

Chai~Lights



April 1 - May 31, 2022

29 Adar II through Sivan 1, 5782

A Look Back at Purim — Page 20

Chag Sameach Pesach — Page 22

Joyce Goes to Israel — Page 27



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

April 1 - May 31, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Names denote leaders of Friday Services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Fridayat 7:30pm					1 APR Rosh Chodesh Nissan Joyce Peckman & Jane Friedman <i>Nettie & Jules Seder, Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis, Cheryl & Jeff Margulies</i>	2
3 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 10 a.m. Foot Massage for Self-Care 1 p.m.	4 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	5	6	7	8 Joe Shabathai <i>Geri & Stuart Smith, Barbara & Richard Knowles, Joan Wohl</i>	9
10 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	11 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Erev Pesach 6:30 p.m. Early Shabbat Services Ken Atlas <i>Susan Roberts</i>	16
17	18 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Laurie Blum Zoom Yizkor <i>Susan Gordon</i>	23 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler 12:30 p.m.
24	25 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m.	26	27	28 Yom HaShoah	29 Yom Yerushalayim Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Toby & David Goldfinger</i>	30 Night at the Movies at KJCC 7 p.m.
1 MAY Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 10 a.m.	2 Rosh Chodesh Iyar Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	3	4 Yom HaZikaron	5 Israel Independence Day	6 Erica Lieberman Garrett & Linda Pollack <i>Cheryl & Jeff Margulies</i>	7
8 KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 10 a.m.	9 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Steve Hartz <i>Chely & Alan Markowitz</i>	14 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler 12:30 p.m.
15	16 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	17	18	19 Lag B'Omer	20 Yardena Kamely <i>Barbara & Jerry Herson</i>	21
22	23 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Joyce Peckman & Donna Bolton <i>James Brush</i>	28
29	30 Sisterhood Book Club 1 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	31	Many of our activities will be moving on-site to the KJCC. Please check the weekly announcements for details.			

2022 - 2023 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



Hello all, this will be my first entry here. It will come as no surprise that the most time consuming function of the president, is all the writing that's required.

The first few columns will be a mix of stuff about me and world events, rituals etc.

When I was in the fourth grade, I barely liked Hebrew school. Maybe it was the teacher, a young hipster type, or the fact that we had to go three times a week that year. It didn't help, that he borrowed a toy of mine, and threw it back. I watched in shock, as it hit the floor, and broke into a bunch of pieces.

The next year everything changed as I went into the Gimmel class. The teacher was wonderful (probably orthodox) and my interest in Hebrew and all things Jewish, began to grow.

We are currently in a very uncertain time. Covid changed our lives, in some ways, forever. Above all, it made us appreciate the small things.

In terms of religion, it brought us new possibilities with zoom. Zoom has allowed us to keep going with services, board meetings, and other Jewish events. It's also allowed us to keep in contact with other members socially. That's been a lifeline for many.

For me personally, it's allowed me to visit my family on Fridays and still attend most services. And it's helped keep members involved who have moved away, or just cannot attend. So there is always good, even in bad situations.

The low point of the past few years is what's happening in the Ukraine. This is a world tragedy, but hits home for 2 reasons. 1. Its president is the only Jewish world leader outside of Israel, and they have a sizable Jewish population. 2. On a personal note, my friend Elmira lives there with her family, in the now occupied town of Kherson. In 2006 I got to visit them there. I spent 2 days on planes and 2 days on trains for a 3 day stay. I saw a movie in Russian, and took a boat on the Dnipro River. I still remember how the trains had no power when they stopped, and Gypsies sold snacks at the stops. I hope my friend is okay, and I pray for their president, Jews, and all innocent people over there. I truly hope by my next column, things will be better, but it's not realistic. Our only real distraction from this will have been Purim.

Enjoy the food, song, and masks. Be well. ◇

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

April – May 2022

Many of our activities will be moving on-site to the KJCC.
Please check the weekly announcements for details.

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Please contact us to be placed on email list.
Friday, April 1	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Joyce Peckman & Jane Friedman KJCC
Sunday, April 3	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 1 p.m. Donna Bolton teaches foot massage for self-care
Friday, April 8	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Joe Shabathai at KJCC
Sunday, April 10	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, April 15	6:30 p.m. Early Shabbat Services led by Ken Atlas at KJCC. First Passover Seder. Check mailings or contact Erica Lieberman Garrett
Friday, April 22	7:30 p.m. Shabbat and Yizkor Services led by Laurie Blum on Zoom
Saturday, April 23	12:30 p.m. Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler on Zoom
Monday, April 25	Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m. – “The Wife” by Meg Wolitzer
Friday, April 29	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Medina Roy and Gloria Avner
Saturday, April 30	7 p.m. – Night at the Movies at KJCC – Honoring Yom HaShoah
Sunday, May 1	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC
Friday, May 6	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Erica Lieberman Garrett & Linda Pollack Israel Independence Day Celebration at KJCC
Sunday, May 8	10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom
Friday, May 13	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Steve Hartz at KJCC
Saturday, May 14	12:30 p.m. Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler on Zoom – Ending The David Saga
Friday, May 20	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Yardena Kamely at KJCC – Lag b’Omer
Friday, May 27	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services led by Donna Bolton & Joyce Peckman Yom Yerushalayim celebration
Monday, May 30	Sisterhood Book Club 1 p.m.

NOSH

Saturday Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler

We have followed the David saga from his days as a young shepherd with a slingshot, his relationships with King Saul and family, through the battles that created the Kingdom of Israel and the conquest of Jerusalem, into his numerous personal family dramas. We discussed the fascinating contemporary parallels and timeless lessons. As we resume our discussions, the once vibrant king is approaching old age. Join us for the final two Saturday Zoom seminars: April 23 and May 14 at 12:30. Zoom links will go out that Friday. You do not have to have attended previous classes to tune in.

Women's Seder 2022

With a sad heart, Sisterhood determined that we will not hold a Women's Seder this year.

The core of dedicated workers has diminished, and we will be involved in creating a small First Seder for KJCC members. But we have every confidence that now we will build up our talented energetic group going forward into 2022. We wish all of you a "Zissen Pesach" and hope for a renewal of the tradition in 2023.

Support for Ukraine

Two checks in the amount of \$500 each, one from Sisterhood and one from KJCC Tikun Olam fund, have been sent to Greater Miami Jewish Federation Ukraine Relief Fund. The Purim party raised another \$82. GMJF supports the life-saving efforts of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Campaign, the Jewish Agency of Israel, and World ORT, all of which are working overseas helping refugees. We encourage all our members to make individual donations to these or other known groups, as the humanitarian crisis deepens.

Sisterhood Book Club

Look for our flyer on page 10. We have decided to continue our last Monday of the month meetings on Zoom in order to include those of us who travel or no longer live in the Keys. On April 25 we will discuss "The Wife" by Meg Wolitzer. On May 30, we have "The Last Kings of Shanghai" by Jonathan Kaufman and on June 27 we will talk about "The Paperback Shoe" by Goldie Goldboom. Contact Linda Pollack to be put on the mailing list. You need not have read the book to join in the conversation. ◇

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.

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.

JANUARY - MARCH, 2022

Yahrzeit

David & Patty MarmarSamuel Marmar

Larry & Dorothy Wolfe Morris Feinberg
Samuel Wolfe

Gerri & Frank Emkey Robert Kinney
Leroy Weisberg

Sandy KaplanIrving Stockser

Randy & Eileen Kominsky Harry Stoler

Medina RoyBianka Kirschenbaum

Michael Krissel.....Joseph Krissel

Patricia Isenberg Fannie Phillips

Stephen Steinbock Theresa Steinbock

Adam & Judy Starr.....Alexandra Starr

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis Janet Blum
Annie Kleinfeldt Bernstein

Larry & Dorothy Wolfe Maxine Feinberg

Joan Boruszak Bob Kohlenbrener

Robert Temkin Anne Temkin

Michael Krissel..... Shirley Krissel

Laurie Blum..... Arlene Sugarman Margolis
& Gary Margolis

Stephen Harris Lee M Harris

Linda Pollack..... Joel Pollack

Unrestricted

Steve & Jan Hartz

Arthur PlutzerAnn Plutzer

Linda Pollack & Skip Rose..... Harvey Schwaid's
95th birthday

KJCCPurim

Scholarship

Barney Coltman

In Memory/Honor of

- SISTERHOOD DONATIONS -

Oneg Sponsorship

Jane Friedman.....Jane & Daniel's Birthday

Jane Friedman..... Harry & Angelina's Birthday

Lorena & Michael Kaufman..... Celebrating KJCC
Reopening

Jules & Nettie SederCelebrating 54th
Wedding Anniversary

Medina Roy In Memory of Carl Roy

Barbara & Richard Knowles Richard & Eve's
Birthdays

Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis Honoring Laurie's
Mom Janet Blum's
Yahrzeit

Donation

Terry Willner Tainow In honor of Erica
Lieberman Garrett

All those who have supported sisterhood and purchased cookbooks

Mazel Tov
Roy & Elizabeth
Pollack



ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, 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 ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for rates.

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

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you, Steve Steinbock and Jane Friedman. 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.

CARING KEHILAH/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. The Caring Kehilah Committee is calling and checking in on our socially distant members. Call Laurie Blum, 414-698-5647 if you wish to request that someone be contacted.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, 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.

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Congregation Ohr HaYam

Sunday, April 3, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Live at the KJCC

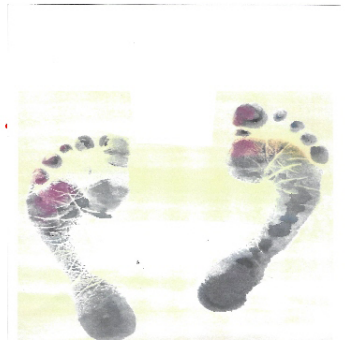


Self Care Workshop

with Donna Bolton

Oh, my aching feet!!!
Foot massage,
reflexology, self-care

After Sisterhood meeting
Men and Women are invited.



RSVP to Donna

LT0N9993@bellsouth.net ~ 305-393-1351

April & May Birthdays

April

3rd Ariel & Gail (Twins) Tromer
 3rdJustin L. Lebofsky
 4thLarry Weber
 4th Lauren Lane
 4th Thomas Brodie
 5thJon Tainow
 9thDavid Feder
 12thRichard Knowles
 13th Eve Gomez
 13th Samantha Lebofsky
 13th Sylvia Rimm
 15thRachel Roth
 15th Toby Bofshever
 16thAlfred Rimm
 16thDave Jacob VanArtsdalen
 17th Susan Ellner
 18thJennifer Garrett
 18th Lauren Sax
 19th Augie Moss
 20thJonathan Nobil
 22nd..... Susan Temkin
 24th Lynn Nobil
 24th Susan Gordon
 25th Shirley Stein
 26thMaryann Boruszak
 28th Joni Sages Dandrea
 29th David Goldfinger
 29thLinda Pollack
 30th Jason Sherman
 30thJoel Roth
 30thRachael Barrett

4thLaura Leigh Tallent
 5thRichard Palacino
 7th Murray Rapoport
 7th Skyler Bella Strasser
 8thSidney Boruszak
 9th Camden James Hudson
 9thGary Margolis
 9thReid Schur
 11th Richard Agler
 11th Sheila R. Steinberg
 12thMadelyn Ruby Pollack
 12thNyan Feder
 13th Rose Marie Casey
 14th Bernie Ginsberg
 14th John Temkin
 14th Medina Roy
 15th Paul R. Schur
 18thJaime Brennan
 19th Jonathon Hodgson
 22nd..... Sharon Repka
 23rdJenny Margulies
 23rd Jules Seder
 23rd Nettie Seder
 23rd Rita Williams
 25th Matthew Birnbaum
 25thSharon Greenstein
 27th Alan Beth
 27th Jeffrey Pollack
 27thJoan Boruszak
 28th Mary Roth
 29thNancy Zinner
 29th Robin Forman
 30thAlma Tromer
 31st..... Robert Sherman
 31st..... Wes Conklin

May

1st..... Cheryl Margulies
 2nd.....Barney Coltman

Anniversaries

April

3rd Jules & Nettie Seder 56
 10th Stuart & Geri Smith 57
 18th Susan White..... 18
 19th Barat & Rosemary Barefoot..... 36

Years

25th William Fusco & Melissa Katz-Fusco ..23
 25th Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder..... 26
May **Years**
 21st Marshall & Myra Kaplan 50

In Memoriam – April 2022

Sylvia Agler

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Charles S. Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Alex Perl

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Belle Kirschenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Max Margulies

By Jeff & Cheryl Margulies

Maryann Sandusky

By Skip Rose

Lilyan Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Carol Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Becky Kanowsky

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Barbara Linda Hayes

By Jane Friedman

Fred Klimpl

By Michael Klimpl

George Nobil

By Lynn Nobil

Rene Rose

By Skip Rose

Robert Schur

By Lee Schur

Neil H. Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

Gertrude Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Carmel Catanese

By Jane Friedman

Morris Kornbloom

By Erica Lieberman Garrett

Rabbi Milton Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

Mrs. Trudy Roth

By Joel & Mary Roth

Sally Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Robert W. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

Rose Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Ida S. Reider

By George & Muriel Swartz

Dr. Milton A. Wohl

By Joan P. Wohl

Claire Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

Sam Wainer

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Phillip Temkin

By Robert Temkin

Martha Greenberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

Cantor Alex Chapin

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Susan Cimkowski

By Stephen Steinbock

Benjamin Weber

By Judith Weber

Norma Cutler

By Donald Zinner

Shabbat Service Leaders

April 1 Joyce Peckman & Jane Friedman

April 8 Joe Shabathai

April 15 Ken Atlas

April 22 Laurie Blum (Including Yizkor)

April 29 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner

May 6 Erica Lieberman Garrett
& Linda Pollack

May 13 Steve Hartz

May 20 Yardena Kamely

May 27 Joyce Peckman & Donna Bolton

In Memoriam – May 2022

Helen Berman

By Sylvia Berman

Ellen Coltman

By Barnet O. Coltman

Larry Ira Frankel

By Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Stella Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

Nathan Klein

By Harvey & Judith Klein

Joseph Lempel

By Linda Pincus

Louise Folks Baker

By Joseph & Susan Sachs

Jean Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Mark Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Frances Wolfe

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Gertrude F. Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Marilyn Janet Barr

By Michael Klimpl

Erwin Moss

By Linda Pollack

Sam Sax

By Stuart & Lauren Sax

Baruch Epstein

By Joan Boruszak

Faye Klein

By Hanna David

Bill Gordon

By Susan Gordon

Frank Kaplan

By Sandy Kaplan

Arlene Sugarman Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Dr. Joel Pollack

By Linda Pollack

Dolores Feldman

By Jeffrey Schocket

Richard Schulberg

By Elaine Schulberg

Mrs. Anne Miller

By Shirley Stein

Louis S. Smith

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Larry Ira Frankel

By Nadine Thompson & Miriam Frankel

Morris Smith

By Stuart & Geri Smith

David Wernicoff

By Donald Zinner

ONEG SPONSORS

- | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| April 1 | Nettie & Jules Seder – Celebrating Their 54th Wedding Anniversary | April 22 | Susan Gordon – Celebrating Her Birthday |
| | Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis – Honoring Laurie's Mom, Janet Blum's, Yahrzeit | April 29 | Toby & David Goldfinger – Celebrating David's Birthday |
| | Cheryl & Jeff Margulies – Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary | May 6 | Cheryl & Jeff Margulies – Celebrating Cheryl's Birthday |
| April 8 | Geri & Stuart Smith – Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary | May 13 | Chely & Alan Markowitz – Celebrating Their Anniversary |
| | Barbara & Richard Knowles – Celebrating Richard & Eve's Birthdays | May 20 | Barbara & Jerry Herson – Celebrating Jerry's Birthday |
| | Joan Wohl – Celebrating Her Birthday | May 27 | James Brush – Celebrating Jascha Brush's Birthday |
| April 15 | Susan Roberts – Celebrating Her Birthday | | |



Sisterhood Book Club

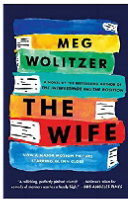
~ Books and dates for the coming months ~

Meetings will be at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

April 25, 2022 ~ The Wife by Meg Wolitzer

May 30, 2022, ~ The Last Kings of Shanghai by Jonathan Kaufman

June 27, 2022 ~ The Paperback Shoe by Goldie Goldbloom



The story of the long and stormy marriage between a world-famous novelist and his wife and the secret they've kept for decades



The extraordinary forgotten history of two Jewish families who helped transform China into a global economic powerhouse



A beautiful and mesmerizing book. Reading it is like slipping inside the skin of one Gin Toad, an albino who accepts a marriage proposal from an abusive husband, moves to a farm in the Australian outback, becomes a wife and mother, and then falls in love.

An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS Susan Gordon & Joyce Peckman



By the time you read this, we will have opened up the KJCC Sanctuary with an energetic Sisterhood-led Shabbat service, including our youngest members: Lily Padden and Oceana Gross. “Yasher Koach” to all the ladies! (That translates roughly as “more power to you – great job!”) Afterwards we enjoyed a true KJCC style Oneg Shabbat in our own Cathy Kaplan social hall. The small joys of getting together for coffee, cake, challah and conversation in our art-filled room seem much sweeter now. Join us on Friday nights!

Thank you, Jane Friedman, for guiding our Zoom Hamentashen workshop just before Purim. We had fun, and some of us brought our varied delicacies to share at the Purim Pizza party the next evening.

On Tuesday, March 29th we will hold our fourth Rosh Chodesh Circle at 3 p.m. under the trees behind KJCC, led by Lucinda Kurtz. It is a lovely spiritual enrichment, and we are considering continuing the tradition even after Lucinda heads north. Let’s talk about it... perhaps an evening under the stars?

The cookbooks continue to sell both from Dr. Erica Lieberman Garrett’s office and now from KJCC–Congregation Ohr HaYam. The first section includes some luscious Passover recipes.

The Sisterhood book club is going strong under the guidance of Linda Pollack. We have been meeting on Zoom at 12:30 the last Monday of each month. Its structure seems to vary each month...sometimes focused on the characters and themes of the book, and sometimes going more into the related histories of our own lives. You are welcome to join even if you haven’t read the book. On April 25th we will discuss “The Wife” by Meg Wolitzer. Let Linda know if you want to be added to the email list.

Passover is almost around the corner. After some discussion at the last meeting, we decided

that we had no choice but to forgo the Women’s Seder again this year. We felt it more important to focus our energies on the First Seder, which will be Friday, April 15th. We are unable to hold it at The Fishing Club this year. Instead, we will host a small seder in the social hall, allowing at most forty KJCC family members. The cost will be \$36 per person, \$18 for children aged 13 and under. Contact Erica Lieberman Garrett at hippiejap@hotmail.com for more information. Your check, which you can send to Sisterhood at PO Box 116 Tavernier, is your reservation. Reservations unfortunately must be closed when the capacity of forty people is reached. In this way we can provide a safe and comfortable way for those far from family to enjoy Passover among friends. In case you are trying to shop for Passover in the Keys (not very easy), be aware that we approached the manager of Publix in Key Largo to request Bartenura and Baron Herzog wines. He assured us that there will be a KP section before the holiday and wrote down the brands requested. We can only hope. If you shop elsewhere, let them know what you want.

Traditionally, Women’s Seder proceeds fund a donation to several organizations in the service of tikkun olam. At the Sisterhood meeting we decided that even though there will be no event, Sisterhood will send a \$500 donation to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Ukraine Relief Fund.

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held at KJCC! Come and join us Sunday April 3 at 10 a.m. We promise a delicious breakfast as well as a warm welcome. As a special bonus, after the meeting at 12:30 Donna Bolton will run a workshop open to the entire congregation on foot massage as self-care.

Wishing you a joyous Pesach, and hoping to see you soon. ◇

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



The Jewish offshoot of Wordle

Are you hooked on “Wordle,” the online game where players are asked to guess a five-letter word using codebreaker’s logic? (It’s really fun!) Well, there have been several offshoots of the original game (and there are several in other languages, including Yiddish and Hebrew). An Australian-based Jewish community organization has created “Jewdle” – a distinctly Jewish version. Jewdle offers words from English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Aramaic. Players have to guess six-letter Jewish words which significantly increases the game’s difficulty. And Jewdle throws in an educational component, offering explanations and context once a player correctly gets the word. “This seemed like a perfect way to create Jewish relevance within a very popular, secular context that so many people around the world are accessing right now,” said Alon Meltzer, the game’s creator. Jewdle uses six letters instead of five because of the phonetic differences in writing out many Hebrew and Yiddish words. (A ‘ch’ or ‘sch’ combination is often needed, or an ‘ah’ suffix.) You can find and play Jewdle at <https://www.jewdle.app> (www.timesofisrael.com, 2-3-22)

Arizona’s Jews Sue

Leaders of Arizona’s Jewish community are suing the state to stop the use of hydrogen cyanide, the same lethal gas that was utilized at Auschwitz, to carry out capital punishment. During World War II, the Nazis used pellets of Zyklon B, a hydrogen cyanide formulation, in the gas chambers at Auschwitz and other death camps. An average of 6,000 Jews were gassed to death each day during the height of operations in Auschwitz in 1943 and 1944. Janice Friebaum, former vice president and spokesperson for the Phoenix Holocaust Association, said that using the gas in

executions in the United States is “tantamount to approving of what the Nazis did. It’s a very painful way to kill a person and it’s fundamentally inhumane. To think that it was done to millions of people during the Holocaust is horrific enough, but to think that 70 to 80 years later we’re thinking of using it as a method of capital punishment is mind-boggling.” Arizona stopped using lethal gas as a method of execution in 1992, but allowed it for people who had already been sentenced at that time, leaving seventeen people potentially subject to this form of execution.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Arizona filed the lawsuit on behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix along with two individual members of the local Jewish community. The suit alleges that the state statute allowing cyanide gas to be used as a form of execution violates the Arizona state constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. “We are not arguing the merits of the death penalty, nor the guilt or innocence of the defendants – simply that because of our tragic history we have a unique lens to declare that the use of Zyklon B is a cruel and barbarous practice whose usage has no place in modern society,” Paul Rockower, executive director of the Phoenix JCRC and one of the individual plaintiffs, said. The last time Arizona executed someone with hydrogen cyanide gas was in 1999 when it executed Walter LaGrand, who displayed “agonizing choking and gagging.” It took eighteen minutes for LaGrand to die.

Jewish tradition prescribes the death penalty in some situations, but in practice Jewish courts have rarely if ever carried out executions. Many Jewish leaders in the United States have long advocated against this form of punishment. (Israel

did away with the death penalty in 1954.) (www.jpost.com, 2-18-22)

The Dan David Prize for 2022

Natalia Romik, a Polish historian who has been researching the hiding places of Jews in Poland and Ukraine during the Holocaust, is one of nine winners of the Dan David Prize for this year. The \$300,000 prize is awarded by the Dan David Foundation, which has its headquarters at Tel Aviv University. It is given to historians “who illuminate the human past in bold and creative ways.” Romik, 39, located and mapped twenty sites where Jews hid during World War II, including a 650-year-old tree and an underground hiding place in the Jewish cemetery in Warsaw. And in Ukraine, she researched the hiding places in the sewers of Lviv, caves in the Ternopil region and a place discovered underneath the floor tiles in a café in the city center. “Jews used whatever they could in order to provide protection for themselves,” Romik said. “Some of these stories have almost been forgotten, in other cases there are no archival documents and there are only hints that have to be followed up.” Romik is also an architect and an artist. She gathers testimony from local residents and survivors, examines memoirs and Jewish archives searching for information about the forgotten hiding places. Once she finds these sites, she consults with experts from a variety of fields to help her reconstruct and map them. She often uses an endoscopic camera, which helped her expose stairs that were built by Jews in the trunk of a hollow tree so they could use it as a hiding place. (www.haaretz.com, 3-1-22)

Jewish Students in the News

Twenty-seven undergraduate students from New York’s Yeshiva University and its Stern College for Women arrived in Vienna in mid-March as part of a humanitarian relief effort to support hundreds of Ukrainian refugees. The school reported that 124 students applied to participate in the mission within the first twenty-four hours of it being announced. The students were sent to Vienna because it had already received refugees and was still far enough away from the conflict, more or less ensuring students would be safe. (Vienna is some 400 miles from Ukraine’s western border.) The group provided educational activities for children, sorted donations, delivered supplies and

helped to coordinate housing for the refugees. The students returned to New York on March 20th. According to Der Standard, the Austrian newspaper, some 117,000 refugees had arrived in Austria by the middle of March. Only some will stay in Vienna. The majority will move on to other countries. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees called the Ukrainian exodus “the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.” (www.jta.org, 3-14-22)

Using Their Skills for Good

Avi Schiffmann was in high school in Seattle two years ago when he made headlines for building one of the world’s first and largest COVID-19 tracking systems. Now he’s a Harvard freshman and taking a year off to use his technical skills to help another urgent cause: finding housing for Ukrainian refugees. The 19-year-old has created “Ukraine Take Shelter,” a website that matches Ukrainian refugees with hosts in neighboring countries and elsewhere. He received the 2020 Webby Person of the Year Award for his COVID-19 website. The idea for his new venture came to him while attending a pro-Ukraine rally in San Diego in the early days of the Russian invasion. Schiffmann felt like he could do so much more than just hold an angry sign. He researched how government agencies and organizations that aid refugees were responding to the devastating humanitarian crisis. He found that existing efforts to connect refugees to hosts were inefficient and the websites hard to navigate. He called his college buddy, 18-year-old software developer Marco Burstein; using FaceTime to collaborate while being thousands of miles apart, and working almost non-stop for two days, the pair created a safe, secure and user-friendly site. (At one point, Burstein paused to take a midterm exam.) After testing its cybersecurity, “Ukraine Take Shelter” was launched on March 2nd. At the time of this writing, more than 2,000 hosts have signed up.

The two young men first met online, even before arriving on campus. Schiffmann saw that someone had posted “WhatClass,” an app for Harvard students to find classes their friends were taking. Schiffmann reached out to the creator of the website – Burstein – and soon afterwards they met over pizza and immediately hit it off. Both are computer science students who learned about web development from YouTube videos when they

were children. “The internet is our home, we’re digital natives,” Burstein said. They both enjoy using technology to solve problems. Burstein wrote scheduling algorithms that are still being utilized by his high school. And Schiffmann, in addition to the COVID-19 tracker, previously created a website that showed people how to find and join “Black Lives Matter” protests across the country. The two men see themselves as using their skills to do good. (www.forward.com, 3-10-22)

A Tribute to Sandy Koufax

A bronze statue of Jewish baseball legend Sandy Koufax will be unveiled at Dodger Stadium this summer. The Hall of Fame pitcher will join his teammate Jackie Robinson, whose statue was unveiled in the centerfield plaza in 2017. Koufax, now 86, became the youngest player to enter baseball’s Hall of Fame when he was inducted at the age of 36 in 1972. That same year, the Dodgers retired Koufax’s jersey number, 32, alongside Robinson’s iconic number 42, which is retired now throughout all of Major League Baseball. Remembered as one of the best pitchers in baseball history, and by some experts as the greatest-ever southpaw, Koufax was a member of four World Series championship teams, winning two World Series Most Valuable Player awards. Koufax also won a National League MVP and three Cy Young awards (the best pitcher for any given year) during his twelve-year career with the Dodgers. (He retired at the age of 30 due to chronic arm issues. You know, Jews and health.)

Koufax posted a career record of 165-87 with a 2.76 earned run average, 2,396 strikeouts, 137 complete games and 40 shutouts. He was the first pitcher to throw four no-hitters. Among Jewish fans, he is best known for a game he refused to play: game 1 of the 1965 World Series, which fell on Yom Kippur. (Some of us are still upset with Walter O’Malley for moving the Dodgers from Brooklyn to LA in 1958.) (www.jpost.com, 3-17-22)

Update

In the February/March issue of Chai-Lights, we reported on Yeshiva University’s amazing basketball team’s winning streak of 50 games. The end to the Maccabees’ unforgettable three-year success – where they managed to grab national and international attention, not to mention

inspiring the Jewish people at a time of rising vicious anti-Semitism and a relentless pandemic – came in early March, when they lost to Johns Hopkins University, 63-59. And now, YU’s guard Ryan Turell has entered the NBA draft, hoping to become the league’s first Orthodox player. The 22-year-old will forgo his final year of college to enter the 2022 draft on June 23rd at Brooklyn’s Barclays Center. He was the leading scorer in the NCAA across all divisions this season, averaging 27.1 points per game. He shot 59 percent overall, and an impressive 47 percent from three-point range. (www.jta.org, 3-15-22)

In Memoriam

Charles Entenmann, the family patriarch who helped make the eponymous Entenmann’s Bakery a national brand, died at the end of February at the age of 92. Although Entenmann’s earned a place in Tablet magazine’s list of “100 Most Jewish Foods,” the Entenmann family that opened the bakery on Long Island and expanded into supermarkets all over the country wasn’t Jewish. Charles Entenmann was a shrewd businessman and inventor and focused on engineering and the technical aspects of the bakery. One of the company’s innovative moves was its see-through packaging, letting shoppers look through a cellophane window to see what types of pastries they were buying. The business was purchased by Warner-Lambert for \$233 million in 1978.

Charles Entenmann was the grandson of a German immigrant who originally launched the bakery in Brooklyn in 1898. Entenmann’s reputation as a Jewish brand was due to its adoption of kosher certification from the Orthodox Union in the 1980s. The company found a market for inexpensive baked goods for Jewish families who wanted Orthodox kosher certification.

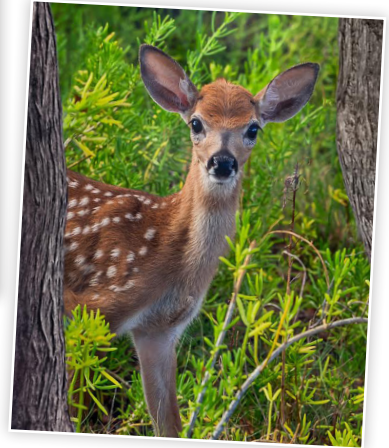
Charles moved to Florida, where he founded a medical technology company that focused on sealing wounds. His son, also named Charles, recently admitted “I’m going to tell you something that’s been pretty much a secret...He didn’t eat Entenmann’s cake. He just wasn’t a dessert guy.” (Is there anyone out there who does not remember the iconic white and blue rectangular box with the Entenmann’s logo sitting on the kitchen table at one time or another?) (www.jta.org, 3-9-22) ◇

PHOTO GALLERY

KJCC harbors many talented artists. They paint, create collages in mixed media, evolve evocative pieces in clay. Members' artwork is always welcome here. Show us what you do. (Send jpegs to geetavner@gmail.com) If you can't get to a show, you can enjoy them in Chai-Lights.



“Delight” by Jan Hartz was in the Garden Club show and was selected as the Garden Club's choice, to be used as next year's poster for the Garden Club tour and other events.



“Are You Coming?”, is Jan's entry for the Art Guild's annual show, an image of a Key Deer fawn inviting her to follow him into the woods.



Gloria's batik homage to Ukraine, “Survival in Winter.” Prints available. Profits to Ukraine Relief (via Miami Jewish Federation)



These musicians must be playing klezmer. They never tire. Gloria Avner's acrylic on canvas, “Play On,” is also on display at the Annual Show, on until March 30th at Ocean Sotheby's. Take a friend and have an art date. Worth a visit.



And when we don't see Susan around for two weeks, we know she's in Tennessee, having a great time with her boys.



When we don't see Joyce around it's a good bet she's either in Hollywood or New Jersey (and yes, there was a recent trip to Israel). Happy sweet 15th birthday Michal!



Sisterhood Service

Erica Lieberman Garrett sets the mood for a lovely service playing Shabbat melodies on the piano. Erica's Sister joins us as part of Sisterhood on the bimah for a reading, while co-President of Sisterhood, Susan Gordon, keeps everything organized.



Linda Kaplan standing near Shabbat candles, about to escort li'l iguana from the building. He was not obeying protocols. No mask.



Sisterhood Service Participants



This past Wednesday, Key Largo Library hosted many of the agencies and groups that offer worthwhile services to people in the Upper Keys. We at KJCC, Congregation Ohr HaYam, were happy to have an information table among them. Donna Bolton, Joyce Peckman, Linda Pollack, Randy Klein-Gross and Terry Willner-Tainow were among those womaning the table. Medina Roy, Board Member of Friends of the Library helped organize the event. Medina also, on behalf of KJCC, to Christina Teasley, KL Library Branch Manager, Vols. I and II of *Maus*, a graphic novel about the Holocaust, banned from many libraries after pressure from conservative parents and politicians.



“Repair the Seas”

With Rabbi Ed & The Scubi Jews:

We were so fortunate to reunite with Rabbi Ed, Josh, Shayna and four other young people from our extended family in the Tampa area and Miami (but Tikkun HaYam has expanded so much that this year’s reverse Taschlich had participants throughout the States and in 18 other countries). We heard a wonderful talk on Spirituality of the Sea Tuesday night. Progress in dealing with plastic pollution has taken a very creative turn. Our gift shop will soon be carrying recycled waste plastic made into beautiful mezuzahs, water bottles and even yads. Yes , I do mean blue Torah pointers.

Springing into Nissan and Iyar 5782

By Lucinda Kurtz

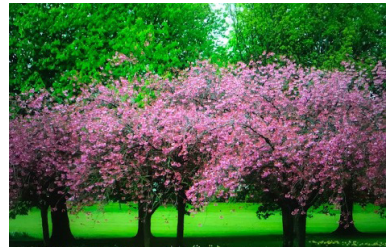
With hopeful anticipation, we welcome in the new moon of the Hebrew month of Nissan on April 2. In Nissan, we leave our narrow and confined space of gestation and birth ourselves into a new and waking world. Stepping out of the safe wombs we created for ourselves to survive and thrive during the pandemic, we take baby steps toward a new vision of what is possible for ourselves in this changing reality in which we now reside. What does this new landscape look and feel like as we emerge blinking into the light?



This month, in the celebration of Passover, we retell the story of our ancestors fleeing from slavery, leaving behind the landmarks and activities that filled their lives, wandering in the desert of the unknown, exploring new inner and outer territory to sustain them on their journey. In our own way, we, too, have taken an unexpected journey, confronted our own terror, recovered and reclaimed lost parts of ourselves that were buried beneath the daily routines of life and land with a new awareness of the treasures within and those in the natural world that surround us.

Hopefully, we as individuals and parts of a greater whole will navigate this new world in more conscious ways informed by the quiet and inward time we have had to deepen and listen to the usually muffled inner voice that can guide and inform us. We can embody the powerful energy of this month by affirming our faith in the One for helping us to survive this journey, traverse the deep and tumultuous waters, and be alive to embrace the gift of freedom that the holiday of Passover celebrates.

On May 2, we enter into the new moon of the Hebrew month of Iyar, the time of healing mind, body, and spirit through connection to our hearts, each other, and the One. What needs healing before we can root ourselves deeply into the fallow earth?



During this past year, many of us have pruned away aspects of our lives not essential to our being, which like a tree enables us to channel our energy back into new growth and evolution. We instinctively respond to the powerful life force calling to us, beckoning us out from the dark, interior places where we have resided this winter. Yet we are tender from the many losses we have individually and collectively witnessed and experienced.

We have the opportunity this month, symbolized by the spiritual practice of counting the Omer, to release old wounds and tap into our deepest longings, freed from many of the restraints of this past year. It's the energy of compassion, the hallmark of this month of Iyar, that can soften our transition into a greater expansion and allow us to trust our intuition as we sow our seeds, so ripe with potential.

When we open our hearts to ourselves and others, welcome in and embrace the full range of our emotions, and release judgement, we can water our roots gently with kindness and compassion. We can come out of this time of isolation with a commitment to be more kind to ourselves and each other, allow compassion to lead us forward and transform the ways we interact with each other, both in the small orchards of our lives and in the towering forests of our global community.

PURIM STRIKES BACK!

Welcome home, dear Mishpocha. Two years ago, almost to the very day, KJCC shut itself down just before Purim.. Upon hearing Dr. Bernard Ginsberg's sage and supremely serious advice about the coming of Covid, we canceled our Purim Party, and every single activity (including Pesach and our 40th Anniversary Gala) for high season.

What better way to re-open our long shuttered, mostly shut down synagogue than with a celebration of Survival on the eve of Purim. Chag Sameach!! There was total joyous participation among the 24 adults and children booing Haman and cheering for Esther, wearing masks (both kinds), costumes, picking raffle tickets and eating our 3 course communal feast (salad, pizza and homemade hamantaschen. We observed all four mitzvot/commandments. Sharing a celebratory meal, hearing the Gansza Magillah, giving charity and sending gifts of food to neighbors and friends. Yes re read the whole thing!! Look at these lovely faces:



All created by the amazing Super Jane Friedman.



Barbara Knowles and Sean Kaufman each won a raffled basket, courteous of Chabad's Rabbi Zucker.



Joel and Toby Bofshever's family went all out Canadian for their Purim Party theme this year.



Medina of course, dresses as the Purim Flamingo.



So good to welcome Rachel and Maddy back!



Haman and Queen Vasht (Sean and Susan Gordon)

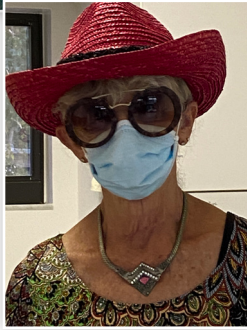


Jacob, recently back from Israel opens his newly acquired Megillah Esther.

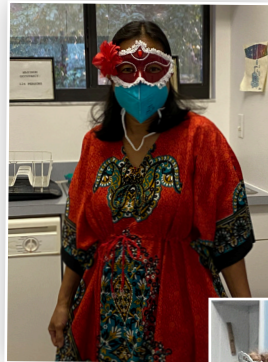
Thanks! Gloria was one of the gift box raffle winners. Sean Kaufman's friend Lexi picked her ticket.



Ever since Randi Klein-Gross and Tomar's kids started going to Sunday School with us, they have been making the best and most imaginative hamentashen.



Is this our own Geri Smith or Woody's (Tom Hanks) girlfriend in Toy Story?



Jane Friedman in her gorgeous Purim costume.

King Achashverosh (aka Jules Seder) was the big shalach manot gift basket winner. (What a great smile).



Joyce Peckman, Susan Gordon and Gloria Avner unroll the Megillat Esther before we begin.



Joyce Peckman, recently past KJCC, just back from Israel, leads off the reading while the Roth's look on. Later she will laugh when she realizes why everything looks so dark.



How nice to see and celebrate with the Roths.

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Congregation Ohr HaYam

Sisterhood

Friday, April 15, 2022

Services 6:30 p.m.

Seder 7:30 p.m.

at the KJCC



First Night Mischpacha Seder

For information and reservations contact

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com 305-393-1162

Your check is your reservation, payable in advance. Mail to

KJCC Sisterhood, PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

**Limited to 40 participants. Please reserve quickly -
by 4/10/22.**

Members Only - Vaccinated and Boosted

Donations:

Adults \$36; children 12 and under \$18

LEAVING EGYPT

Miriam beats the timbrel 'til her palms bleed,
sees the giant split sea waves
close once more over galloping soldiers
in hot then cold pursuit.

Don't gloat because we're safe.
There is no way back now,
even if we wanted one.

But sing for your supper,
for everything you want.

Sing eons of fear
and joy and thanks.

Sing to remember
all parts of the story
of narrow escape
you'll retell each year
around dinner tables
for millennia.

Four questions,
four children,
four glasses of wine,
two midwives.

Remember unfreedom,
feed strangers with gladness,
free women from fear
and dependence and lack
of self-confidence.

Moses is her creation, and the well
we know as Miriam's Cup
appears each evening by her tent
to slake our thirst.

- Gloria Avner



From the KJCC Sisterhood Cookbook:

ASHKENAZIC APPLE CHAROSET 🍏

Joyce Peckman

6 apples, peeled and coarsely chopped
½ c. almonds, chopped
3 T. sugar to taste
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 lemon rind, grated
4 T. sweet red wine

Combine apples with almonds, sugar, cinnamon, and lemon rind. Add wine as needed. Blend to desired texture (coarse, crunch, paste). Chill.

SOPHIE KAMINSTEIN'S PESACH BAGELS 🍞

Beth Kaminstein
Sophie Kaminstein

½ c. oil
1 c. water
1 level tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. salt
2 c. matzo meal
5 eggs, well beaten

Preheat oven to 400°. Bring oil, water, sugar and salt to a boil. As soon as it boils, pour in matzo meal and stir thoroughly until mixed. Add matzo mixture to well beaten eggs and mix thoroughly. If an electric mixer is available, use on low for about a minute, or use a food processor with the "S" blade. Let mixture stand for 10 minutes at least. Grease a shallow baking pan. To form the bagels, wet hands and form a ball about 2 inches in diameter. Pat down to about an inch in thickness and press center with finger to make a dent. Place on baking sheet and bake for 25 - 40 minutes until puffed and brown. Check to make sure the underside is done.

PASSOVER ROLLS 🥨

Eileen Hermann

2 c. matzo meal
1 tsp. salt
1 T. sugar
½ c. peanut oil
1 c. water
4 eggs

Combine matzo meal with salt and sugar. Bring oil and water to a boil. Add matzo meal mixture and mix well. Beat in eggs thoroughly, one at a time. Allow to stand for 15 minutes. With oiled hands, shape into rolls and place on a well greased cookie sheet. Bake in a moderate oven, 375°, for 50 minutes or until golden brown.

6

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PESACH CHICKEN AND POTATO PATTIES 🐔

Randy Klein-Gross

1 onion, diced
2 T. fat or oil for browning
2 c. cooked white meat chicken, ground
2 eggs, divided
Salt to taste
Pepper to taste
2 c. mashed potatoes (about 3 potatoes)
½ c. matzo meal
Oil or chicken fat for frying

Chicken: Brown onion in hot oil or fat. Combine with chicken, 1 egg, and salt and pepper to taste. Make into flat patties. Potato: Combine mashed potatoes with 1 egg and salt and pepper to taste. Make into flat patties. Place chicken and potato patties together and press gently. Dip both sides in matzo meal. Fry in hot oil or fat on both sides until brown. 4 servings.

FRIED MATZO ⚡

Randy Klein-Gross

6 matzos
4 eggs
¼ c. milk
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
¼ c. butter, melted

Soak matzos in water until softened. The more tender you like fried matzo, the longer you soak them. Squeeze out the water. Beat eggs with milk, salt and pepper. Break up the matzos and add to the egg mixture, mixing to coat evenly. Fry in melted butter on both sides until brown. 3 - 4 servings.

PESACH CHOCOLATE SIN CAKE ⚡

Judy Greenman

3 c. chocolate chips
2 c. sugar
4 sticks of butter, softened
½ c. cold espresso coffee
¼ c. coffee liqueur (like Kahlua)
¼ c. Bailey's liqueur
8 eggs, slightly beaten

Melt chocolate chips and sugar, covered with plastic wrap, in the microwave for 3 minutes. Add butter, espresso coffee, coffee liqueur and Bailey's liqueur to the melted chocolate mixture. Add 1 beaten egg at a time. Mix well. Pour into greased 10" spring form pan that has bottom wrapped with foil. Place in larger pan, filled halfway with water. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes at 350°.

10

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NOTES FROM

ì The Unofficial Hogwarts Haggadahî by Moshe Rosenberg

Submitted by Joyce Peckman, with thanks to Sara Kaplan for the book.

On the evening before Passover, families gather to search for hametz in their already cleaned homes, using a candle or flashlight to gather strategically planted pieces of bread or pasta. We burn (or otherwise dispose of) the collected hametz the next morning. All of the Harry Potter saga can be reduced to a search. At first Harry seeks a father figure and the way to deal with the death of his parents. Later, he thinks that what he is looking for is in the Ministry of Magic. In the end he must complete his own version of bedikat hametz as he tracks down each treacherous fragment of Voldemort's diseased soul.

Four cups of wine: Raising one's glass in a toast is a practice that spans cultures...sometimes it was a pretext for excessive drinking. Judaism elevates the toast to a celebration of gratitude. "Other cultures drink; the Jew says a blessing and "to Life!" In the Harry Potter series, Professor Trelawney and Winky the house elf are cautionary tales of the dangers of alcohol. At the end of "The Goblet of Fire" Dumbledore raises his goblet in a toast to Cedric Diggory and Harry. In both Hogwarts and Halakha (Jewish law) the toast is about honor and tribute.

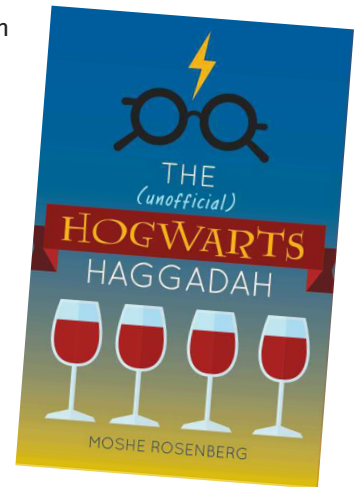
The four questions: The best professors at Hogwarts were the ones who invited questions, like Remus Lupin or Albus Dumbledore. Some, out of impatience (Snape) or superiority-insecurity complex (Umbridge) or incompetence (Trelawney) evaded questions. Judaism recognizes the meeting ground of sincere questioner and unintimidated respondent as fertile soil for forging a

relationship between generations.

The four sons and varieties of wisdom: Hermione reminds us that there are many ways to be wise. The different forms of wisdom in which Harry, Ron and Hermione excelled were all tested. Wisdom comes in many varieties. It is necessary

for each student to be exposed to those of differing strengths and natures, yet given the opportunity to develop their own style, surrounded by those who share it. Hogwart's four houses of Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw follow the guidelines of King Solomon who wrote in Ecclesiastes, "Educate each child according to his path."

The wand and the staff: The greatest wizard would be rendered powerless in the absence of his staff. When Dumbledore was disarmed by Draco Malfoy in the Astronomy Tower, he was unable to defend himself. Moses, on the other hand, learns that it is not his staff, but the will of God that causes miracles.◇



Keys Jewish Community Center
Adult Ed Program



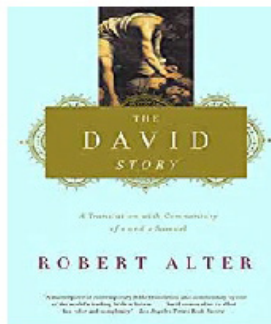
THE DAVID SAGA
LUNCH AND LEARN WITH
RABBI AGLER

Discussion of the David saga will continue on:

Saturday, April 23, 2022
Saturday, May 14, 2022

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Even if you have not partaken in our previous sessions or done any preparatory reading, come and enjoy the discussion. No preparation is necessary.



Zoom invitations will be sent out prior to each session.

VISITING ISRAEL WITH JNF – IT’S NOT JUST TREES – PART 1

By Joyce Peckman

On Sunday, February 13th after three years serving as President of KJCC, I passed that responsibility on to Ken Atlas. Three days later I boarded a United Airlines jet to Tel Aviv. In September, anticipating an end to the pandemic, I had given a small deposit towards an excursion affiliated with the Jewish National Fund geared to active retirees. Fast forward to Omicron, and of the 25 who gave deposits, only eight decided to go. The organizers, two American expats who had managed this tour for 30–40 people for 16 years, vowed to run it even if only two people showed up! Many hours later, after a rapid Covid test at Ben Gurion airport, I was deposited at the Metropolitan Hotel in Tel Aviv and instructed not to leave until I received my negative results on my cell phone. Half the group had arrived earlier and were enjoying a buffet dinner. We, the newly arrived four, masked, were seated in a side room, with access to the same buffet. By the following morning we received our temporary “green certificate” and freedom. We spent Friday walking and shopping. That evening the hotel



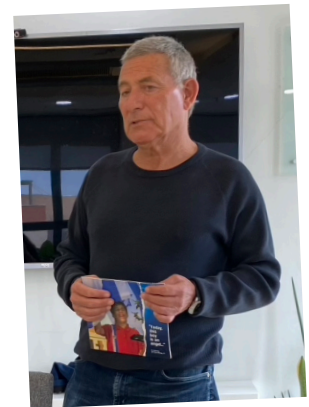
Wheelchair accessible merry-go round at Aleh Negev



In Tel Aviv with my traveling companion Miriam Bazely

filled with Israelis, many of them families. At the entry to the dinner buffet were small bottles of wine, and on every table a plate of challah rolls. Each family made their own kiddush, and we eight became a family. As we ate, we listened to some of the religious groups singing lovely “zmirot Shabbat” after their meals.

Shabbat is a day of rest with no planned activities. Three of us took a taxi to AMU, the newly named Museum of the Diaspora that Rabbi Agler’s tour had visited eleven years ago. The museum has been completely modernized, and was a delightful highlight of the trip, but that’s an article



General Doron Almog



Beersheva Park - Nahal Benyamina

for another time.

Early the next morning we boarded a ten passenger Mercedes minibus for the ride to Eilat.

Our first stop was Aleh Negev, a unique village/medical center/school created by General Doron Almog and largely funded by donors through JNF. You may recognize the name of General Doron Almog as the first paratrooper to land at Entebbe during the 1976 rescue, or as the leader of Operation Moses, the secret airlift of 6000 Ethiopian Jews in 1984. He led many other operations, most of which we will never hear about. As head of the Israel Defense Forces Southern Command in 2000–2003, he secured the border with Gaza.

General Almog met us in a small conference room at the school to talk about one of



Beduin grazing his sheep in the riverbed park

his proudest accomplishments. One of his sons, Eran, was born severely disabled. Israel provided care for disabled children, but only for the first 21 years, after which the disabled adult is released to the guardianship of his family. General Almog convinced the government to donate land near Beersheva, and proceeded to create a community unlike any other in the world. 180 severely handicapped people of all ages live there at Aleh Negev– Nachalat Eran, cared for by professionals and volunteers. On the site is a preschool and elementary school for children

from the local area, who are integrated with the disabled children. The medical and dental clinics on site provide services to the entire Northern Negev, and Nachalat Eran (named after the son who died 18



Nahal Benyamina fountain uses reclaimed water

months after its opening) provides employment for hundreds of locals and draws medical and research personnel to the Negev. The facility, with its gardens, farm animals and bubbling stream, is created to provide sensory stimulation. Even the benches under newly planted trees have varied textures. Visiting aerospace engineers created special playground equipment to accommodate wheelchairs. Among the volunteers are criminals on work release programs, who come away with a different perspective on freedom of choice. General

Almog passionately believes that a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable. "We are all limited in abilities and time and must use all of our abilities to make our lives count."

Leaving Aleh Negev, we passed through the city of Beersheba, Beer Sheva in Hebrew, named after its seven life-giving wells, written about in the stories of Abraham and Isaac. Beersheba over the past forty years has grown from a sleepy town populated mainly by poor immigrants from North African countries, into "the capital of the Negev", a city of 200,000 featuring Ben Gurion University, growing rapidly with high



New Beersheva apartment buildings behind the new park

rise apartments, a tech center and shopping centers. Nachal Ben-yamina, the wadi (seasonal river) which runs alongside the city and flows during heavy rains from Hebron to the sea, had become a huge dump filled with garbage, discarded appliances and junked cars. Sewage overflow from Hebron and Kiryat Arba added significantly to the pollution. In 2013 The Jewish National Fund began the creation of Beersheva River Park. They hauled out many tons of trash. They built sewage reclamation plants and used the reclaimed water to create a large lake suitable for boating. Now the park, which runs over five miles along the riverbed, has playgrounds and greenspace (irrigated with



Ben Gurion Gravesite

reclaimed water) with pretty fountains. Bedouin graze their sheep in the grass along the dry riverbed, and families fill the park on weekends.

David Ben Gurion, who guided Israel during its early years, believed that the future of the country lay in the barren Negev. He uprooted his wife Paula and their children and moved to Kibbutz Sde Boker, south of Beersheva. Their serene gravesite overlooks the magnificent Nachal Zin. Hiking trails called us, but we needed to reach Eilat by nightfall.

In part two of the series, we will visit some of the attractions of the Negev and Eilat and see how Ben Gurion's vision is being realized. ◇



Nahalat Zin in the Negev - view from Ben Gurion gravesite



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APARTHEID

THE HEINOUS ACCUSATION UNJUSTLY USED AGAINST ISRAEL

By Beth Hayden

Apartheid. Just the mention of the word is emotive and provocative. For millions of South Africans who suffered under apartheid, the word is synonymous with suffering, discrimination and racism.

The word apartheid is currently being applied by Israel's detractors as a way to launch a well-orchestrated assault on Israel's legitimacy as a state. Detractors count on the emotional response that the word and the images it evokes elicit. It is a perfect ploy to put forward their own plans for the destruction of the Jewish state and the elimination of Zionism.

One might well wonder how this appellation of apartheid has become so common against Israel. The Durban Conference on Racism, held in South Africa in 2001, became the springboard where the charge of apartheid was levelled against Israel. Not since Nazi Germany have such nasty invective and accusations been leveled against Israel and the Jewish people.

The rationale behind this is that if Israel is compared to and demonized just as much as apartheid South Africa was, then treating the Jewish state like a pariah and meting out the same treatment in the form of boycotts, divestment and sanction policies is the logical step. In fact, if Israel is as odious as South Africa was, should it exist at all? And herein lies one of the fundamental differences. At no point during the apartheid years was South Africa's legitimacy or existence as a state challenged, just the racist governmental policy. The co-founder of the BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction) movement which aims to destroy Israel, Omar Barghouti, in fact holds a Master's degree in Ethics from none other than Tel Aviv University. He

rejects a two-state solution and advocates "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" – meaning, Israel will cease to exist and be replaced by a Muslim-majority state.

Israel has long been singled out for opprobrium at the expense of other conflict regions and countries guilty of human rights abuses. More resolutions are passed by the UN against Israel than against any other country in the world. A sad, but true, fact.

Apartheid has been defined as discriminatory and oppressive laws based on race that deemed one group of people (non-white) as inferior and legislation enacted in all spheres to support that. It also pertained to the forced removal of people of color from their neighborhoods and relocation to less desirable areas.

Does racism exist in Israel? Yes it does. Just as it does in Canada, the U.S., Brazil, South Africa or any other country in the world. It is abhorrent and inexcusable but is it state legislated and state policy like it was in Nazi Germany or South Africa? No, and to single Israel out exposes a shocking double standard. Israeli Arabs who are citizens of Israel enjoy equal voting rights, representation in government, the right to education in the same schools and universities as anyone else and all inalienable rights. Israel's critics will argue but what about the Palestinians? Aren't they subject to apartheid that is worse than South Africa at the hands of Israel?

Israel famously disengaged from Gaza in 2005, removing the citizens that had settled there, including the dead. Any Israeli presence was removed from the area and an opportunity was created for the Palestinians to make overtures towards peace. Instead, a vacuum was created that led to the fundamentalist Hamas taking control of the territory. This new regime persecuted and

got rid of any opposition, installing an Islamist leadership that quickly imposed harsh restrictions and trampled on human rights including on the media, freedom of religion, women's rights and sexual orientation.

Israel's detractors make the comparison of Hamas being a liberation movement for the Palestinians but can one really compare the genocidal Hamas Charter, which advocates the destruction of the Jews and Israel, to the South African Freedom Charter, which calls for equal rights and inclusion of all citizens of South Africa regardless of race or history? To do so maligns everything those who fought to end apartheid injustice stood for and the hard work by veterans such as Nelson Mandela to broker reconciliation.

If we are going to point a finger at any regime practicing apartheid in the Middle East, Hamas is certainly a top contender. Others include Lebanon and Jordan and others who withhold the rights of citizenship from Palestinians, relegating them to perpetual second-class citizenship status. What about Iran or Saudi Arabia whose records on human rights are deplorable? What about the treatment of Christians in areas returned by Israel to the Palestinian Authority (PA) as the ruling entity? Bethlehem has lost its Christian majority; indeed the population of Christians under PA authority has markedly decreased while the Christian population in Israel has significantly increased. Druze, Circasian and Bedouin populations have prospered under Israeli rule. A recent survey by Shfa, a news organization working with the PA, recorded an overwhelming 93% of non-Israeli Arabs (Arabs who are not Israeli citizens) living in east Jerusalem preferred Israeli rule to PA rule.

The PLO ambassador to the U.S. famously declared, and he is not alone, that no Jews would be allowed to live in a future Palestinian state. Is this not apartheid?

The Rev. Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) had this to say about the Israel apartheid analogy:



Rev. Kenneth Meshoe

As a black South African who lived under apartheid, ...in my view, Israel cannot be compared to apartheid in South Africa. Those who make the accusation expose their ignorance of what apartheid really is. Black, brown and white Jews and the Arab minority mingle freely in all public places, universities, restaurants, voting stations and public transportation. All people have the right to vote. The Arab minority has political parties, serves in the Israeli parliament (Knesset) and holds positions in government ministries, the police force and the security services. In hospitals, Palestinian patients lie in beds next to Israeli Jews, and doctors and nurses are as likely to be Israeli Arabs as Jews. ... None of the above was legally permissible in apartheid South Africa!

Despite evidence and statements to the contrary, Israel continues to face accusations of apartheid practices. The singling out of Israel for opprobrium in the media, United Nations, university campuses and farcical tribunals like the Russell Tribunal (<http://www.russelltribunalonpalestine.com/en/index.html>) reinforces the idea of an antisemitic cabal. Now, that is racism. ◇

This photo has shocking power.

The Jews have been praying here in Jerusalem, leaning on the Wall of the Planet, for two thousand years. They believe that that point is the holiest on the face of the Earth and that God, in that place, can better hear their prayers.

Yesterday, for the first time after the terrible years of Shoah, they covered themselves in the colors of a flag – this time not theirs, but the Ukrainian one – and they made an appointment here. Then they remained silent, asking God to stop the war, to save the tragedy of that people. There really is no stronger image than this, more capable of “speaking” to the body and to the heart, and to the depth of the soul.”



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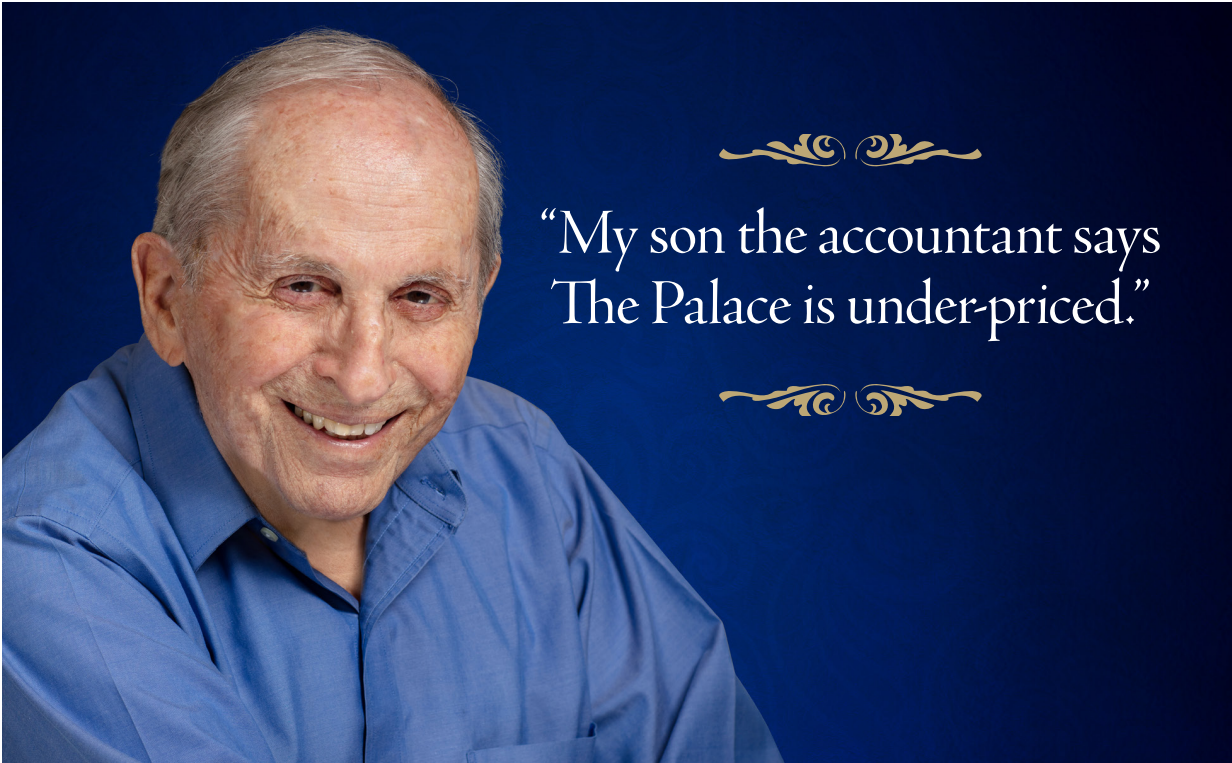
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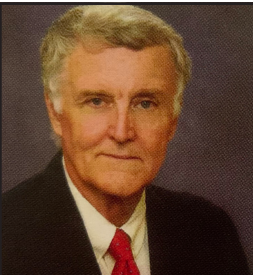
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