Saturday, September 24th

Pizza/Movies/Slichot Service 6:00 p.m.

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.

Saturday, October 8th

Shabbat Tshuvah led by Bernie Ginsberg 10:00 a.m.

Havdalah Service
at Linda Pollack's home 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11th

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

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.

Friday, October 21st

Erev Shabbat Service/Sukkot celebration 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 22nd

Havdalah Service and Sukkah at the Agler Home
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, October 24th

Shemini Atzeret observed (Yizkor 7:30 p.m.
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.

High Holidays 5777

It's that time of year again. Time to prepare for your journey through the Days of Awe. Here, a few thoughts from your guides Rabbi Richard Agler, Cantor Michael A. Dzubin and KJCC Head of Ritual Gloria Avner.

A Message From the Rabbi

On the Upcoming High Holydays 5777

by Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

It has been a disquieting year. As you don't need me to tell you, our nation's civic life has been turbulent. We have seen far too much violence, both around the world and here at home. In our personal and social lives, as ever, *simcha*, sadness and challenge mix in a combination that is difficult to sort.

Perhaps it has ever been thus, but technology has put the world's relentless onslaught in the palms of our hands and "in our

face" as never before. And William Wordsworth's 1807 maxim, "The World is Too Much With Us," resounds as never before. Thank goodness that a break, in the form of the High Holydays, will soon be upon us.

One of Wordsworth's contemporaries, Nachman of Braslav, taught that Rosh Hashanah provides an opportunity for *taharat ha-machshavot*. This phrase can be rendered in various ways. "Purifying our thoughts,"

"cleansing our mind" and "resetting our brain" are all valid in context.

In any case, it is clear that Nachman believed the High Holydays are the time to set life's ongoing noise aside and remind ourselves that despite the ever-present cacophony, we are higher creatures. The Days of Awe are the time to concentrate our thoughts at the highest possible point, with God.

This is of course a challenge. The questions are many and the answers are often elusive and partial. But this is why it is not a one-shot deal. We begin on *Slichot* night and continue through *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*. In less than a month's time there are four major holidays and several other opportunities for spirituality. When they do their job and we do ours, it is indeed a time of resetting and purification.

As I write middle of guess is that will be no us" in the ahead. Which more reason looking for-annual ce- eternal val- do indeed power to renew us. I look forward to sharing them with you.

Mindy joins me in extending, to all of our Keys family, wishes for a blessed and meaningful *shana tovah*. ♦



this, in the summer, my the world less "with weeks is all the to begin ward to our bration of ues. They have the

All line art in this section courtesy of Gloria Avner.

On the Evolution of Cantorial Music

*First There was None, and Then Some,
But It's Still All About the Prayers*

by Cantor Michael Dzubin

As most of you know, back in the time of the Temple the Kohanim conducted all services and rituals, assisted by the Levites. Since the printing press wasn't invented until the middle of the 15th century C.E., only the wealthy could afford to purchase a handwritten book/scroll. Further, according to some sources, there was a fundamental resistance to writing down Jewish prayers until around the 8th century C.E., just as there had once been a prohibition against writing down the Oral Torah. (Though it was still being edited, by the 8th century the Talmud, the codification of the Oral Law, was already hundreds of years old.) Therefore, a prayer book was very hard, if not virtually impossible, to come by. Congregations became reliant on the Kohanim and Levites to recite and/or chant the prayers of the service on their behalf. As long as the congregants were paying attention to what was being said, and responding appropriately – answering to the prayer-leader's "Barukh Atah Adonai" ("Blessed are You, My Lord") with "Bar'khu U-Varukh Sh'mo" ("Blessed is He, and Blessed is His Name"), and at the end of the blessing responding with "Amen" (basically, "yes, we agree with what is being said, and may it be so") – they received full credit, as if they had said the blessings themselves! The first formal siddur – the word for the Jewish prayer book is derived from the word seder ("order," familiar from Passover) and translates to mean "order of the service" – for year-round use was compiled by Rav Amram Gaon in the

9th century C.E. Before then, and even afterwards for those who could not afford to own a printed copy, people had to memorize the prayers.

However, the congregation did have someone knowledgeable in the structure of the services, someone learned who had memorized the prayers and was able to recite them aloud on behalf of all. This gave rise to the "Shaliakh Tsibbur" ("emissary of the congregation"), who, it is important to understand, is not the congregation's intermediary to God; congregants don't have to share their sins, concerns or needs to him (or, now, of course, her) and gain his acceptance or approval to pray on their behalf, as some other religions require. Instead, the emissary is simply their agent, offering the prayers on behalf of those not fluent enough in Hebrew to recite the prayers aloud themselves. While God does understand and accept prayers in any language, Hebrew is considered the Holy Language; as a result, to pray in Hebrew is considered a higher level of prayer.



In addition to praying on behalf of the congregation, the Shaliakh Tsibbur is at times counted on to elevate the souls and prayers of the congregation to greater heights, helping bringing everyone closer to God. In other parts of the service, his job is simply to set and keep the pace of the praying congregants by finishing the last one or two verses of each prayer, and perhaps starting the beginning of the next one, to keep everyone praying together even when everyone is praying silently. Since large parts of the service can therefore be just beginnings and endings, with silent reading in between, the Shaliakh Tsibbur has to notice whether he may be going too fast (possibly indicated by the congregants looking irritated and rapidly flipping pages to catch up, or going too slowly (indicated by finding everyone looking up at

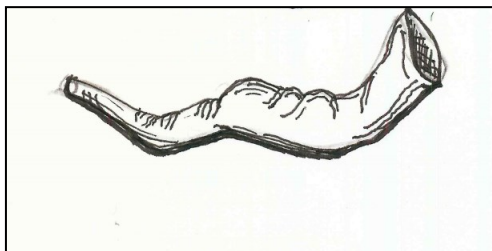


him expectantly when he is nearing the end of a prominent paragraph!).

While the ancient rabbis banned the use of instrumental music during Shabbat and holiday services as a way of mourning the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. – not so much mourning the loss of the building as the loss of the close relationship and communication with God – vocal music remained an important part of the service. The Talmud even requires a prayer leader to be "skilled in chanting and having a pleasant voice." The vocal music that we hear in our synagogues today can be divided into three general types, two of which have roots extending back to the time of the Temple.

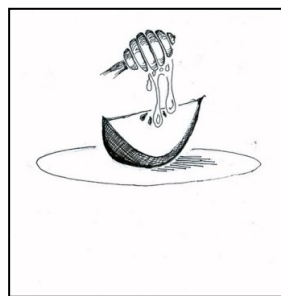
The first type is the cantillations, or chant assigned to the reading of scripture, which are guided by "trope" (the symbols above and below the words in the book version of the TaNaKh, the acronym for the name of our complete Bible, that specify the musical notes assigned to the words...no trope appears in the Torah itself).

The second type of vocal music in the synagogue is called Nusah, which is the musical motif (or "flavor") found throughout the different services. While Nusah can be assigned to specific prayers or parts of services on specific occasions, such as the special musical pattern for T'fillat Tal (the Prayer for Dew during Passover), or T'fillat Geshem (the Prayer for Rain on Sh'mini Atseret at the end of



Sukkot), each of which have their distinctive sounds, it is more generally known and recognized by providing a musical motif in order to distinguish one type of service from another, such as normal weekdays versus Kabbalat Shabbat (welcoming the Sabbath), or Shabbat morning services versus Rosh Hodesh (welcoming the New Month) or even the High Holidays. For example, the words of the Bar'khu, the official Call to Worship, are the same every time in every service. However, the Nusah, or tune for it, changes depending on whether it is a regular weekday, Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, the evening of a Festival, or even between the different High Holiday services!

Since not every prayer was subject to a Nusah tradition, the professional chazzan ("cantor") in European Ashkenazic communities,



starting in the Middle Ages, found opportunities to compose special tunes for parts of the services. This, of course, leads us to the third type of vocal music found in the synagogue: the melodies, or the "sing-along" parts. Religious authorities as early as the 12th century, however, condemned those who made the prayers secondary to the music, or music whose purpose was to frivolously entertain a congregation rather than to lead it in prayer. (Some had begun using melodies from popular folk songs, others unnecessarily and uncomfortably extending services by inserting lengthy "operatic" compositions.) As a result, for a long time, prayers were said with a minimum of joyous song, and without the aid of congregational singing, even on Shabbat and holidays! Thanks largely to the Chasidic movement arising in Poland over 200 years ago, congregations across many of the branches of Judaism have re-emphasized song and congregational singing as a way of serving God in joy, especially on Shabbat and festivals.

All singing, in fact every way we pray and worship, must be balanced with what is called "Kavannah," or "intent." As is written above the Ark in many congregations: one must "Know before Whom you stand." We should be aware of and reflect on the meaning of words we speak or sing, their history, the intentions of the composers of the liturgy, and what emotions they were meant to express – joy, sorrow, fear, awe or closeness. I am honored that you have invited me back to share these High Holidays with you, as your Shaliakh Tsibbur, and I pray that I am able to live up to this history and these traditions, by using the all the cantor's musical tools to help reflect and share awareness of the intended messages, to hopefully draw us together into the appropriate moods, and thereby bring us as one closer to God, particularly during these High Holydays, these Days of Awe.

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

We Enter Elul, The Month of Preparation

by Gloria Avner

We are lucky. It is September, many of our people are back from summer vacation, and we have a whole month before High Holidays arrive – or as we more respectfully name them, *Yamim Nora'im*, The Days of Awe. If you count the time from *Erev Rosh HaShanah* until the last blast of the *shofar* on *Yom Kippur*, you'd be tempted to say these *Yamim* encompass 10 days. But Judaism is anything but obvious or limited, and everything about cyclic continuity. We are actually riding toward the awesome days right now. Elul is the month the rabbis declared to be 29 days of preparation and introspection. This is the time, they said, when the King (meaning God) is most accessible, walking through fields,



approachable by human subjects who have the courage and intent to acknowledge past errors and commit to becoming their best selves. (It started when Moses went up the mountain for another 40 days, carrying a second set of tablets, after the debacle of the golden calf.) This is a time to be extra charitable. Remember, how we are judged in the Book of Life can be softened by three things, the three concept words we say loudly in unison after confessing to every imaginable shortcoming, as individuals and as a community: Prayer (*Tefillah*), turning towards God (*Tshuvah*), and, finally, charity (*Tzedakah*).

It seems like an accident (I just looked up the date) that I am writing this on August 13th, *Erev Tisha B'Av*, the heaviest Jewish fast day, second in seriousness only to *Yom Kippur*. But maybe it's *bashert*, all part of the intelligent process by which we move from sorrow to joy, how we improve ourselves and become worthy to be "a light unto the nations." From Saturday evening, September 3rd (*Elul Rosh Chodesh*) until Tuesday, October 25th and the celebration of *Simchat Torah*, we will be engaged for almost two whole months in cleansing and renewal of body, mind, and spirit.

We can't play the *shofar* and listen to its call to consciousness every day in Elul as the sages say we should – we are in synagogue only

on Shabbat and it is not allowed then. We will not walk into the *Yamim Nora'im* in fear of judgment, but we can and will honor the beginning of Elul's preparation month by singing a song about love, an acronym based on Elul's four letters: "*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*" - "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (Song of Solomon 6:3). We acknowledge God's good will towards us and ours towards God. Nothing is over until it's over, and then of course, we begin again. ◇

MARCH OF THE LIVING 2016

These photos are all courtesy of Rabbi Agler. He and Bernie accompanied the Miami contingent of this year's March of the Living to Poland and Israel, Rabbi Agler as rabbi/educator and Bernie as group physician. This is a program where teens are taken to Poland to not only see but experience the Nazi death camps. Included are Auschwitz (and its partner camp where the killing was actually done, Birkenau), Majdanek, Chelmno and others. After the emotional power of actually being at the camps, the entire group goes to Israel for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, its Independence Day, to celebrate and feel personally connected to the survival of the Jewish people.



When showing his students the oldest shul in the Polish city of Krakow, who did Rabbi Agler see at the other end of the room but Professor Alan Dershowitz, top left. Above, Rabbi Agler talking to his students about the Jewish world in pre-war Krakow. At left, Bernie shows off his shirt listing the KJCC sponsors for his trip. At top, the infamous "Arbeit Macht Frei" gate that led into Auschwitz, which still stands for all to pass under.

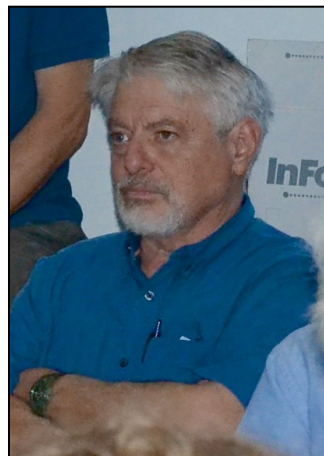
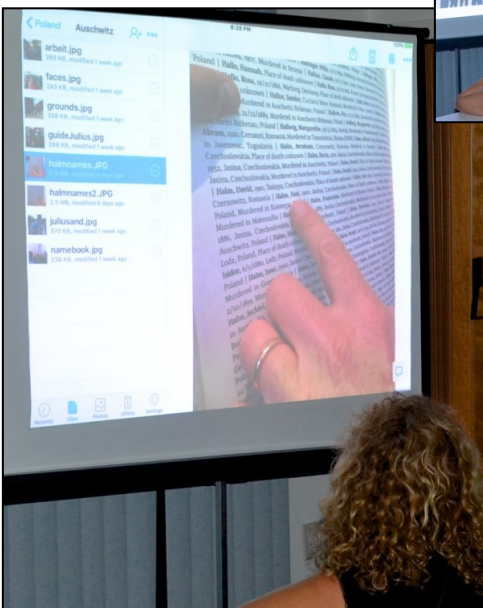
The two top photos this page are two of the death camps the group visited after leaving Auschwitz. Top left shows the scope of a mass grave on the site of Chelmno, some 50 km north of the Polish city of Lodz. Here the first mass killings of the Final Solution took place, in large vans adapted as gas chambers; the agent was carbon monoxide. After the killings, the bodies were driven to these mass graves. At right is the gigantic memorial at Majdanek, just across a road (literally) from the eastern city of Lublin. There are (and were) no trees; everyone could see the brick chimney from the crematorium and the gas chamber building. The location was, and is, on the main road to Ukraine and Russia.



And, then, finally, on to Israel for celebration. The center photo is Bernie in front of the Kotel, the Wailing Wall, in Jerusalem. At left, on Friday evening, Rabbi Agler makes HaMotzi with the Jerusalem hills behind. At bottom, Rabbi Agler and Bernie float in the Dead Sea.



Rabbi Agler and Bernie had promised to come to KJCC after their return to share photos, stories and reflections of their trip. It all happened on Sunday evening, July 3rd. As you saw on the previous pages, the trip began in sadness in the preserved remains of the Polish death camps and ended in joy in Israel for the celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day. The evening was moving and unforgettable.



HIAS – The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

A Long Tradition of Advocating for Refugees

by Linda Kaplan, Esq.

There is so much that can be said about HIAS, and though it's a legend in the Jewish world, many people know nothing about it at all. It is the only Jewish organization whose mission is to assist refugees. It is the oldest resettlement organization in the world. It is also the only Jewish organization designated by the U.S. government to assist with refugee resettlement.

There is a good chance that some KJCC members have received assistance from HIAS in Manhattan and/or on Ellis Island. If you were not directly assisted by HIAS, it is likely that previous generations of your family received assistance from HIAS when they first came to this country. For those researching your family trees, HIAS archives dated from 1909 may be of interest to you if they were part of your family's history. They offer location and family history search, Immigrant Record Search, Location Service Search and Genealogy search. To access the HIAS archives you may go to *HIAS.org* for a records search.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) was founded in 1881, in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan by American Jews who organized to assist other Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia and eastern Europe. At that time the world did not yet have a legal concept for people being killed in their homelands just because of who they were.

HIAS was established before the U.S. (or the world) even had a legal concept of the term "refugee." This lack of a definition or a legal right of asylum did not stop HIAS from assisting Jews and other groups of people whose lives were at risk. They were guided not by international law but by our Jewish values, our history and the Torah, which says 36 times in 36 different ways that we must "welcome the stranger." HIAS took our Torah

teachings to heart. From its early days it provided, in addition to legal aid, dormitory space, a soup kitchen, clothing, civics education, job training, and assistance with finding jobs. Here's a description, directly from the HIAS web site, discussing their work on Ellis Island:

"HIAS established a bureau on Ellis Island in 1904, providing translation services, guiding immigrants through medical screenings, arguing before the Boards of Special Enquiry to prevent deportations, and obtaining bonds to guarantee employable status. We lent some the \$25 landing fee and sold railroad tickets at reduced rates to those headed for other cities. We even installed a kosher kitchen, which provided more than half a million meals to new arrivals on Ellis Island.

HIAS also found relatives of detained immigrants. Six hundred immigrants were detained during just one month in 1917 because they had neither money nor friends to claim them. HIAS was able to locate relatives for the vast majority, who were then released from Ellis Island."

The work of HIAS in assisting Jews fleeing persecution in Europe was substantially hampered by xenophobic fears of many in the U.S. There were fears that foreigners migrating to the U.S. would undermine American values and take jobs from Americans. In 1909, Henry Cabot Lodge, then a Senator from Massachusetts, was the first to propose a limitation on immigration from southern and eastern Europe. The recession that followed World War I only heightened fears that immigrants from other countries would increase the unemployment rate among Americans.

The Immigration Act of 1924 specifically aimed to restrict migration of southern and eastern Europeans. Proponents of the act wanted to favor native-born Americans over Jews, Southern and Eastern Europeans (in order to "maintain the racial preponderance

of the basic strain of our people and thereby to stabilize the ethnic composition of the population.”

It was believed that southern/eastern Europeans and Jews arrived sick and starving and therefore were less capable of contributing to the American economy and unable to adapt to American culture. Using the 1890 census, The National Origins Act instituted admission quotas to determine the population of a particular nationality group and then only allowed two percent of that nationality into the U.S. Annual quotas of immigration were lowered and 86.5 percent of the visas were allocated to those from northwest Europe and Scandinavia, 11.2 percent to eastern and southern Europeans, and the remaining 2.3 percent were allocated to all other countries.

Even those aware of the refugee resettlement accomplishments of HIAS might not know its history of advocacy and role in promoting laws in the U.S and internationally that protect the human rights of refugees. Sixty-seven years after HIAS was formed, following Jewish law and traditional teachings, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees established the definition of a refugee as “an individual who is *outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence who is unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on his or her race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.*” (italics mine.) Due in part to the aggressive advocacy of HIAS, the National Origins Act quotas were replaced by a new law passed in 1965. This established our current regime of allocating immigrant visas to those sponsored by close family members or beneficiaries of employment-based petitions.

The U.S Refugee Act of 1980 amended

“We do not help them because they are Jewish, we help them because we are Jewish.”

this law by creating a procedure for the admission of refugees of humanitarian concern and provided for the resettlement of those refugees. At this time, we are seeing in the U.S. many of the same anti-refugee sentiments which resulted in the exclusion of Jews. A Twitter post on Nov. 19, 2015 by

Beenish Ahmed, titled “America Turned Away Jewish Refugees because some were feared to be Nazi Agents,” discusses this aspect of our current political climate. He discussed the work of American University professor Max Paul Freedman, who compared the concern of some that allowing Syrian refugees in to the U.S. would allow Isis fighters to slip in, to that fear of admitting Jewish refugees. Freedman said, “We have a very long tradition of exaggerating the threat that refugees might pose. Just as we didn’t have a single case of a Nazi posing as a Jew being admitted to the U.S., it would be very difficult

for a Syrian sleeper agent for Isis, making it through a two year process and being interviewed and having to explain themselves.”

I recently participated in a HIAS Briefing Teleconference on Refugee Resettlement. At the end of the teleconference they discussed ways to deal with community backlash against refugee resettlement, reminding us that we had once been the ones shunned and kept out. The first suggestion was to provide the facts. To this end HIAS has prepared an information sheet entitled “Myths and facts about Refugee Resettlement.” Anyone interested can download the HIAS report at: http://www.hias.org/sites/default/files/myths_and_facts_about_syrian_refugee_resettlement.pdf.

In the HIAS teleconference we were reminded that the Torah instructs us to “welcome the stranger,” not merely your friends or those who are like you. Prominently posted on the HIAS website are the words: “We do not help them because they are Jewish, we help them because we are Jewish.” ◇

My Medical Mission to Bhutan

Teaching Med Students in a Buddhist Country on Top of The World

by Neal Rakov
(with an introduction by Gloria Avner)

Most nations judge the state of their health and viability with economic indicators. They focus on Gross National Product, average income, level of debt. Most countries, but not all. Especially not Bhutan, that tiny monarchy in the Himalayas tucked precariously between China, India, Assam and Nepal. Ask KJCC's own Dr. Neal Rakkov, who recently volunteered to travel to Bhutan for a month's stay to train and mentor newly graduated physicians in gastroenterology in the country's largest hospital. Tourist visas are limited to ten days. Neal had three times that, enough to see firsthand how this nation's benevolent king monitors not his people's output but their input. For him and his subjects, the most important measure of success is the National Happiness Index. By law both men and women still wear their traditional national garb, the "gao," a beautiful hand-woven and embroidered long sarong, blouse and sash for the women, with long-sleeved, kilt-length jackets with sashes and knee socks for the men.

Cable television was not allowed until 1999. Though Nike footwear has definitely taken hold, alongside commitment to modern medical care, the same medieval masked dances and ceremonies central to Bhutanese survival (like the winter Yak Dance, in which the elderly are struck by a yak tail to "harden" them up for survival in winter's tough times), are still performed in small villages each year with gusto - and prolific amounts of alcohol). The country, because of its extreme, untrammled natural beauty and abundant, rare wildlife, is a natural tourist attraction, but only a limited number of visitor permits are issued each year. So the beauty persists, unspoiled. Hear

Neal tell of his experiences in the only country in the world where archery is the national sport and the Buddhist Lamas (respected spiritual teachers) reminded him of 19th century rebbes. (And, yes, I've been to Bhutan, too, years ago when I would regularly travel to Asia looking to buy worldwide native art for my Key Largo/Bar Harbor business. It truly is an amazing place.) - Gloria

I spent the month of May, 2016, in Bhutan - a country perched on the roof of the world, adjacent to Nepal amid the peaks of the Himalayas, the world's tallest mountain range - through the auspices of Help Volunteers Overseas, an American NGO (non-governmental organization) whose mission is

Below, the entrance to the medical facility where Neal worked and taught. Atop the graceful pagoda-like architecture, you can clearly read "National Referral Hospital."





The doctors and residents who taught and learned from Neal, taking a break from treating patients.

one of the world's most basic and important: education. I try to go to Bhutan once a year. This was my second trip; the first was about two years ago, and I plan to return again in October of 2017.

Bhutan has a number of small medical facilities, but only one referral hospital, in the capital city of Thimphu, which has a population of 75,000. They only recently began an internship-residency program at the hospital, and I was asked to teach gastroenterology to residents and interns there. They furnished me with what turned out to be a cold-water flat, which was okay because I ended up deciding to take showers in the gym. Electricity is scary, and not consistent or reliable; there are lots of fires. One is well advised to unplug everything when you leave the house. I lived with the hope that the fridge wouldn't start a fire and burn my apartment (with me in it) during the night.

My advice to any visitors, to whoever might find themselves in this beautiful and fascinating country, is to speak to as many locals as possible. I very much enjoyed the daily interactions. There was one young man in traditional garb, on his way to work, who walked with me each day as I

At right, a group of high school girls in Bhutanese garb, practicing for a traditional dance contest.



made my way to the hospital. The people as a whole are friendly, yet shy, especially the young female interns. Co-workers whose homes I visited were always embarrassed by an economic status so clearly different from that of their American counterparts. Most call me "sir." (It's a traditional culture. Anyone a year older is "sir" or "ma'am.") I had a problem doing rounds with a group in the hospital for a while, because they would all politely wait for me to go through the doors first, which created a bottleneck until I could get there.

Regional hospitals do all types of health care. There are no clinics specializing in minor illnesses, so the doctors are swamped, with auto-immune diseases, a lot of liver disease caused by drinking, and hepatitis-B transmitted from mom to baby. As their diet becomes more western, there are additional problems. Diabetes has become epidemic over last 20 years. (Their bodies are not accustomed to processed food with a high glycemic index.) Bhutan grows red rice for export, and imports white rice from India. They eat ramen noodles. The only time I was able to partake of delicious red rice was when I biked out of the city and into the countryside.

Another issue is lung problems caused by

poor indoor ventilation. Though they have instituted one important health measure to address this: they don't use unventilated wood stoves anymore. (Imagine you and your lungs living with one of those.) Electric heaters have helped reduce the smoke from wood stoves, and there's now a regulation requiring a closed smoking room in restaurants. People are also not allowed to smoke on the street, just like we don't allow public drinking here.

Doctors are paid on a national service scale based on years of work - seniority rather than skill - so young doctors are paid less than older civil servants. People of wealth - there are some, as always - or high in government are not too concerned about the quality of local health facilities, because they go to Thailand, India and Singapore for health care. There is a facility for dialysis, but patients in need of kidney transplants are

sent to India. There is a nursing school and Masters in Public Health program in the country, but no medical school. Doctors are trained in India, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka. If the government pays for their education, doctors owe three years of public service for each

Nurses in Bhutan actually take care of patients, rather than doing mainly paperwork.

year of training. Problems arise when students return home from schooling, because they often can't do back in Bhutan what they have been trained to do abroad. One young doctor who was trained as pulmonologist in India came back to find no facility in Bhutan where she could use her training, so she works as an internist. There is never enough equipment. We did thirty endoscopies per day using only two instruments, cleaned (carefully) between each procedure. Students



A Buddhist temple decorated for one of the many local festival celebrations.

from wealthy families who pay their own way, and therefore owe the country no term of service, have no incentive to come home after their medical training. While I was there, I got a liver biopsy team together, but after I left the team members who had no obligation to repay the government left for Australia, where salaries are higher.

Nurses in Bhutan actually take care of patients, rather than doing mainly paperwork. Medical records are the responsibility of the patients themselves, who hold on to the notes and x-rays that doctors give them. If a patient has a biopsy, he gets the results and brings it to the doctor.

Bhutan is a monarchy. Fortunately, the monarch is benevolent. (The previous king, the fourth, started the first health care system. When that king, His Majesty Jigme Singe Wanchuck, abdicated so that his son could become the monarch, Bhutan transitioned



Neal, an avid biker, rode undaunted by Bhutan's high Himalayan altitudes.

from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy, and held its first general election.) Because of its location between two large Asian powers, Bhutan fears both India and China. But they have decided that India will protect them from the Chinese. The whole region, especially the small states, fears China. China has an ancient treaty, which shows eighty percent of Bhutan as belonging to China (as it claims and has absorbed Tibet), but is leaving Bhutan alone for now.

The current monarch, King Jigme Kesar Namgyel, is far more than a figurehead. He must approve all laws passed by the legislature. Although polygamy is legal, he has said publicly that there will be only one wife for him. He is 35 years old, was educated at Oxford, and several months ago saw the birth of his first child. The new crown prince is the first royal child to be born in Bhutan. Previously all royal babies were born in Singapore. A Japanese neonatologist, married to a native of Bhutan, was brought to the palace to officiate at the royal birth. She is

At right is the National Stupa (sacred Buddhist shrine). The Buddha is holding healing medicine in his hand.

still living there, without permission to go home, and is the only neonatologist in the country!

Bhutan is the prettiest country I've ever seen. There is not a kid who isn't cute. The way the crops are cultivated, farms are like artwork. The National Stupa (sacred Buddhist shrine) is right across from the hospital where I spent most of my time, and like every other Buddhist shrine I've ever seen its architecture is beautiful. Festivals are held there all the time. So the highest elements of local culture were often just outside my window. I liked to hear the Buddhist chanting; it sounds somehow familiar, like Orthodox Jewish chanting. There is a huge Buddha – actually the largest in the world – built into a hill. Rivers are pristine, filled with huge trout. For religious reasons, locals are not allowed to hunt or fish. (Perhaps that's one reason the rivers are filled with huge trout.) Only the king fishes and hunts. All others eat domesticated animals. Tibetan Buddhists, the type practiced in Bhutan, are not vegetarians. The food looks like New Mexican fare – spicy, fresh food with chilies. Near the hospital there is a weekend market. On the top floor is local produce, featuring Bhutan's famous apples and peaches. Downstairs is imported produce, mostly tropical fruit and produce from India, but to my initial surprise I also found Washington State apples. (Apparently



they're not just famous and considered a delicacy only in our country.)

School kids speak perfect English and are very helpful. When I wanted to walk to Buddha Point, three young schoolgirls eagerly helped me find the trail. Then one of them declared, "You are my responsibility. It is too far for you to walk." So she hailed a cab, and then expertly arranged the price. They love tourists, and believe it is good when people from other countries meet each other. The king and his father were known to go mountain biking alone, wearing traditional clothes, on roads built for donkeys. Taxi drivers, school kids, and people in the tourist industry all wear traditional clothing.

There are no stoplights anywhere in the whole country. (I'd guess that might have something to do with erratic supplies of electricity. It also wouldn't do to have fires breaking out in the middle of intersections.) Traffic, where it is regulated, is moved along by police hand signals. Dogs are everywhere, all over the country. They bark all night long, roaming and looking for food, even those with homes. There are very few cats. In some housing there is a rat problem, but mousetraps are not allowed.

Things are changing a bit since Bhutan first allowed television and the Internet in 1999. As it has in our country, it has begun to cause a loss of traditional dialect. There is, interestingly, universal education for up to 20-25 year olds. School is taught in English, five and a half days each week. Students take a placement test, with the most intelligent being sent to engineering and science, and the second tier to medicine. Economics and traditional social patterns also play a role – more men do engineering and business, while more women go to medicine. Kids from wealthy families go into tourism or the hydroelectric industry and do well.

Bhutan clearly has a wealth disparity, with some people very wealthy, but everyone is

fed. Although the people are friendly and terrific, they drink way too much. They make their own beer, whiskey, and peach and apple wine. All socio-economic levels drink. There is a substantial Bhutanese unemployment rate because Indians are imported to do the heavy labor. Though employed, the Indian construction workers live in horrible conditions. This class of workers lives better than they do in India, but their section is still like a shantytown. Many of them were booted out when the government decided that they wanted a maximum of 20 percent Indians in the country. The only other religion one can legally and openly practice is Hinduism. Evangelical Christians are expelled.

Anyone who comes to Bhutan on a tourist visa must sign up for a special tour and spend a minimum of \$250 per day, including the guide, hotel bills, food, etc. There is no Chabad presence like there is in Nepal. (So those who claim that Jews are everywhere are not exactly correct.) Bhutan imposes high-dollar requirements for tourists for a simple reason: they want to limit tourism, not deal with the hordes of back-packers who visit Nepal. I was not on a

tourist visa. Even so, I was not allowed to go beyond my area without a special form, and could remain in the country for only six days after my work was over, if I wanted to take limited tours. I did do a bike trip 120 kilometers to the town of Hah, where I stayed in a farmhouse with a guide. I also hiked to Tiger's Nest (a monastery), and to another monastery 13,000 feet up (only in the Himalayas), where eighty boys lived with four teachers and I slept in a classroom.

In the end, I learned more from the Bhutanese than I taught them. When I left, the hospital staff gave me artwork, and baskets. I was tempted to warn them not to join the modern western world, but it's not fair. We have benefits that they don't have. But I loved it there, and, as I said, I will be going back. ◊

*"In the end,
I learned more
from the
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Remembering Elie Wiesel

The world recently lost one of its most passionate voices on the subjects of human rights and our responsibility to help each other toward a more decent world, a lifetime of study having convinced him that God has instructed us to build such a world. Two KJCC members not only knew the great man, they knew him well. Both, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal and Stan Margulies, agreed to share some precious memories with us.

Elie Wiesel's Secret Refuge

by Rabbi Ed Rosenthal

I'll never forget the moment. There I was, sitting in a small, book-lined office on the campus of a school I had never heard of just four months before. Seated next to me was the greatest moral voice of our time, and one of the most respected human beings on the planet: Elie Wiesel. As the new campus rabbi at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, I was amazed to learn that Prof. Wiesel had a long-standing relationship with the school, and had been teaching during Eckerd's Winter Term every year since 1989.

As the two of us sat in his office, my heart pounded in my chest and my stomach

Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, a KJCC member along with wife Mindy, is campus rabbi of Eckerd College and Executive Director of Hillels of the Florida Suncoast.

climbed to my throat. Introductions were made, and I said: "I have only one question for you. What are you doing here?" He leaned toward me in his chair, smiled and said: "Oh, I love the weather."

I immediately recalled those scenes in the Talmud in which a heathen asks a question of a great rabbi. The rabbi gives a simplistic answer and the heathen leaves feeling as if he has gained the world. However, the disciples of the rabbi always say: "That's good enough for him, but now tell us the real answer." At which point the rabbi delves into profound teachings.

I looked at Prof. Wiesel and said: "Of course, we all love the weather, but what are you *really* doing here?"

He paused, and looked at me with his knowing eyes, leaned back in his chair and said, almost in a whisper: "I have taught everywhere in the world. And I've found that the best students at Eckerd College are as good



Rabbi Ed in the Eckerd College lounge with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.

as the best students anywhere. And that's why I keep coming back." I knew at that moment that I, like the great man sitting before me, had found a hidden treasure on the shores of Tampa Bay.

For the past seven years, I have eagerly awaited Winter Term at Eckerd College and the return of Elie Wiesel to our campus. Everyone

knows about his long-standing position at Boston University, but Eckerd College was his secret, his refuge. In his 2012 book "Open Heart," Wiesel wrote, "For several years I have been teaching a class in philosophy, history and literature at a small, prestigious college." A small college that few people have ever heard of, which allowed him peace and quiet for three months out of the year to read, to write, to think and to teach.

His class was not even listed in the course catalogue. Students had to apply to be accepted, and it was limited to a maximum of 20 students. Imagine sitting in a small room, just 20 students and Elie Wiesel, for two hours every day for a month. In his classes, everything he said was like gold, but four simple words from the mouth of Elie Wiesel have become almost a mantra for students at Eckerd College. "In everything you do, *think higher and feel deeper.*"

While Elie Wiesel spoke at Hillels and other venues around the world to packed auditoriums, for the past seven years his fireside chats with our student leaders were unparalleled. During these chats, Prof. Wiesel would sit in the Faculty Lounge with our students, and for two hours or more, they could ask him anything.

And they did.

The conversations ranged from the current state of the world, to what made him happy, and everything in between. "The mission of the Jewish people," he told them, "is not to make the world more Jewish. The mission of the Jewish people is to make the world more human."

And while Prof. Wiesel's speaking honorariums could run into the tens of thousands of dollars, our fireside chats cost our Hillel just a small plate of apricot *rugelach*.

His last fireside chat with our students was last March. He seemed tired, but his mind was as keen as ever. For all these years he has carried the weight of the Shoah and the responsibility to bear witness to it on his shoulders. It was an impossible burden to bear, but he did it with strength, courage and dignity.

Elie Wiesel with the student board of Eckerd College's Hillel. He would often sit and welcome their questions.



With the passing of Elie Wiesel, the world has lost its conscience, and its strongest advocate for human rights. The Jewish people have lost our towering figure of compassion, memory and hope. My students and I have lost our greatest teacher and our friend.

May his memory be a blessing. ♦

Elie Wiesel and Me

by Stan Margulies

It was recently written about Elie Wiesel: "Throughout his adult life as perhaps the best known survivor of the Holocaust...served as the moral conscience of a generation simply by being who he was: speaking his mind, reminding us of our obligation to always remember the darkness - and to bring more light into the world."

I could easily write a book about my twenty-plus-year relationship with Elie Wiesel, but I shall mention just a few of our many interactions - experiences that for me praise his achievements and mourn his passing.

I first met Elie in Congressman Jack Kemp's office in Washington. It was 1979 and the Soviets were getting ready to finally release records from one of the Nazi concentration camps that they had "liberated" in 1945. Kemp had obtained these records prior to their release and asked Elie and me to go over them with him. The three of us then reviewed many of these soon-to-be-made-public Death Camp records. Elie's evaluation of them was for me an epiphany - a real awakening as to what he and others had "lived" through in those terrible death camps.

Another interaction with Elie occurred after the 1980 elections. During the election campaign, I had been active in the Reagan Campaign as a vice-chair of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush (which after President's Reagan's election became what is now the Republican Jewish Coalition). In 1981,

soon after Reagan's inauguration, I was asked by Michael Gale (head of the White House "Jewish Desk") to serve on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which was charged with forming the U.S. Holocaust Museum. I was honored and ready to accept when I asked Michael if Elie, who chaired the Holocaust Council, had agreed to my appointment. Michael replied that, since President Reagan would be making the appointment, Elie was not in the loop. I was astonished! Michael then said that he would speak to Elie and get his agreement. I hesitated and said that Elie's not being in the loop was, for me, unacceptable and therefore I could not accept the appointment. Later that day, Elie called and strongly urged me to accept, but I told him the same thing. In retrospect, it was a bad decision for me not to accept such an honor – an appointment to a position charged with such an important task – a decision that I have regretted ever since.

Then, in 1981, around the same time, Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin was to have his first meeting with newly elected President Ronald Reagan. Elie Wiesel had been asked to set up a briefing for the Prime Minister regarding President Reagan and his Israel policies. There were about a dozen of us who met with the Prime Minister in Elie's New York apartment. We had all been active in the Reagan campaign, most of us as Jewish leaders of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush. The briefing went well and we were all gratified that Begin's meetings with the President were overwhelming successes. As an aside, we all anticipated that the meetings would be successful, since we all knew that Reagan was a very strong supporter of the State of Israel.

In 1985, when Elie was chair of the Holocaust Memorial Council, he was scheduled to meet in the White House with President Reagan to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Achievement (the civilian equivalent of the military Congressional Medal of Honor). Because of its importance, the ceremony was to be televised. Coincidentally, the ceremony was to be held a few days before the President was to leave for a European trip. As part of the trip, Reagan was scheduled to

meet with the German Prime Minister at the Bitburg cemetery – a German military cemetery that housed the graves of some Nazi SS soldiers. A few days before he was to receive the Medal of Achievement at the White House, Elie asked me to meet with him to discuss what, if anything, he should say about Reagan's upcoming visit to Bitburg. I did give Elie my thoughts about what he might say in his acceptance speech, including a reference to that scheduled visit to Bitburg. What Elie did say at the Gold Metal acceptance ceremony – "That place, Mr. President, is not your place...Your place is with the victims of the SS" – drew national attention. Because of Elie's remarks, Reagan added a visit to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to demonstrate his concern for Jews and the Holocaust.

Another important event occurred in 1986, when Elie was to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Sweden. A friend of mine was flying Elie to Stockholm for the ceremony; I was invited to join them on the flight but did not do so because of a time conflict – something else I have since regretted.

The last get-together that I shall mention was a cruise on the same friend's yacht in the late 1990s. There were only four couples aboard, including Elie and Marian Wiesel and Jenny and me. As this was a vacation cruise, all of us spent most of our time chatting, sightseeing and swimming in the Caribbean – except for Elie, who spent much of his time in his cabin finishing another of his many books. (We did manage to convince Elie to get on a jet ski – which he did for about 20 minutes. Seeing him smile as he was cruising along the water was quite a sight – one that I shall never forget.)

I believe that I have covered a few of my many interactions with my friend, the late Elie Wiesel – a hero who had lived through the worst of times and then the best of times – a man who had helped the world not only to remember the Holocaust and its Nazi perpetrators but also to "never forgive and never forget" those who committed those horrible atrocities – so that atrocities such as these will never happen again. ◇




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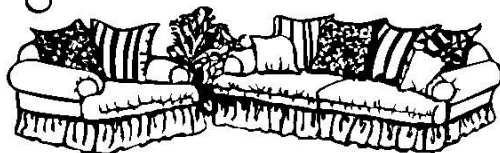


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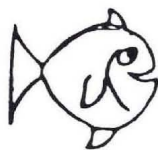
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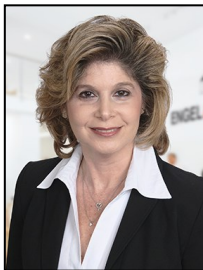
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