

Chai~Lights



February 1 - March 31, 2021

19 Shevat - 18 Nissan

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

February 1 - March 31, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FEB Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Yitro Susan Horn & Gloria Avner <i>Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Gloria Avner, Beth Horowitz</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting; Installation of Officers 10:00AM	8 Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	9	10 Meditation with Mindy Agler, LMHC 7:30PM	11	12 Mishpatim Sisterhood Service <i>Beth Hayden</i>	13 Shabbat Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler 12:30PM
14 Valentine's Day Board Meeting 9:00 AM Annual General Meeting 11:00AM	15 President's Day Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	16	17 Memorial Scrolls Trust Talk 7:30PM	18	19 Terumah Erica Lieberman-Garrett & Donna Bolton <i>Jane Friedman</i>	20
21	22 Book Club 12:30PM Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	23	24 Hamentaschen Workshop Jane Friedman 2:00PM	25 Megillah Reading 7:30PM	26 Tetzaveh Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Rita Conklin</i>	27
28	1 MAR Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	2	3	4	5 Ki Tisa Steve Steinbock <i>Patricia Isenberg</i>	6
7 Sisterhood Meeting 10:00AM	8 Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	9	10	11	12 Vayakhel-Pekudei Laurie Blum <i>Medina Roy</i>	13 Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler 12:30PM
14 Daylight Savings KJCC Board Meeting 10:00AM	15 Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Steve Hartz <i>Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum</i>	20
21	22 Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	23	24	25	26 Tzav Ken Atlas <i>Joyce Peckman & Jane Friedman</i>	27 Passover Motzai Shabbat First Seder Time TBD
28	29 Book Club 12:30PM Drop-in Chat 2:00PM	30	31	Names denote leaders of Friday Services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30pm		

2020 - 2021 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

President

Joyce Peckman

Executive Vice President

Susan Gordon

Vice Presidents

Gloria Avner • Michael Kaufman
Medina Roy

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Rabbi Richard Agler, DD

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Susan Horn • Jim Boruszak • Joel Pollack
Jeff Schocket • Steve Steinbock • Alan Beth
Stuart Sax • Bernard Ginsberg
Sam Vinicur • Beth Hayden

Editor

Gloria Avner

Design & Production

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman



I feel like we are approaching the final lap of a long and difficult marathon, racing on streets we have never traveled before. We have made new friends, learned new skills and discovered strengths we never knew we possessed. We are powering through the pain, helping out fellow runners; and the end is now in sight. Now I find myself overcome with the fear of stumbling, of failing to be careful and falling or causing someone else to fall before we reach the finish line. One of my favorite Hebrew words is *savlanute* – patience. So, we hold on a while longer and maintain faith that in a few months we will gather together for prayer and fellowship at KJCC.

When our doors finally open, please take a few minutes to look at the antiquities display in the hallway, donated by Rabbi and Mindy Agler in honor of Judith and Stephen Beiner z”l. We were unable to have an on-site dedication due to Covid-19, but we finally held a virtual dedication on January 20th, with presentations by Dr. Beiner and Rabbi Agler, and photos of the relics as well as of Marcia Kreitman in the act of creating the museum-quality display. You will be able to find the recording of the dedication on our website.

Meanwhile, we try to boost our spirit, mind and body with Wednesday workshops and suggestions for on-

line programs from Adult Ed chairperson Beth Hayden. On February 10th, Mindy Agler will teach meditation techniques. On February 17th Lois Roman of Memorial Scrolls Trust will tell us the real story behind the Czech Torah in our shul. On February 24th Jane Friedman help us enrich our bellies as we bake hamentashen in preparation for the next evening’s Purim celebration. Of course, we continue our Friday night services on Zoom and our Monday chats. Check Tuesday’s emails for new events.

The matching fund was a success. Our thanks to those of you who helped us to reach our goal.

The annual General Meeting of KJCC will take place on February 14th at 11 a.m. We will miss Sisterhood’s delicious lunch after the meeting, but the “meat” of the event is just as important. I will present the “State of KJCC,” Treasurer Linda Kaplan will present next year’s budget, and you will get to vote in the slate of new officers and directors. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board, please contact me or Ken Atlas, the chair of the nominating committee, before February 12th, so that the names can be nominated from the floor. All nominees should be present (online) and in good standing. ◇

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Nothing is “up” within KJCC walls, but if you download Zoom.us, we will be able observe Shabbat and holidays, attend meetings and see each other virtually. We can even celebrate onegs if you bring your own cookies. Check Tuesday “President’s Notes” for further activities.

Every Monday • 2:00 PM Drop-in Chat

Friday, February 5 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Susan Horn & Gloria Avner

Sunday, February 7 • 10:00AM Sisterhood Meeting; Installation of Officers

Wednesday, February 10 • 7:30PM Meditation with Mindy Agler, LMHC

Friday, February 12 • 7:30PM Sisterhood Erev Shabbat Services

Saturday, February 13 • Shabbat • 12:30PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler

Sunday, February 14 • 9:00AM KJCC Board Meeting • 11:00AM KJCC Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, February 17 • 7:30PM Memorial Scrolls Trust Talk

Friday, February 19 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Service: Erica Lieberman-Garrett and Donna Bolton

Monday, February 22 • 12:30 p.m. Book Club

Wednesday, February 24 • 2:00PM Hamentaschen Workshop – Jane Friedman

Thursday, February 25 • 7:30PM Megillah Reading

Friday, February 26 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Medina Roy & Gloria Avner

Friday, March 5 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Steve Steinbock

Sunday, March 7 • 10:00AM Sisterhood Meeting

Friday, March 12 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Laurie Blum

Saturday, March 13 • 12:30PM Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler

Sunday, March 14 • 10:00AM KJCC Board Meeting

Friday, March 19 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Steve Hartz

Friday, March 26 • 7:30PM Erev Shabbat Services: Ken Atlas

Saturday, March 27 • 6:00PM Motzai Shabbat • First Seder

Monday, March 29 • 12:30 p.m. Book Club

NOSH

Meditate with Mindy Agler

Watch for a link to a meditation eve on **Wednesday, February 10th at 7:30 p.m.** Mindy was a great help to us in the aftermath of Irma, leading discussion groups and guided meditation for those under stress. We are now enjoying her series here in Chai-Lights (see P. 29) on self-care in the time of Covid. This is one more opportunity coming our way thanks to Beth Hayden's Adult Education Committee and Mindy's generosity. Thank you, Mindy.

Sisterhood Service: February 12

This combination of voices and intent, all feminine and all enthusiastic, comes just once a year. It is an event we look forward to. Invite your friends. It's an especially happy time in a year without a Women's Seder.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler

Last month we launched a new series of informal study sessions with our Scholar Emeritus, Rabbi Richard Agler. The David Saga is fascinating and more relevant to issues in today's world than many of us expected. Join us on zoom for an engaging hour of lively discussion on **February 13th and March 13th at 12:30 p.m.** Yes, Rabbi Agler has generously volunteered to lead us into this era of biblical history once each month. Bring your own lunch. You can be reading from Samuel 2 in your own Tanach/Bible or in the wonderful book "The David Story," by Robert Alter."

KJCC Annual Meeting

On Sunday February 14 at 11:00 a.m., KJCC will hold its Annual Meeting. President Joyce Peckman will talk on "the State of the Synagogue." You will also have the opportunity to vote on a slate of officers for the coming year (see the letter of invitation on PP. 30). Watch for the Zoom invitation in Joyce's Tuesday messages.

The Society that Saved Our Torah

Sign on to Zoom on **Wednesday, February 17th for a 7:30 p.m.** program that will answer any questions you may have about our Holocaust Torah and how it got here. Lois Roman of the Memorial Scrolls Trust will be our speaker. Thank you, Laurie Blum and Adult Education, for arranging this event. See poster on PP. 36 for details.

Women's Seder is on Sabbatical.
We will take a year off
And come back stronger,
And more vibrant than ever!!

Hamantaschen Workshop with Jane Friedman

At 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 24, get out your flour and an array of fillings (not necessarily your grandparents' favorites). Creativity will abound, alongside tradition. Thank you for sponsoring this, Sisterhood. We will make the three cornered pastries on Wednesday and eat them on Thursday at the Megillah reading (See poster for details, PP. 14)

Purim: Megillah Reading

On Thursday eve, February 25 at 7:00 p.m., we will gather via Zoom for a reading of Megillah Esther. Wear a mask, but only over your eyes. Children who get dressed up will get a prize next day. There is a rumor that as part of the fun, we will be playing "Jewpardy." Bone up on Purim trivia (that may be the only category). Get creative and make your own noisemaker (how about a tin can filled with dry beans?). Remember, this holiday is not just about celebration of survival and drinking. Listening to the reading of Megillah Esther is a serious mitzvah.

Passover Community Seder

On Saturday night, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. we will meet via zoom for our first Seder. Though we will not be physically together for this important and haimishe celebration, there are interesting plans afoot by Sisterhood and Ritual Committees to make this a fun and meaningful event. See poster on PP 22 and stay tuned to President's Tuesday announcements for further details. ◇

*Mazel tov to Joan Wohl on the
birth of her first grandchild.
We love to hear good news.*

Shabbat Service Leaders

- Feb. 5: Yitro Susan Horn & Gloria Avner
- Feb. 12: Mishpatim Sisterhood Service
- Feb. 19: Terumah Erica Lieberman-Garrett
& Donna Bolton
- Feb. 26: Tetzaveh Medina Roy
& Gloria Avner
- March 5: Ki Tisa Steve Steinbock
- March 12: Vayakhel-Pekudei Laurie Blum
- March 19: Steve Hartz
- March 26: Tzav Ken Atlas

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-687-7429, for information, or send your desired inscription to lindap4000@ymail.com.

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

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

CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights or annually in our KJCC Directory. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for annual rates.

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

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

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Erica Lieberman-Garrett, 305-393-1162, or email her at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

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.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES & ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at lindap4000@ymail.com.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

NOVEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021

Yahrzeit

Rosalyn Kofler

Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis

Hermine Taramona

Joan Boruszak

Nancy Cohn

Adam & Judy Starr

Libby Shapiro

Marilyn Rapp

Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Nadine Thompson

Donna Forst

Lillian Tallent

Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Randy & Eileen Kominsky

Gerri & Frank Emkey

Tzeddakah

Ellen Ecker & Barry Neumann

Book Plate

Barney Coltman

Meditation Garden

Stephen Steinbock

Stephen Steinbock

Unrestricted

Susan Ellner

Ken, Jill, Eric & Justin Swartz

Anonymous

In Memory/Honor of

Sam Kofler

Janet Kaplan

Chuck Margolis

Harris Warren

Norma Robinson

Julius Kohlenbrener

David Cohn

Hedy Kopecky

Joseph Shapiro

Shelby Strean

Russ Rolnick

Adele Bayer

Sheldon Paul Frankel

Leo Forst

Morris Estrin

David M Kaplan

Harry Stoler

Nathan Weisberg

Robert Kinney

Bill & Donna Bolton

Meredith Cline

Arthur Plutzer

Oneg Sponsorship

Steve & Amelia Kasinof

Terry Willner-Tainow

Jane Friedman

Alfred & Sylvia Rimm

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Gloria Avner

Beth Horowitz

Beth Hayden

Jane Friedman

Rita Conklin

Patricia Isenberg

Medina Roy

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Joyce Peckman

Jane Friedman

Dinners

Linda Pollack

Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Kasinof, Steve & Amelia

Leaves on Tree of Life

Jan Price

Chanock Shiloh, M. Arlene Hess,

Raymond K. Hess

Jean B. Price

Jean B. Price II

CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUED

Tzedakah

Lynn Nobil

Yizkor

Jan Price

Max Finklestein & Janis Remer

Other

Susan Ellner

Unrestricted

Susan Ellner

Ken, Jill, Eric & Justin Swartz George Swartz's
90th Birthday

MATCHING FUND

Steve & Jan Hartz

Stephen Steinbock Meditation Garden

Gloria Avner Alex & Bea Avner

Richard & Mindy Agler

Donna & Bill Bolton

Joyce Peckman Tikkun Olam-Vegetable Garden

Linda Kaplan

Susan Ellner

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Linda Pollack

Michael J Marks Foundation

Linda Perloff

Stan & Jenny Margulies

Adam & Judy Starr

Marc Grobman Hidalgo Sr. & Elpidio Luis Hidalgo, Jr.

Bernie Ginsberg

Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Jerrold & Roos-Mary Benowitz

Stuart & Geri Smith

Hanna David

Joni Sages-Dandrea & Robert Dandrea Lola Rosenberg

Beth Ann Cohen Williams

Darryl & Kim Youngblood

Elaine Schulberg

Medina Roy

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

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

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

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

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

February Birthdays

1st..... Libby Shapiro	13th David Levi
1st..... Roy Pollack	13th Hannah David
2nd..... Jaxson Brandon Lebofsky	13th Jerrold Benowitz
3rd Beth Horowitz	15th Judith Weber
5th Rebecca Smith	18th Beth Hayden
6th Evan Harvey	18th Evan Daddona
7th Erica Lieberman-Garrett	22nd..... Harry Friedman
7th Larry Jacobs	22nd..... Tomar Gross
8th Devin Parker Morris	23rd Sienna Rose Lebofsky
9th Linda Pincus	24th Muriel Swartz
9th Ron Garrett	24th Suzie Greenman
9th Rosemary Barefoot	25th Rita Conklin
12th Johnny Knowles	26th John D. Schur
12th Paul Roberts	

March Birthdays

1st..... Sasha Dutton	16th Steven Nobil
2nd..... Nadine Thompson	17th Daniel Friedman
3rd Stephen Steinbock	19th Michelle Palacino
5th Annie James Brennan	20th Janet Palacino
7th Hannah Feig	20th Susan Sachs
7th Toby Goldfinger	21st..... Barbara A. Calev
8th Rita Rzepka	21st..... James Jr. Nobil
10th Kate Horowitz	21st..... Joseph Palacino
10th Thomas Davis Smith	23rd Ken Atlas
11th Bryan Schur	25th Joe Gould
11th Sandy Yankow	25th Stephanie Coeurjoly
12th Barbara Herson	25th Sylvia Berman
12th Heath Greenbaum	26th Anna Verity Greenbaum
12th Oceana Gross	27th Sarah Hesterman-Kutz
13th Ira Stein	30th Chaplain Roger Dieckhaus
14th Jenna Lane	30th David VanArtsdalen
15th Allan Boruszak	30th Lee Schur
15th Johanna Willner	31st..... Jane Friedman
15th Maria Cartagena	31st..... Madison Bloom
16th Jeff Margulies	31st..... Sari Eliz. Goldstein
16th Natalie Hope Markowitz	

March Anniversaries

1st Jerry & Sheila Olsen 62	16th Frank & Gerri Emkey..... 13
2nd Joe Gould & Marla Berenson 25	22nd David & Patti Gross..... 24
7th Joseph & Susan Sachs..... 56	24th Joel & Toby Bofshever..... 53
8th Adam & Judy Starr	30th Jeff & Cheryl Margulies



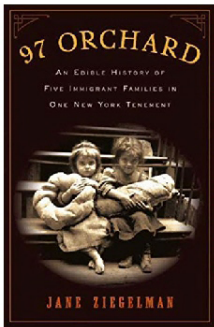
Sisterhood Book Club

~ Books and dates for the coming three months ~
Meetings will be at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
until further notice ~

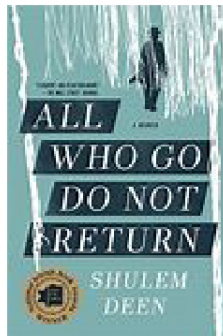
January 25, 2021 ~ *97 Orchard* by Jane Ziegelman

February 22, 2021 ~ *Eternal Life* by Dara Horn

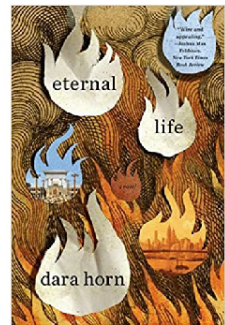
March 29, 2021 ~ *All Who Go Do Not Return* by Sholem Deen



Unique narrative of
New York's immigrant
culture



A moving and revealing
exploration of Hasidic life, and
one man's struggles with faith,
family, and community



What would it really
mean to live forever?

RSVP and more information - Joyce Peckman

joycepeckman@gmail.com

Email Joyce to let her know you will be attending so she can send you an
invitation to Zoom.

SISTERHOOD

Beth Hayden



Sisterhood met on January 3rd to elect officers and discuss a number of upcoming events. **Sisterhood is in urgent need of a Recording Secretary.** If you think you could fill that position, please let me know. We will all be available to help and answer any questions you may have. Sisterhood will meet again (virtually) on February 7th at 10 AM in order to install officers and update our Pesach plans.

Among the items discussed at Sisterhood's January meeting were the Women's Seder, the Community Seder, the possibility of drive through take-out meals from the KJCC on holidays and possibly monthly on a selected Shabbat. Linda Pollack's sister, Lani Moss, was a guest at our virtual meeting and explained how her temple has handled drive through take-out meals. Because of Covid-19, Sisterhood will not undertake a Women's Seder this year, however we do plan to offer a virtual First-Night Seder to which you are all invited. Please join us. The first Seder will be held on March 27th. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information as our plans solidify.

Prior to a virtual Purim party, Jane Friedman will conduct a virtual workshop on February 24th at 2 PM on how to make Hamentaschen. More information will be forthcoming in the President's announcements as to the materials needed in order to participate in the workshop.

Meanwhile, a small but dedicated group of volunteers have made great progress toward publishing a KJCC Sisterhood Cookbook. We have had many contributors from our membership, both near and far away, we have three gentlemen contributors, and a couple of people who are not KJCC members but who are friends of KJCC members and wanted to contribute. Front and back cover designs have been chosen – many thanks to Randy Klein-Gross for her help and thanks to David Gross for his wonderful photography. Linda Pollack has been nothing short of heroic in entering all these recipes in the required publisher's on-line program. Many thanks also to Donna Bolton and Susan Roberts who have given tirelessly of their time and efforts. Thanks to Laurie

Blum for her phone calls and reminders that really brought recipes rolling in. We hope to send the book to print by the end of February. So if you are looking for a Pesach gift or some outstanding Pesach recipes – you will want to pick up a copy of our new cookbook entitled "Recipes from the Rock – Favorite Recipes from the KJCC Sisterhood".

This has been a long, tough haul for all of us as we have quarantined ourselves because of Covid-19. But the end is in sight. We have two vaccines available and a third on its way. Stay strong and be cautious. Now is not the time to slip up or to throw caution to the wind. B'ezrat haShem we will be together again in this new year. Wishing you all health and happiness. B'shalom, Beth ◇

Oneg Sponsors

- Feb. 5 Erica Lieberman-Garrett**
Birthdays of Erica & Ron
- Feb. 5 Gloria Avner**
Memory of Bea Avner
- Feb. 5 Beth Horowitz**
Birthday
- Feb. 12 Beth Hayden**
Birthday
- Feb. 19 Jane Friedman**
Harry Friedman's birthday
- Feb. 26 Rita Conklin**
Birthday
- Mar. 5 Patricia Isenberg**
Birthday of Hannah Feig
- Mar. 12 Medina Roy**
Memory of Carl Roy
- Mar. 19 Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum**
Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Stross
- Mar. 26 Joyce Peckman**
March Grandchildren Birthdays
- Mar. 26 Jane Friedman**
Birthday

Keys Jewish Community Center



Adult Ed Presentation

Meditation 101 with Mindy Agler, LMHC

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 ~ 7:30 p.m.

This class will offer opportunities to:

- **Share any past experiences you've had with meditation**
- **Learn about different meditation techniques**
- **Develop a personal practice that will include your favorite Jewish ritual**

Ms. Agler received a BA in Psychology from Barnard College, NYC, in 1978, and her Master's degree in counseling from Florida Atlantic University in 2001. She has experience working in both inpatient and outpatient settings, and had a private practice in Boca Raton, FL from 2005-2012. She has been a member of the Task Force on Addiction and Recovery of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and has worked with Faith Partners of St. Paul, MN, to promote addiction recovery and education to religious institutions. Ms. Agler is committed to helping individuals facing addiction, trauma, grief, and mental health issues. She relocated to Tavernier, FL, in the Florida Keys, in 2012, where she established a private practice, and continues to provide online services to Florida residents since her move to San Diego, CA in September 2020.

For further information contact
Adult Ed Chairman Beth Hayden
hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net

Zoom invitations will be sent out
prior to the presentation..

In Memoriam – February 2021

Sue Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Joshua Daniel Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Marvin Galanty

By Marc Bloom

Eve Greenstein

By Barnet O. Coltman

Harry Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson

Robert Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Archie Zacks

By Jerry & Barbara Herson

Lou Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Judy Strumer Hartman

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Sylvia Chait Weiner

By Nelson & Roberta Chester

Nathan Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Rose Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Ilona Ban

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

Ida Ratchik

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Robert Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Mathew Strumor

By Murray Blitzer & Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Sylvia Weiner

By Nelson & Roberta Chester

Robert Kinney

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Charles Gilson

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Nella Gross

By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross

Fannie Phillips

By Patricia Isenberg

Pinchas Kamely

By Yardena Kamely

Luba Tuchman

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Sara J. Cohen

By Lynn Nobil

Malka Frank

By Linda Pollack

John A. Schur

By Lee Schur

Miriam Blinder

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Sally Sussman

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Irving Stockser

By Sandy Kaplan

Marian Rose Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

Irene Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

Maria Quesada

By Orlando Quesada

Isadore Seder

By Jules & Nettie Seder

Sarah Felder

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Sara J. Cohen

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Monroe (Monty) Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Oscar Margulies

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

William Pollack

By Linda Pollack

Bianka Kirschenbaum

By Medina Roy

Ida Seder

By Jules & Nettie Seder

Mr. Harry Miller

By Shirley Stein

Ann R. Kapulskey

By George & Muriel Swartz

Abe M. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz

Samuel Wolfe

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Herbert Frankel

By Nadine Thompson

Sydney Zinner

By Donald Zinner

Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Memoriam – March 2021

Harvey Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Robert Kohlenbrener

By Joan Boruszak

Faye Klein

By Hanna David

Arlene R. Brenner

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Rachamim Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Joseph Krissel

By Michael Krissel

Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Jean Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Louis Weinstein

By Rita Bromwich

Leroy Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Anna Horn

By Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Gertrude F. Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Shirley R. Krissel

By Michael Krissel

Janet Blum

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Audrey Pearlman

By William & Donna Bolton

Mark Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Maxine Kaplan

By Marsha Garrettson

Harry Phillips

By Patricia Isenberg

Frank Kaplan

By Sandy Kaplan

Samual Lieberman

By Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Joseph Kaufman

By Jeff & Lisa Miller

Louis Weinstein

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen

Denise Moss

By Linda Pollack

Dolores Feldman

By Jeffrey Schocket

Esther Schur

By Lee Schur

Mrs. Anne Miller

By Shirley Stein

Ida Tallent

By Lillian Tallent

Alice Weber

By Judith Weber

Dorothy Ross

By Joyce Peckman

Cissie Rose Lang

By Skip Rose

Nate Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Louis S. Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Theresa Steinbock

By Stephen Steinbock

Anne Temkin

By Robert Temkin

Deborah Eichler

By Judith Weber

David Harvey

By Linda Perloff

Leslie Allen Sachs

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Sondra Lundy

By Elaine Schulberg

Louise Starr

By Adam & Judy Starr

Gilda Tainow

By Jon S. Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

Larry Ira Frankel

By Nadine Thompson

David C. Willner

By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner

Maxine Ruby Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Irwin Cutler

By Donald Zinner

David Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner

Bikkur Cholim/Caring Kehilah

Joyce Peckman, Gloria Avner, and Laurie Blum continue learning through the Greater Miami Jewish Federation's Mishkan Miami's Refuat Ha'Nefesh program. Since our last Chai-Lights edition, the class has focused on understanding ourselves as well as the person we are visiting, the spiritual life of seniors, and the modalities of healing.

Joyce and Gloria have been doing more socially distanced visits with congregants while Laurie has been doing more phone visits. KJCC is so blessed to have so many caring members. You know who you are. You are doing the socially distant visiting and checking in phone calls already. Why not step up and be part of the Bikkur Cholim/Caring Kehilah Committee? We need you!!! We won't require you to do anything that you aren't comfortable with or that conflicts with your schedule. We are pleased that Susan Gordon has agreed to be part of this committee, and we'd love to also include you. If you are interested, please contact Laurie at blum1212@gmail.com or 414-698-5647. Perhaps you know of someone who would welcome an occasional call or visit. Perhaps you might benefit from an occasional call or visit. Don't be shy. KJCC is family. If the quarantine or something else has you seeking more communication with the rest of the world, again, please let Laurie know. The committee won't share your personal circumstance with the congregation unless you specifically want us to. Tell us you'd like a weekly call; we can make sure one of our committee members checks in with you. Only the committee needs to know. And of course, KJCC offers its weekly Tea Time & Chat on Mondays at 2 PM via Zoom.

It's a great place to hang out with members and share as much as you are comfortable with or just listen.

We are pleased to say that KJCC's first healing service was held on January 29, 2021. It was a beautiful well attended service. This service while welcoming in and honoring Shabbat and acknowledging the Tu B'shevat holiday that occurred the day before, also offered some much needed healing for the attendees as well as the world. Laurie plans to do another healing service on March 12th and would welcome your feedback. What did you like and didn't like? What would you like to see/hear more of and less of? Please let her know at the email or phone number above. ♦



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SISTERHOOD

Hamentaschen

Workshop



Wednesday March 24, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in the making of our favorite Purim dessert: Hamantaschen!!!

Bring your own wine and cheese and crackers and we will enjoy a happy hour hamantaschen bake.

Jane Friedman will lead us in the making of these scrumptious morsels. We will publish information prior to the session telling you what supplies you will need to have on hand, and of course we will send you the Zoom link as well.



PURIM Around the World

We will all be celebrating Purim a little differently this year, on screen and maybe not as well-costumed as in previous years. Masks won't seem so special. But here are some fun glimpses into our favorite Megillah celebrations around the world in other times and cultures:

FRANCE – Children would write Haman's name on smooth stones, and strike them together during the Megillah reading whenever Haman's name was mentioned, in order to erase it: "I shall surely wipe out the memory of Amalek."

BUKHARA UZBEKISTAN – Since the ground would usually be covered with snow at Purim time, a large "Snow-Haman," with funny-shaped torso and long, thick legs, eyes of charcoal and carrot nose, was created near the synagogue. After the meal, the whole community would gather around it and make a fire. They would stand and watch Haman melt in the heat and disappear, singing until he was completely gone.

AFGHANISTAN – Children would draw pictures of Haman on planks, and during the Megillah reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on. Wooden gloves, a kind of wooden sandal, would be held in the hands and clapped together, making a loud noise.

PERSIA – One of the wealthy men of the community would host a huge Purim feast in his home for the whole congregation. In the courtyard a large and ridiculous Haman effigy would be hung on a pole. During the meal, all would march out and watch the effigy being burned, while shouting, "May the memory of Amalek be erased!" As the fire went out, the children took turns jumping over the coals, just as they did during celebrations in Talmudic times.

CAIRO – Revelers would take to the streets in costume, young and old alike. Most went about on donkeys who were dyed in stripes and patterns, or who also wore costumes. In the synagogue, every person was given a candle to light and hold during the reading of the Megillah. Beggars would take advantage of the community being all in one place, and would seldom be refused. Giving *tzedakah* is one of Purim's mitzvot after all.

MINSK (White Russia) – Congregants would show their creativity during the Megillah reading and growl like bears, roar like lions, bark like dogs and bleat like goats to block out the name of Haman the Evil.

And what will we do here in on our string of skinny tropical islands? We will eat our homemade *Hamantaschen* (created under Jane Friedman's and Nettie Seder's guidance), pretending they are Haman's hats or ears or pockets and drown out the hated villain's name with homemade noisemaker groggers. (Think a soup can filled with stones or dried black beans). Let's make some baskets filled with food too, and bring them to a neighbor. Satisfy the mitzvah of *Shalach Manot*. *Drink up and celebrate one more near miss for the Jewish people. Thank you Esther and Mordechai and all who stand up to attempts at genocide. Chag Sameach!* ◇



Keys Jewish Community Center

Adult Ed Program

LUNCH (bring your own)

AND LEARN (with our mispachah)

An Opportunity to Learn

THE DAVID STUDY

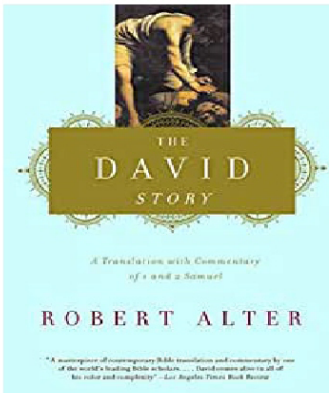
with Rabbi Richard Agler

Saturday, February 13, 2021, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13, 2021, 12:30 p.m.



Rabbi Agler has been our High Holiday leader for eight years. We are profoundly grateful. When he volunteered to lead monthly Shabbat morning Torah learning services, we felt even more fortunate. Now Rabbi Agler, our Scholar Emeritus, will add new spice to the mix. Though we will no longer have a Shabbat morning service, we will continue our Torah study and return to discussing the David Saga. We are "people of the book," and we love learning. Read Rabbi Agler's description below, and make a special effort to attend. When you are asked the final question, you will be able to say "Yes!"



There is a midrash that says once we die we will be asked important questions before the final judgment:

"Were you honest in your dealings with other people?" and "Did you make a serious effort to study Torah?"

This translation by Robert Alter is a particularly good one and can be purchased used and inexpensively at Amazon.

THE DAVID SAGA

Power, violence, betrayal. Love, faith, history. All this and more are waiting for us in the David saga, the story of Israel's most famous King.

Join us for the learning—and the drama—of this incredibly fascinating biblical history!

Email Beth Hayden, Adult Ed Chairperson, hayden.elizabeth@comcast.net, before the session date to let her know you will be attending and she will send you an invitation to Zoom.

PHOTO GALLERY



Meet Judy Greenman's granddaughter, daughter of Kelly and Gadi Lev - which means 'heart' in Hebrew - not only further connects our daughter's name to Orit, but also connects to her heritage in Israel, to her cousins who have the same middle name, and to the history of the Jewish state, where the original name was formed. The name we chose, and the name that chose us, for our daughter is Orli Lev Rouache.

Orli was chosen to honor and remember Gadi's mother Orit Lev, who was taken from us too soon after a 15 year battle with cancer. Orit, in hebrew, means 'little light' and Orli means 'my light' or 'light of mine.'

Orit embodied compassion, love, strength and so many other values that we hope for our daughter to embrace and live by. Gadi's poem (full version attached) captures the essence of Orit that we hope to pass along:

She'd take an interest in everyone, She'd treat them like her own
She taught us all to be confident, To be kind and polite
To Treat the world like family, Stay up and talk all night
She'd encourage you to be opinionated, Long as you keep an open mind
To pursue knowledge, justice, happiness, however you define,
To love the earth and each other, As the core of the divine

The David Saga Continues.
Rabbi Agler recommends
this book.



MOLLY BLOOM WINS SPECIAL HONOR

"This will forever be at the top of my greatest accomplishments list, 2020-2021 Inclusion Teacher of the Year! I am so lucky to work along side such an amazing group of educators that have recognized the work that I do with our kiddos!"



KJCC wants to encourage our members to help families with young children in desperate need of adequate nourishment. Emily Harper, the school Social Worker in charge of identifying needy families from Key Largo School to Plantation Key School, is the liaison between the schools, the families and the organization “Keys to Be the Change.” A generous KJCC member contacted our Tikkun Olam Committee (Repair the World) and donated \$150 to purchase a Publix gift card. Here Susan is presenting the card to Emily, who will do the shopping and deliver the food. If you are moved to participate in this worthy cause, call Susan Gordon at (305) 766-3585.

Joyce’s family visited her and had the unforgettable experience of being guided by Susan Gordon through the mangrove trails.



WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



Stand with Israel...Even Stuck in Traffic

Daniel Ackerman, a graphic designer from Boca Raton, won a contest to create a specialty license plate saying "Florida Stands with Israel." The blue, white and orange design was selected from some 100 submissions in a competition sponsored by the Israel-American Council. A bipartisan slate of four lawmakers, along with Gabe Groisman, the mayor of Bal Harbor, served as the judges. Ackerman said, "The concept focuses on Florida's state flower, the orange blossom. The beauty of this flower, contrasted against the Star of David in the form of a tropical leaf, represents the Florida-Israel relationship and the fruit this partnership bears, ultimately benefiting both states. The symbol interacts with the two waves on top and bottom giving nod to the Israeli flag, Florida's tourist destinations, and Israel's deserts in bloom." The plate will go into production as soon as 3,000 applicants have paid for presale vouchers. Some of the proceeds will go to Hatzalah of Miami-Dade, an organization of volunteer paramedics. (www.sun-sentinel.com, 12-17-20)

Celebrating Julius Rosenwald

In December, Congress passed an act that will create a path toward a national park named for Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish philanthropist who founded thousands of schools for African-American children neglected by their local public school systems. The legislation was initiated by Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Danny Davis, both Democrats from Illinois, where Rosenwald lived, and Representative Steve Cohen, Jewish Democrat from Tennessee, where a number of the Rosenwald schools were located. The son of Jewish immigrants from Germany, Rosenwald was president of the Sears, Roebuck department store chain. He died in 1932. The text of the legislation reads, in part, "the embodiment of the Jewish concept of 'tzedakah,' righteousness and charity, Rosenwald used his fortune for numerous philanthropic activities, particularly to enhance the lives of African-

Americans." Rosenwald, with the help of Booker T. Washington, helped establish 5,300 of what became known as "Rosenwald Schools" in fifteen states in the American south. The schools sought to correct the neglect that segregated schools suffered under Jim Crow. The bill requires the Interior secretary to study Rosenwald's legacy and establish where a national park honoring him would be appropriate. This park would be the first named for a Jewish American. (www.jta.org, 12-22-20)

A First for Israel

A young woman from Boston who decided against a medical career in the United States has become the first American female Israeli Air Force (IAF) pilot. Twenty-one-year-old Lt. O - Israel's military censors do not allow her given name to be published - was one of only two female pilots to complete the grueling three-year course. An Israeli native who was raised in the United States, she was trained to fly a Boeing 707. Her role will consist of aerial refueling operations and hauling cargo, including medical supplies needed for the COVID-19 pandemic. She is following in the footsteps of her father Boaz, a longtime IAF navigator before moving to the U.S. Her mother Naomi worked as a Delta flight attendant for many years following her service as an IDF communications officer. Naomi now works for the charitable group Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. (www.jpost.com, 12-23-20)

His Name's Been Removed

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recently announced that it will rename its most prestigious award, currently named after Abraham Flexner (1866-1959), a Jewish educator called the "father" of modern medical education, in an effort to take a stand against racism and sexism. Flexner authored "Medical Education in the United States and Canada," known better as the "Flexner

Report.” The report called for major reforms to medical education. He believed that medical schools should raise their admissions standards, follow the scientific method and receive oversight from state boards. The model he created is still widely used today: two years of medical education followed by two years of clinical training. But in the report which was published in 1910, Flexner wrote that while women were newly free to enter the profession, “they show a decreasing inclination to enter it,” claiming what he perceived as “women’s obvious limitations.” He also wrote that Black people’s “particular ignorance” should not be taken advantage of and that “a well-taught Negro sanitarian will be immensely useful; an essentially untrained negro wearing an MD degree is dangerous.” Even though Flexner’s report resulted in more rigorous standards for medical schools and improved medical education, it caused 89 of the original 155 schools to close. Only two of the seven Black medical schools survived. These school closures greatly limited access and inclusion for women and Blacks wishing to enter the field. The award is being renamed the AAMC Award for Excellence in Medical Education. “Just as we recognize the positive impact that Flexner had on modern medical education, we also can no longer ignore the negative repercussions of Flexner’s words and work,” AAMC’s chief medical education officer said. (www.forward.com, 11–25–20)

New Research Project for Breast Cancer Detection

Dr. Albert Grinshpun, of Jerusalem’s Hadassah University Hospital, is working on a new approach for early detection of breast cancer. Every day, women worldwide get mammograms and many are then sent for biopsies to confirm or rule out the presence of breast cancer. Grinshpun is looking to change the painful, anxiety-filled experience which often doesn’t return accurate results. His goal is “to perfect a universal liquid biopsy approach to early detection of circulating, cell-free DNA in breast cancer patients long before the cancer can spread and threaten their lives.” A liquid biopsy typically examines the blood for evidence of cancer, allowing researchers to isolate genetic material known as cfDNA, circulating cell-free DNA from bodily fluids. The procedure detects DNA in the blood from tumor tissue. Grinshpun began a new three-year research project in September financed by the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and Conquer Cancer, which joined forces with ICRF. “...Our goal is not to avoid mammography but to avoid unnecessary biopsies,” Grinshpun said. (www.thejewishnews.com, 11–26–20)

Biden’s Jewish Appointments: Minyan–Plus

Here is a list of Jewish officials who have been appointed by President Joe Biden:

1. Ronald Klain: White House Chief of Staff
2. Merrick Garland: Attorney General
3. Anthony Blinken: Secretary of State
4. Wendy Sherman: Deputy Secretary of State
5. Alejandro Mayorkas: Director of Homeland Security
6. Avril Haines: Director of National Intelligence (Biden’s first Cabinet pick and first woman to lead the intelligence community.
7. Janet Yellen: Treasury Secretary (and first woman to hold this office)
8. David Cohen: Deputy Director of the CIA.
9. Anne Neuberger: National Security Agency, Cybersecurity Director
10. Jeff Zients: Head of Biden’s COVID–19 team
11. Rochelle P. Walensky: Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
12. Jared Bernstein: Member of Council of Economic Advisors
13. Jessica Rosenworcel: Acting Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
14. Stephanie Pollack: Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration
15. Eric Lander: Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
16. Rachel Levine: Deputy Health Secretary (and first known transgender person to be nominated for a position that requires Senate confirmation.

Chuck Schumer: Senate Majority Leader. Schumer is now the highest-ranking elected Jewish official ever. He was of course not appointed by Biden but became the Senate Majority Leader after three new democrats were sworn into office on January 20th. We all know about the Second Gentleman; Doug Emhoff, married to Kamala Harris, the first-ever woman to serve as Vice President of the United States. He is the first-ever Jewish (or non-Jewish, for that matter) “Second Gentleman.”

And President Joe Biden himself? All three of his children married into Jewish families. (www.jpost.com, 1–20–21)

In Memoriam

• Jack Steinberger, the Jewish physicist who shared the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physics with two other Jewish colleagues, died in December. He was 99. The three researchers received the award for their discoveries about the neutrino, the world’s smallest atomic particle. Born Hans Jakob Steinberger, he was the son of a cantor in the small Jewish community

in Bad Kissengen, in Bavaria, Germany. His family immigrated to the U.S. in 1934. (We all know the reason.) Dr. Steinberger studied and worked with Enrico Fermi and J. Robert Oppenheimer, two of the 20th century's leading physicists. Throughout his career, Steinberger refused to do research for building weapons. After the war, he worked with Melvin Schwartz and Leon Lederman in the 1950s and 60s. Together they created a beam of neutrinos that significantly furthered the study of these small particles. In addition, it opened up the study of the "so-called weak interaction – one of physics' four main forces, along with gravitation, electromagnetism and the strong interaction, which holds the parts of an atom together." The team also discovered that there are many kinds of neutrinos. At the time of the award, the Nobel committee said the trio "opened entirely new opportunities for research into the innermost structure and dynamics of matter." (www.timesofisrael.com, 12-18-20)

- Sheldon Adelson, Jewish-American billionaire casino magnate, major donor to the Republican party and a strong supporter of Israel, died at the age of 87. He made his fortune by operating casinos around the world. Adelson used his wealth to dramatically influence politics in both Israel and the United States. But his political spending was highly criticized in both countries and became a symbol of how "big money" affected politics, especially in 2011, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in "Citizens United" made it easier for billionaires to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns. Mr. Adelson was a generous benefactor to many charitable causes, particularly those involving medical research – many run by his Israeli-born wife Dr. Miriam Adelson, an addiction expert. Organizations promoting pro-Israel and Jewish heritage education also benefitted greatly from his philanthropy. He has donated \$127 million to Birthright, the ten-day program that brings young Jews on free, organized trips to Israel since 2007. And he was a major backer of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Adelson was born in Dorchester, a Boston neighborhood he termed Boston's "Jewish Ghetto." His father was from Lithuania and worked as a cabdriver. He started working when he was 12, borrowing money from his uncle to buy a newspaper corner in Boston. In the 1950s, he created dozens of business ventures, including selling vending machines, which he claimed made him a millionaire by the time he was 30. He became one of the

richest people in the United States and among the 20 richest in the world. In 2018, Adelson was worth close to \$36 billion. In 2007, he created the Israeli daily newspaper, Israel Hayom (Israel Today). The free daily paper was unquestionably supportive of Netanyahu and became the country's most widely circulated newspaper. As of 2014, Adelson had poured some \$200 million into the papers' operations and attempted to stifle outlets critical of Netanyahu. In American politics, Adelson has been one of the Republican party's most prominent megadonors in recent election cycles. He donated some \$100 million to Mitt Romney's attempt to defeat Barack Obama in 2012. He was the largest donor to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential bid, donating \$25 million, as well as the nation's biggest giver in the 2012 election, donating nearly \$93 million. Adelson was also a major backer of the Republican Jewish Coalition and was a significant funder of AIPAC, the Israel lobby. But in the early 2000s, he shifted his support to the Israeli-American Council, a more conservative pro-Israel organization because he felt AIPAC's positions on the Palestinian issues were too moderate. The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), a right-wing pro-Israel group, also received huge donations from Adelson. (www.haaretz.com, 1-12-21)

Did You Know...

- Rutgers University will name a residence hall after the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg taught classes on women's rights and gender equality at Rutgers law school from 1963 to 1972. (www.jta.org, 12-21-20)

- When newly elected Senator Jon Ossoff, the first Jewish senator from Georgia, took the oath of office on January 20th, he was holding a book of Hebrew scripture once owned by Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, whose synagogue building had been bombed in 1958 by white supremacists. The Hebrew Benevolent Congregation Temple in Atlanta sustained massive damage from the explosions, but luckily, no one was injured. Rabbi Rothschild was a prominent civil rights movement supporter. At the same time during his swearing-in, Ossoff, 33, had copies of the manifests from the ships that brought his great-grandparents to the United States from Eastern Europe in his jacket pocket. (www.timesofisrael.com, 1-21-21 and www.jta.org, 1-21-21) ◇

KJCC Sisterhood

Invites You via Zoom to our

First Night

Passover Seder

Saturday, Motzei Shabbat

March 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m.



Happy Passover ~ Chag Sameach

Watch for updated information in the
President's weekly announcements.

“Avadim Hayinu, Hayinu”: Once We Were Slaves Pesach and the 2021 Path to Freedom

by Gloria Avner

In ordinary times, come the beginning of Spring (this year, think March 27th), we and nearly every other Jew in the world would be sitting around a big laden table with family and friends, singing the words at the heart of the Passover Seder: “Once we were slaves. Now we are free people.” We’d be holding the celebration of our freedom in the intimate setting of our homes. We’d invite strangers to share our bounty, our pleasure and recollection of our pain. Even the poorest man on Passover is commanded to relish the symbols of freedom, to recline on pillows, a free man as he dines, and to partake of four cups of wine as well as ceremonial food. This year, like last, will be different. This year our sharing will be facilitated by a “cloud” and a technological screen device. Zoom rooms will displace our social halls, sanctuaries and dining rooms.

Fortunately, even more important than the food and the symbols themselves, is our story. We are commanded to tell the tale of our journey to freedom and to feel as if we are inside the story at the very moment of telling. This annual mega-ritual is not just a mandated festival. It is our super-power, responsible for our survival as a people for more than three millennia.

Are we to act “as if?” Maybe it is not a question of “acting.” Maybe we are being encouraged to look at our lives today and see in what ways we are still enslaved. Maybe we are being encouraged to model our lives after our immigrant ancestors and take that very leap, fraught with fear of the unknown that they faced, having the faith that our lives will be the better for the leaping. Are we enslaved by Covid 19, by political discontent, by depression at the state of the world?

There is an understanding that not every Jew heeded God’s word through Moses. In fact, some rabbis say that only twenty percent of the Jewish slaves in Egypt packed up and left when the going was good. If the understanding is that as many as 600,000 Jews did leave Egypt, it would mean that nearly as many Jews as were killed in the holocaust may have died in Egypt. Do we say, “What was wrong with them? Why didn’t they go when they had a chance?” Or do we look within and understand the temptation of the known, the knowledge that you and your children will at least be fed, that you will be familiar with your abuse and abuser, rather than face the unknown perils of a harsh desert.

Could they have known God would provide manna? Only if they had faith. Even among the Jews who fled and followed Moses, there were many, weak of mind and spirit, who time and again would complain (dare I say kvetch?), longing for secure life under Pharaoh, Jews who would willingly revert to putting faith in a golden calf, the ultimate symbol of all things material.

An old poem says: “Stone walls do not a prison make. Nor iron bars a cage.” We were enslaved in *Mitzrayim* (Egypt), a word that in Hebrew literally means, “a narrow hemmed in place.” In English, when we are in a difficult situation, we say we’re in a “tight spot.” How do we get out of our tight spots? How do we break out of the iron bars we make for ourselves and enable ourselves to work not just for our own freedom but for the freedom of others, for “*tikkun olam*,” repairing the world?”

Jews are very blessed. We not only have access to the wisdom of our ancestors and the support of *HaShem*, we have the energy of the Passover Season, the *Pesach* moment, to engage for our own redemption. We can use this energy as a booster shot. It will support us in inner growth, in our resolve to change old habits, our commitment to let that which does not serve us drop away. We can look at each others’ faces on the zoom screen and be grateful to recite our blessings apart but together. We will sing our songs, ask our four questions and tell our stories so that all may hear. I’m not sure what we’ll do about *afikomen* if we don’t have children in the “house.” Technically, the meal is not over until the hidden matzah is found, redeemed and share as dessert. With a little luck however (*a bisseleh mazel*), we will see Sean Kaufman, Binyamin Cartagena and Maddy Bloom’s shining faces grinning out at us from the screen along with other children we will be delighted to meet, holding the napkin with the hidden treasure, eager for their reward. *Dayenu!*

Looking inward more than outward, we can take on new challenges, go beyond our need for the known and the secure. We can squirm through those tight places and reach for true freedom. We can be grateful to those who left Egypt. We can tell their story to our children and honor their immigrant bravery in the face of insecurity and the unknown by being brave ourselves with honesty, faith, and firm resolution to improve ourselves and the world. And at the end of this year’s *seder*, maybe we can say with confidence: “next year in a great big room, maybe at the KJCC, hugging each other, free to live our lives without social distancing. *Dayenu! Zai Gezundt! And Chag Sameach.* ◇

HEALING PRAYERS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Thank you to Laurie Blum who brought us these new prayers
Published by Mishkan Miami in: Prayers, Poems and Reflections

• PRAYER FOR THE HEALERS •

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen

May the One who blessed our ancestors

Bless all those who put themselves at risk to care for the sick

Physicians and nurses and orderlies, Technicians and home health aides

EMTs and pharmacists, Hospital social workers and respiratory therapists

(Please include other frontline healthcare workers. And bless especially _____)

Who navigate the unfolding dangers of the world each day, To tend to those they have sworn to help.

Bless them in their coming home and bless them in their going out. Ease their fear. Sustain them.

Source of all breath, healer of all beings,

Protect them and restore their hope. Strengthen them, that they may bring strength;

Keep them in health, that they may bring healing.

• A PRAYER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC •

(part 1--to be continued next issue)

Rabbi Leah Richman

Please Hashem, may it be Your will to save those who are struggling at this very moment to live;
we pray for a refuah shleyma--a complete healing--and that you grace them with life.

May You mercifully send a refuah shleyma to those who feel they cannot breathe, or find relief from their fevers, or whose bodies ache. For those who were already sick and for those who never thought they would ever get sick; for those who have sufficient health care and for those who are not receiving any health care--we ask for Your blessing.

We beseech you to send solace to those with anxiety- to those who already suffered from anxiety and for those who have now developed anxiety. Ease our fears about catching the virus from others, or the fear of touching surfaces and objects, or the fear of our loved ones or ourselves getting sick, or the fear we will not have enough- not enough food, water, and necessities.

Uplift the spirits of those who are suffering from depression- for those who already suffered from depression and for those who have now developed depression--for those who have become listless from missing the sunshine and outdoors, or deadened by loneliness and isolation, or whose moods have plummeted from lack of exercise, or who endure painful sadness for not being able to gather in community.

We entreat you to impart shalom bayit--household peace--to those whose family dynamics have become stressed because of constant seclusion, for those parents with children secluded at home to entertain, educate, feed, and care for, and for those who must take care of their children while working remotely. We appeal to you, Maker of Peace, to make family relationships whole amidst the sudden change in routine.

Dedication of a Gift

The Beiner Collection

Antiquities from the Land of Israel

Thank you, Mindy and Rabbi Richard Agler. The collection of pottery pieces used in everyday life by our ancestors millennia ago, collected by you and then gifted to the KJCC is comfortable now in its custom-built protective showcase. It was wonderful hearing you and Judith Beiner talk back and forth about the

individual pieces.

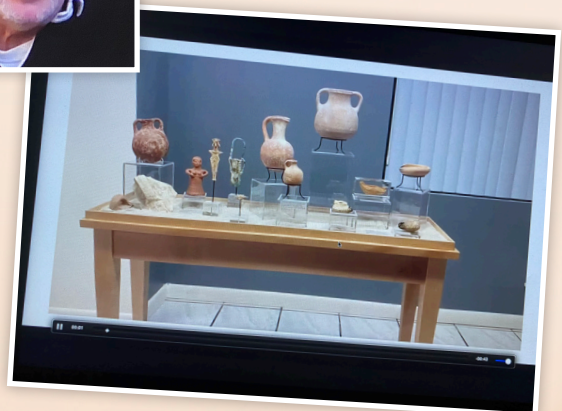
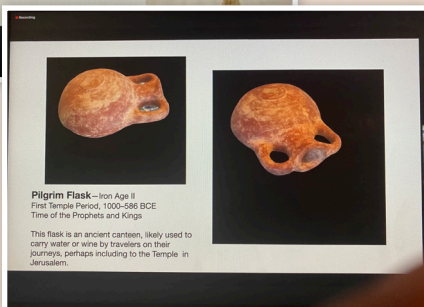
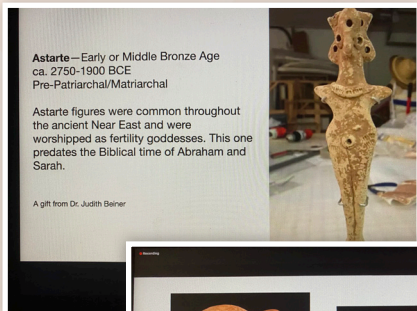
If anyone was not able to enjoy this zoom event as it happened, you'll be happy to know that the talk was recorded and you'll be able shortly, at the click of a link on our website, to enjoy the whole evening again. ◇



We had a full house for the talk and dedication and you are welcome to watch it again.



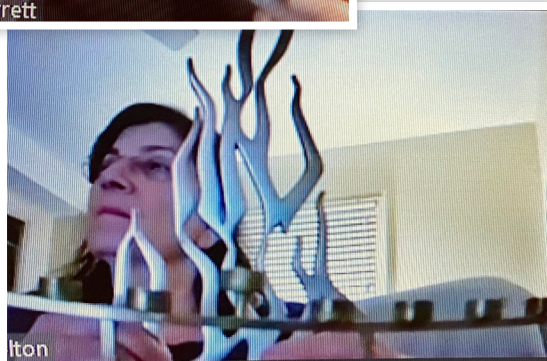
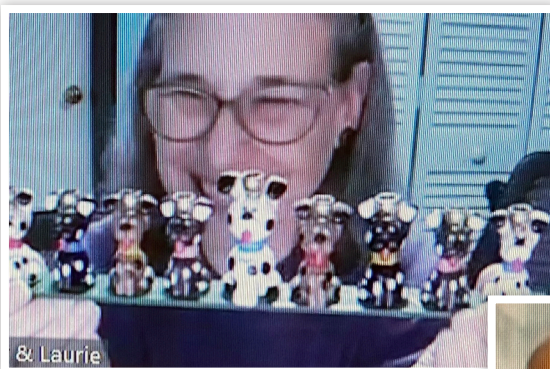
Judith Beiner, and her husband of blessed memory, were the inspiration and instigators of the collection.

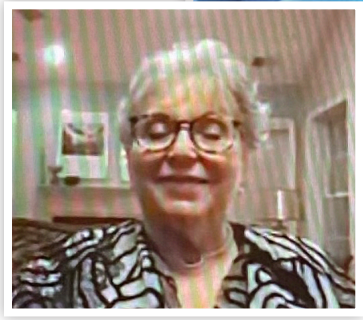


Display designed and fabricated by Marcia Kreitman, assisted by Gloria Avner

A Look back at Chanukah

We may not have been shmoozing and feasting in the KJCC Social Hall on Latkes and all accoutrements, but we were as together for the Chanukah Chag as could be in this Covid era, two evenings in a row, showing off our latkes and eating them on the first night after singing the blessings, and then sharing our favorite family Chanukiot after erev Shabbat services the second night. How interesting that many of us had from our childhoods a few that were exactly the same, replete with lions of Judah.





Homemade potato latkes, soufganiot (jelly donuts) and a Chanukiah by Jane Friedman. Has anyone ever seen a challah Chanukiah before? Jane, you are a marvel! Your creativity knows no bounds.

A Chanukiah in common.





Considering we could not all be in the same room, ever, we had a great time together three out of the eight nights of Chanukah. Here we are on the last night, with Rabbi Ed Rosenthal coming to us from St. Pete, getting a “d’rash” (explanation) of Chanukah and a fascinating talk, sponsored by Adult Ed, on the Age of the Universe as explicated both by science and by Judaic interpretation of Torah, including oral tradition. Lots of gematria involved. Meganumbers make events make sense. When does one day equal more than one day? When God dictates to Moses. Thank you Rabbi Ed. We eagerly await your next talk, in the spring: The Jewish Take on Reincarnation.

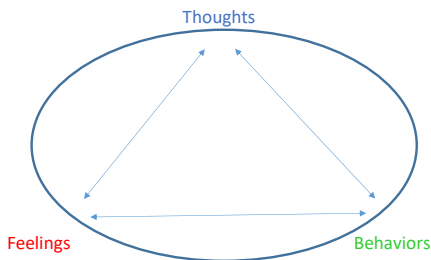
The last night.



Susan Gordon’s decorations and latkes.

We even magaed to play dreidel on Zoom!!





TAKE CARE: A SERIES

Mindy Agler



For this issue of Chai Lights, we'll be talking about how our thoughts, feelings and behaviors interact with each other. We humans are always doing all three of these: thinking, feeling, and acting. Even when we sleep, we dream with thoughts and feelings, and we move our bodies. Each of these affects the other two, which is why the arrows are arranged the way they are in the diagram. Therefore, if we change one of them, the other two will change in response. So, how do we make those changes?

If feelings were easy to change, we wouldn't need counselors, and if behaviors were easy to change, we wouldn't need diets or support groups! So out of the three, thoughts are the easiest to change. Let's look at an example that may sound familiar to us 11 months into this pandemic.

- Thought 1: "This is too much to take, and I can't stand it anymore."
- Feelings 1: Overwhelmed, Anxious, Depressed, Hopeless, Helpless, Alone, Self-pity
- Behaviors 1: Socially isolating, even online, poor diet and sleep, poor self-care, watching too much news

What happens if we change or challenge that thought? For example:

- Thought 2: "This is a lot to take, but I can stand it a little longer. We're making progress."
- Feelings 2: Sad, Apprehensive, Less alone, Maybe a little hopeful
- Behaviors 2: Improved self-care and motivation, less isolating, watching less news

What if we stop the thought altogether? You can imagine a hand going up in front of your face, a stop sign, or a red light. Then say the word "Stop" out loud. (If you don't want anyone to hear you talking to yourself, go into the bathroom and turn on the water!) By saying the word out loud, you interrupt the thought and it has less of an impact on you. Repeat as needed!

When it's too hard to stop or reframe the

thoughts that feed the heavy emotions and self-defeating behaviors, another tool is to set aside 5 minutes every day to do nothing but worry! This allows your brain to corral those rowdy thoughts, to stop them from trampling all over your entire day. Set a timer, preferably at the same time every day, and if a non-worry thought comes up during those 5 minutes, tell it to wait its turn! For the other 23 hours and 55 minutes of every day, you have the right to tell a worry thought it needs to wait its turn, too!

Journaling is an effective way to identify self-defeating thoughts and change them. But the healthiest journaling is about gratitude. We can't deny that things are hard right now, but we owe it to ourselves to give at least as much time and space to thinking about what is right and present in our lives as we give to what is difficult and missing. You can use your phone, a pretty journal, or just a note pad, but make time at the end of every day to list 3 things you're grateful for that are specific to that day. We all know what I call the "givens:" family, friends, home, job, etc. You know what you're grateful for every day, and you can list those things at the top of the page. But, be mindful enough during your day that you can find 3 "non-givens" to add to your list. Examples might include "I talked to someone that I hadn't spoken to in a while," "I saw a bird I don't usually see," "I found a parking spot close to Publix and didn't have to walk far in the rain." You get the idea. "Gratituding" in this way has 2 benefits. One is that it makes us more mindful during the day because we have to find those 3 things! Two is that it brings balance to the time and space we are giving to our circumstances in our brain. I like to think of gratitude as an active verb, because it is something we need to practice on a daily basis.

Wishing us all healthy thoughts and attitudes of gratitude! ◇

***You are invited to the
KJCC ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021 at 11:00***

Dear KJCC Member:

The KJCC Annual Meeting will take place over Zoom at 11 a.m. on Sunday, February 14th, 2021.

The primary order of business at the annual meeting is the election and installation of KJCC's officers and directors. Per the KJCC bylaws, nominations from the floor for board members can and will be accepted at the annual meeting. The president will also present the "State of KJCC" and the treasurer will present a financial report. The Board exists to serve the general membership; therefore, your attendance and participation in the Annual Meeting is important. Please join us and make your voice heard.

**The following slate of officers was selected and approved
at the board meeting held on January 10, 2021:**

President: Joyce Peckman

Executive Vice President: Ken Atlas

Vice Presidents: Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon, Michael Kaufman

Treasurer: Linda Kaplan

Recording Secretary: Laurie Blum

Corresponding Secretary: Erica Lieberman-Garrett

Financial Secretary: Donna Bolton

Directors: Jane Friedman, Steve Hartz, Art Itkin, Randy Klein-Gross, Gary Margolis, Stan Margulies, Linda Pollack, Frank Rose, Medina Roy, Stuart Smith

Please accept this notice as your invitation to join us at the KJCC Annual Meeting. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the board, they may be nominated during the meeting. Nominees must be members in good standing and be present to accept the nomination.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours truly,
Joyce Peckman

Feathers and Fur: KJCC Companions of the Heart.

Our KJCC Community expanded in these last 9 months of life with Covid 19. We've always gotten to know our members' children, grandchildren and even some great grands, but this is the first year we've gotten familiar with and fond of their four legged and feathered friends. We look forward to seeing them at Monday afternoon check-ins, at onegs and even at services. We actually miss them when they're not around. We even like their voices and admire their personalities. Bernie Ginsberg, in particular, has become extremely fond of and bonded with Erica Lieberman-Garrett's African Grey Parrot Buddy, who has lately achieved rock star mascot status. He hasn't volunteered to lead a service yet, but it could happen.



Buddy waiting for tea time zoom and relaxing.



Panda
Gross



Buddy contemplates "challacide." Yes, that is a mini-challah made by Erica in the form of a parrot. Either that, or a latke. A penny for your thoughts, Buddy.



Linda Kaplan's daughter Sara's bunny rabbit.



So, the moment I finished with my Cancer treatments and surgery, and the doctors gave permission to be with animals again, I decided to adopt a dog. We went with my grandchildren to the Humane Society and they found Kimber, a German Shepherd. A wonderful company, protector, loyal creature. After some time, when Kimber adapted to her new home, and had her training, I found out that she was too big and strong for me, and that I couldn't handle her when going for a walk. So we decided to look for another, smaller dog for me, and my brother would take care of Kimber.
- Yardena Kamely

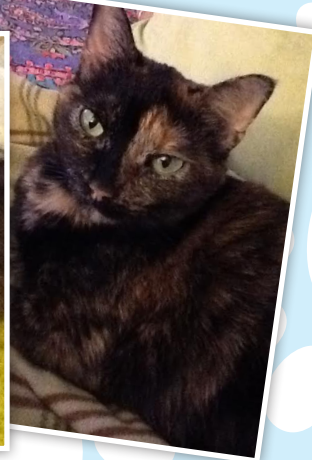


Jasmine on the left, Jake on the right. They often end up in this position behind our chairs during services. - Jan hartz



Linda Kaplan's grand puppies

Attached is one of our favorites which we call "Sister Act" Photo of Shayna Sax and Rebecca Steinbock.



Ernie, beloved dog of Geri and Stuart Smith. Ernie is 6 yrs. old and is a Yorkie mix. Everyone in Silver Shores knows, and loves, Ernie. Ivy is a 12 year old Tortie, adopted when she was about 2yrs. old, and is Ernie's playmate. She is a sweetheart, and gives kisses.



Jonna Friedman, in Halloween attire, gorgeous in tutu and pumpkin wings. Bella sitting pretty.



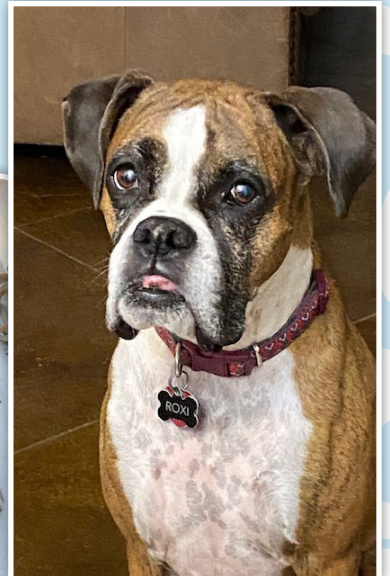
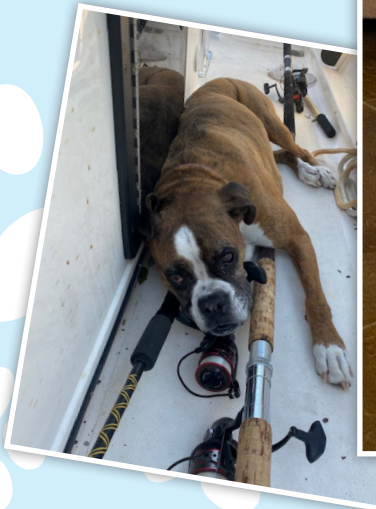
Gerri Emkey's dog Babe wins first prize in agility at Tropical Park in Miami.



These pictures sent by Roy Pollack are of his 9 year old Boxer, Roxi, another of Linda Pollack's grandkids :-). Roxi loves to go fishing.



Linda Kaplan's two work helpers Cali and Cassie.





The Moss family's rottweiler Sara lounges in the grass.



In Loving memory of Henri who passed away at the beginning of January. He was 13.

Luigi Rice says hi from boulder field - a national historic site in the Poconos, then comes in from the snow to cuddle with Jan and tell us he loves us. Awwww.



Here is Joyce's dog, Ruby, so happy to be an only child rather than one of three.



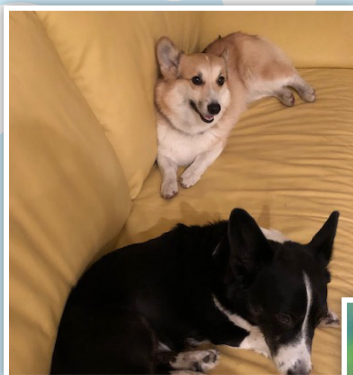
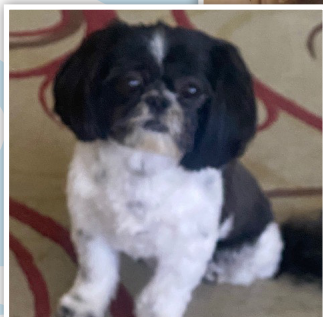
Here is a photo of The Blum Brothers a/k/a the Margolis Men. Looking at the picture, from left to right is Beau (1 year), Bayou (3 1/2 years) and Bama (7 1/2 years). Now everyone can put faces to their barks.



Mary Lee Singer's Lexie is a Shih Tzu/ Yorkie mix but looks more like a pure Shih Tzu. She's 7 yrs old and a wonderful companion.



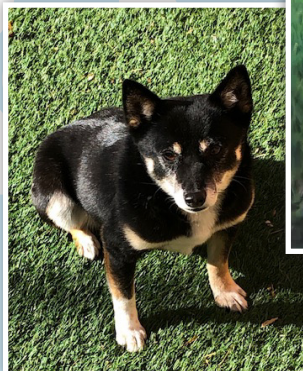
We can't leave out Count's dog Roo either, faithful watchdog and patroller of the property that he has been for years.



Jenny Margulies pet companion Snapper had crossed the rainbow bridge by the time Gloria was called on to paint this portrait. Her three current pet pals share share heart space with this lovely being.



Algae (lying down) with Chutney



Casini

And we can't forget Medina's Brindie either. We miss you, Brindie.

Keys Jewish Community Center

KJCC Holocaust Torah

Update from the Memorial Scrolls Trust

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:30 p.m. Coffee and Chat ~ 8:00 p.m. Presentation

Lois Roman is a Trustee of the Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST), and serves as the US Representative based on the East Coast. The Memorial Scrolls Trust is a London based non-profit which oversees the legacy of 1,564 Czech Torah scrolls that survived the Shoah. After a miraculous story of survival, these scrolls arrived in London and were dispersed on permanent loan to caring communities around the world. Lois began her involvement with MST several years ago following a long career on Wall Street as a money manager. She has a degree from Brandeis University and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

The Czech Scroll Story: from WWII to the Diaspora

A series of miracles allowed a huge hoard of Czech Torah scrolls to survive the devastation of the Shoah and stand as a testament to the communities that perished. The Memorial Scrolls Trust is committed to maintaining the legacy of these scrolls by dispersing 1400 of them around the world on permanent loan from our collection. To those who were entrusted with the scrolls, they are a symbol of hope as well as sorrow. The hope pushed forward an ongoing mission. We believe these Czech scrolls should be reinstated in Jewish life as a memorial to the vanished communities which once treasured them. The Memorial Scrolls Trust bears witness to the fulfillment of this hope. Let us teach our children about the world of miracles and let us use the scrolls to remind people about what binds them together everyday.

For further information contact
Laurie Blum ~ blum1212@gmail.com

Zoom invitations will be sent out
prior to the presentation..



OUR HOLOCAUST TORAH SPEAKS

Our Holocaust Torah holds hundreds of stories beyond those of the Chumash, our Five Books of Moses.

When Lois Roman from the Scrolls Memorial Trust comes to speak to us, we will hear stories we've never heard before, but in the meantime, here are some visual reminders of KJCC's own adventures with our Suscice scroll, starting in the fall of 2015, when we brought it to Sofers-on-site to be inspected, evaluated, and readied for whatever repairs would be needed to make it Kosher. For the full story of how this scroll came to us, see Dr. Steve Smith's beautifully produced and researched book. It is in our library. The day we rededicated our newly koshered scroll in 2016 provided a peak experience for many of us. It allowed us to perform the 613th Mitzvah, to write for ourselves "a new song."



We bring the scroll to Miami, home of the scribes, who would work on our Torah for months, repairing broken, missing and incorrect letters



Rabbi Menachem Bialo talks of the age and beauty of our scroll pointing out the kinds of repairs to be made

When the Torah is finished, a KJCC contingent brings it to a celebration and dedication with other Torahs from the trust



We hold our own celebration and help write a Torah. Dr. Steve Smith and Barbara take their turn.



A gathering of Holocaust Torahs



Donna Bolton, pleased to take part and support this sacred ritual.



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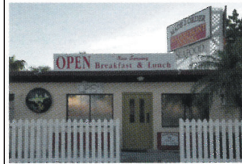
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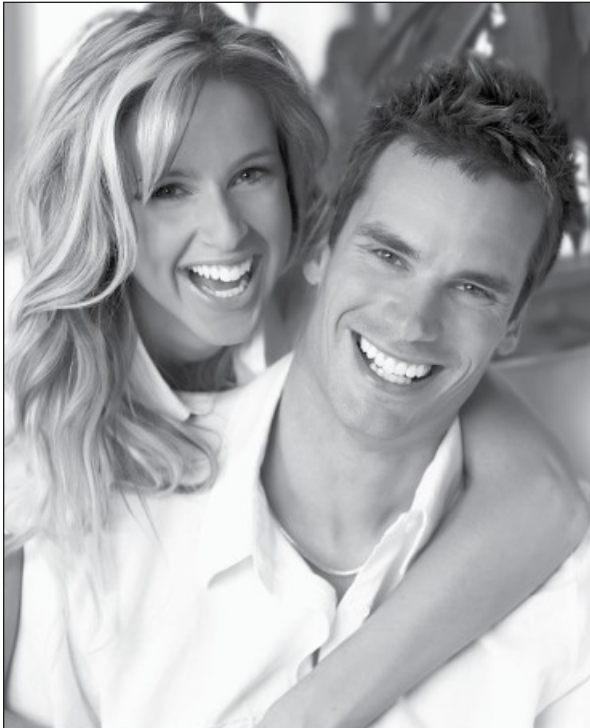
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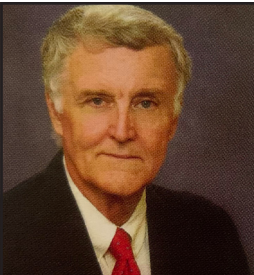
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