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The Bee Buzzer

Monthly Publication of the

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

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EDITOR: TIM MARSHALL

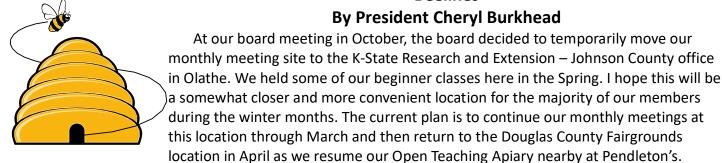
November 2025

General Meeting Monday, Nov 17th, 2025 (7:00 p.m.)

Johnson County Extension Office 11811 S Sunset Dr, Olathe, KS 66061

Main Program: Officer elections; Youth Scholarship Presentations; Holiday Gift Ideas and more! A great night to support the club and learn. Vote for officers & enjoy several short presentations.

Beelines By President Cheryl Burkhead



At this month's meeting, we will have elections for members to serve on our board. Officers serve a 2-year term and may be up for reelection for a second two-year term. The nominations committee of Elaine Ellenz, Jo Patrick, and Becky Tipton have been diligently looking for members to fill the following positions: President, 1st Vice President (Program Chair), Youth Scholarship Chair, FunDay Coordinator, and Editor. We will also be taking nominations from the floor. If you would like to serve and are interested in any board positions, please let us know.

Many of you may have started out learning about bees and beekeeping through our club and attended classes but unfortunately, didn't remain active. The most successful beekeepers continue to learn via participation in their local organizations and networking and by attending conferences and keeping current with the latest literature. I challenge all of you to become more involved in your local club.

Meeting Dates:



- Nov 17th, Monthly Meeting @ 7 PM, Johnson Co Extension Office
- Dec 15th, Monthly Meeting @ 7 PM, Johnson Co Extension Office

NEKBA Election of Officers

November is election time. We have several officer positions up for election. A successful organization requires participation from its members. Your club is holding an election of officers at our next club meeting, November 17, 2025. We hope that you will attend. We have five positions to fill for 2026. The list of positions and candidates are:

President: Jessica Popp

• 1st Vice President in charge of Programs: Yana Magruder

• Editor: Nick Bretz

• Youth Scholarship Coordinator: Jim Putnam

Funday Coordinator: Milisa Suckow.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. We would like to thank these individuals that graciously stepped forward to ensure we continue to have a successful organization.

Elaine Ellenz, Becky Tipton, and Jo Patrick - Nominating Committee



Ol' Bee Gal

This weekend was the KHPA Fall meeting in Salina. It was a great meeting for many, many reasons. I am going to tell you just a bit from Dr. Zac Lamas, Univ. of Maryland, our keynote speaker. His varroa research has focused around our two recent colony loss events—why they happened and what can we do about it. Dr. Lamas' research has found that our bees are carrying a much higher viral load than we often realize. The bees that are really creating the most havoc within our hives are not the bees who have deformed wings

or showing other outward symptoms of virus infection, there are bees who are silent carriers. They look like healthy bees going about their bee work and are shedding virus to other bees while feeding the queen and feeding brood. Another, unknown to me, issue is the viral load being carried by our queens! Our queens, our virgin queens are being fed upon by varroa (news to me) and then not only carry the virus making them sick, but they are also shedding virus into their eggs. Dr. Lamas showed apparently healthy hives, massive sheets of healthy-looking brood, that he reported crashed within weeks—not unlike what commercial beekeepers saw during last year's colony die-off. The queens can also pick up virus during mating from infected drones. Dr. Lamas' research emphasized the drone connection and the preference of varroa for the drone brood development. Another sign of a viral loaded queen is something we have referred to as supersedure syndrome. We see hives accept a queen, she starts laying, and the next thing we know, they are trying to supersede her. This can continue all summer. The hive fails to thrive, and we blame it on their inability to establish a good, laying queen. Dr. Lamas suggests this is related to an introduced queen with a high viral load. What are the solutions—we only have one. Keep your mite load as low as possible. Use strategies to prevent mites from ever getting a high count. Dr. Lamas talked briefly about the work on creating a vaccine for our queens and the hope that immunized queens would pass the viral immunity on to her offspring. This is still in the future but is an important piece to understanding the beekeeping health puzzle. Unfortunately, we were left with more questions than answers.

As we approach true winter, we are still feeding liquid feed (2:1) to ensure our bees go into winter as well provisioned as possible. The other important winterizing chore is our final Oxalic Acid dribble treatment, usually done between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dissolve 35 g of OA crystals into 1 liter of 1:1 sugar syrup. Dribble (or spray) 5 ml between frames on the seams of bees, not to exceed 50 ml/colony. This is most effective performed in a broodless colony. At the same time, we add a feeding shim to the top brood box and give each hive a solid sugar cake. Steve refers to these as "sugar cookies." We use a recipe from Clarence Collison: 25 lbs. of white granulated sugar (beet or cane), 1 quart of apple cider vinegar, 3 TBSP citric acid, 3 TBSP Honey Bee Healthy (or other probiotic bee food supplement—optional). Mix well. This will resemble damp sand. Press about 2 pounds into a sturdy paper plate. Press down well. Allow to dry/cure for 24-48 hours. A light mist of water can be applied to the sugar to help it form a firmer crust. To feed: turn the plate

upside down on the top bars of the top brood box. No need to remove the paper plate, the bees will cluster under the plate as they eat the food. Throughout the winter, we check hive weight and replenish as needed. Is this necessary? No. Steve says it is not expensive, and it helps him sleep at night. Is the OA dribble necessary? There may be no more important thing you do for the health of your hive than to take advantage of this single opportunity to kill the varroa mites.

We had several NEKBA members join us at the KHPA meeting. It was terrific to see the familiar faces. I hope you all enjoyed the meeting and the camaraderie. I hope you'll spread the word and join us again for the Spring 2026 meeting! **Becky Tipton**

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Bee Culture Magazine (link) American Bee Journal (link)

Use the links to subscribe directly...annual subscription rates under \$6 per month for both! This is fantastic information right at your fingertips. As part of your beekeeping experience, it's important to be up-to-date with the trends in bee biology, honey processing, the industry, and much more!



ASK QUINBY & REMI

Dear Quinby and Remi: I have a weak hive how should I get it through the winter? **Quinby and Remi answer:** The best answer would be, if you have another hive, combine it with another one. Even if you have 2 queens, go ahead and combine them, the bees will work it out. If you don't have a queen, you definitely need to combine them as they will not make it through the winter. Take your losses in the fall. The next answer would be if you only have one hive you need to work quickly to get them through the winter. It is

getting late to feed liquid syrup but we may still have some warm days ahead so you can try. Remember, this time of year feed 2:1 syrup, 2 parts by weight of sugar to 1 part water. You'll want to feed right above the cluster of bees either with a top feeder or jars right over the inner cover. Of course, if you use jars, you'll need an extra hive body or super to protect the jars and syrup.

Dear Quinby and Remi: Just sum it up for me- what should I have done to assure success for the winter management of my bees?

Quinby and Remi answer:

- Your hives should have a lot of bees and healthy queens
- Have your entrance reducers on, before mice get in!
- Make sure your hives have plenty of food.
- Make sure the bees are as varroa mite free as possible!

Remi and Quinby have a few comments about chores for the winter months! While we lie on the couch chewing on bones those people we live with will "spring" into action. Already the house smells like beeswax being cleaned, there is no better smell in the world. Then Cecil will work on making candles- dipped and molded. Joli is working on items to sell for the holidays at their farmers markets. She's been busy making lotion bars, lip balms, making soap and beeswax wraps (she swears a lot when she makes those). It's a great time to fix equipment or build new bee equipment.

Candy Board Recipe:

- Heat 3 cups of water to boiling.
- Slowly add 15 lbs. of sugar, stirring constantly.
- Add 1 tablespoon of apple cider vinegar (optional).
- Boil until the temperature reaches 234-240°F (soft ball stage on a candy thermometer)
- Remove from heat.
- Stir vigorously until the temperature drops to 200°F and pour into candy board frames or deep paper plates.



The NEKBA Bee Yard

As many of you know, we have struggled to get the varroa mites under control in our club yard. First, we did a mite count and had super high mite loads. We chose to treat with the new Varroxsan. Towards the end of the treatment, we did a mite check and had more mites than when we began the treatments! We then did 3 oxalic acid vaporization treatments, 5-7

days apart. We still had quite a few mites after that, so we treated with Formic Pro. Dr. Judy Wu-Smart used those hives to check for diseases and pesticides and came last week to get samples. We could only find 1 mite out of 6 hives!

Hives that we loaded with food early in October were very hungry in the middle of November! Cecil has fed syrup several times and we are hoping they make it through the winter. We combined several hives. The hives look very strong and have great populations. Judy was looking for frames of pollen to take and we struggled to find pollen stores!

Tips for November

- Feed 2:1, don't stress if it's 1.9:1 or 2.1:1 as the bees don't mind if it's off.
- Feed and treat for mites as needed, OA vapor or dribble will be popular choices this time of year.
- Double check your mouse guards, hives feeling stable and secure for winter winds.
- Check how gear is stored, mice and other creatures can get into storage areas as well.
- Besides your bees, be sure to get your winter gear ready!
- If you used a mite treatment that needs to be removed, be sure to do so.
- Check hives regularly-check to see if lids are in place, check for dead-outs.
- Make sure you have a brick or heavy rock on each hive.
- Move dead-outs into a storage area, clean out any dead bees, and store. Left in the bee yard, bees will rob out any remaining honey and destroy the combs. Also, mice can destroy your comb.
- Check your hives for honey stores —if you do not have enough, now is the time to feed. Your top hive body should be full of honey. That is an adequate supply for your bees to make it through the winter. Bees can utilize feed you provide this month.
- Subscribe to a monthly bee magazine and stay informed! Links to ABJ and Bee Culture in this newsletter.
- Renew your NEKBA membership!



Military/Veterans Apprentice Program

Mentors Needed for Our Military Scholarship Recipients! We're excited to announce that we have three new Military Scholarship recipients ready to start their beekeeping journey! But here's the thing — they need mentors to help guide them through their first year.

All three live in the Leavenworth area, so we're looking for volunteers nearby. Don't worry — you don't have to be a beekeeping expert! Mentoring is about sharing your experience, offering guidance, and serving as a valuable resource. If a question comes up that you're unsure about, you can always reach out to others in the community for support.

Each recipient will complete the Beginning Beekeeping Course offered by NEKBA and will receive new equipment to start their hives. Now they need someone local to help them navigate their first year, answer questions, and offer support and encouragement.

If you're interested in mentoring, please reach out to me at babradley82@gmail or call me at 785-248-1005! Together, we can help these new beekeepers thrive. **Buck Bradley, Military/Veteran Appr. Liaison**

Honey Plants

recent warm and dry conditions we are experiencing.



I'll be brief this month. We've reached that time of year when there isn't anything blooming in our area to talk about. At least not in significant enough quantities worth mentioning. However, to my surprise, I recently saw quite a large cluster of native sunflowers still blooming. They were growing near a culvert along the highway. There may also be some Heath Asters still blooming, but these dry conditions have taken a toll and dried them up. A few members have mentioned seeing some oddly timed blooms on shrubs and trees. I have a rhododendron currently covered in flower blooms. Stress can cause plants to produce these untimely blooms. I attribute that to

Before the holiday excitement is upon us, it's a good time to reflect on your beekeeping year. I hope you keep records of some kind. I will admit that I am not a great record keeper except for recording what is blooming and when. To me, a bloom record is a good indicator of when to put honey supers on or if I might need to feed my bees. The year can be feast or famine and honey bees can starve at any time of the year. Do you have a beekeeper's themed Christmas wish list? A book I would recommend is Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Peter Lindtner. This book is my go-to when I am trying to identify pollen sources by the color of the pollen. Lindtner has divided the book by the months of the year and encompasses most of the continental United States. Therefore, some plants listed will not grow in our location or exactly during the given month. The index is by botanical name and that can be a draw back for some. The best feature is that Lindtner has rated each plant species with a five-star system based on honey bee favorability. This book can be found at www.wicwas.com. I have also seen it available from various online used book sources.

Another handy book is 100 Plants to Feed the Bees from the Xerces Society. This paperback is a useful tool for identifying native bee species, and honey bees, along with the blooming flowers that they rely on. This book is available at Wicwas Press, the Xerces Society https://xerces.org/publications/books/100-plants-feedbees, Amazon, and online used book sellers.

Don't wait for spring. Fall is the smart time to plant. Roots grow strong in cool soil and allow for lots of spring blooms.

Jo Patrick, Honey Plants Chairman

2026 Funday – Save the Date-Saturday, June 6th, 2026, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS

Our annual Funday is shaping up nicely. Watch for more updates. We have confirmed our guest speakers and they are:

Dr. David Peck: Since 2024 Dr. Peck has served as the Academic Advisor for the Eastern Apicultural Society's Certified Master Beekeeper program. David researches honey bee behavior and the evolutionary host-parasite relationship between bees and Varroa mites. Since completing his doctoral work in Cornell's Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Dr. Peck has done field research and consulted to protect bees in both Newfoundland, Canada, and Anosy, Madagascar. He left Cornell to move to Greenwich, New York, where he now works for Betterbee. Dr. Peck develops and teaches classes on beekeeping and bee biology, bridges the gap between cutting-edge bee science and the beekeeping industry, and conducts research to improve our understanding of bee biology and to help keep honey bees healthy.

David Burns: David started beekeeping in the early 1990s and started a beekeeping business several years later. In 2006 David began blogging and uploading beekeeping videos to YouTube. His YouTube channel has grown to around 154,000 subscribers. He also produces a weekly beekeeping podcast. In 2020, David & Sheri were approached by Rockridge press to write the book, "Backyard Beekeeping: Everything You Need to Know to Start Your First Hive." He has produced a suite of online beekeeping courses that have become very popular among new beekeepers.

David produces queens, nucs, and packages. To make sure beekeepers had the best and latest scientific information on bees and beekeeping, David became a Certified Master Beekeeper through the Eastern Apicultural Society (2010). He also writes a weekly column for Bee Culture Magazine.

Dr. Judy Wu-Smart: (Associate Professor & Extension Specialist) received her MS at Washington State University under the advisement of Drs. Steve Sheppard and Carol Anelli and a PhD from University of Minnesota with Dr. Marla Spivak. She has been the director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab since 2015. At UNL, she and her team have been developing a robust pollinator health program for the Midwest region to help beekeepers, scientists, policy makers, and land managers understand the underlying stressors challenging bee health, such as improper management of pests and diseases and exposure to pesticides. Community engagement and promoting science literacy around these complicated farm-to-table issues are also key components of her research and extension education programs.



2026 Beekeeping Classes

Kristi Sanderson, Special Events Coordinator (classes) has set the 2026 dates for the Beekeeping Classes. The details are still being worked out so watch the NEKBA website for information at www.nekba.org and the next Buzzer.

Year 2 and Beyond:

February 21st Johnson County Extension Office, Olathe KS

Beginning Classes:

February 14 Dreher Bldg., Lawrence KS, Douglas Co Fairgrounds

TBD Wyandotte County Extension Office, KCKS
March 21 Johnson County Extension Office, Olathe, KS





57/4

Art Design in Beeswax

1st Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson 2nd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Beeswax

 $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

2nd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

3rd Zach Cooper-Wellington

Beeswax Candles

1st Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

2nd Joli Winer-Spring Hill

3rd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Chunk Honey

1st Susan Lane-Auburn

2nd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

3rd Jim Putnam-Lawrence

Cut Comb

1st Joli Winer-Spring Hill

2nd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

3rd Susan Lane-Auburn

Section Comb Honey

1st no award

2nd Zach Cooper-Wellington

3rd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Crystallized/Creamed Honey

1st Kristi Sanderson

Extracted Honey, Light

1st Susan Lane-Auburn

2nd Mary Lombardo-Roeland Park

3rd Jim Putnam-Lawrence

Extracted Honey, Dark

1st Susan Lane-Auburn

2nd Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

3rd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Frame of Honey

1st Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

2nd Susan Lane-Auburn

3rd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

Honey Gift Package

1st Joli Winer-Spring Hill 2nd Kristi Sanderson-Olathe

3rd Zach Cooper-Wellington

Black Label

Samatha Bell-Topeka

Sweepstakes

Stepheni Phillips-Hutchinson

Judges Choice

Susan Lane (chunk honey) -Auburn

Youth Division

Extracted Honey, Light

1st Phillip Sieg-Overland Park

2nd Bailey Kruse-Spring Hill

Extracted Honey, Dark

1st Prairie Hills Middle School-Hutchinson

Frame of Honey

1st Bailey Kruse-Spring Hill

2nd Prairie Hills Middle School-Hutchinson

Honey Gift Package

1st no award

2nd Bailey Kruse-Spring Hill

Youth Sweepstakes

Bailey Kruse-Spring Hill



NORTHEASTERN KS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOC. 2025/2026 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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I would like to receive the	e newsletter, <i>The Buzzer,</i> by email Ye	es N	0	
Membership Northeaste	rn KS Beekeepers per year (July-Dec. :	\$12.50)	\$25.00	
Additional family members wanting voting rights \$1.00 per person			\$1.00	
Additional family member	r's name		<u>—</u>	
(Youth Membership (18 years of age or under)			\$12.50	
Membership for Kansas Honey Producers Association			\$25.00	
American Bee Journal (discounted rate through association)			1 year \$29.75	
Bee Culture Magazine (or subscribe online at www.BeeCulture.com)		e.com)	1 year \$40.00	
Scholarship / Military/Ve	teran's Appr. Donation			
		Total		

Make checks payable to: NEKBA or Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Assn.

Mail to: Robert Burns, 7601 W 54th Terr., Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 ph. 913-481-3504, <u>rburnshoney@gmail.com</u> You may join, re-new, register, donate and pay online at <u>www.nekba.org</u>

MARKET PLACE

MENTORING-SWEET PRAIRIE HONEY

Need help with your hives? -Spring inspections, installing packages, making splits, queen evaluation, diagnosis of pests and diseases, mite monitoring, and treatment, etc. I can help you with your beekeeping needs! I am a certified master beekeeper with 30+ years of beekeeping experience. I will leave you with a written course of action after our session at your hives. Call or text 913-768-4961 or email Kristi Sanderson at sandersonk09@gmail.com for pricing and appointment times.

BEEKEEPERS.COM

<u>Beekeepers.com</u> (Jordy's Honey Company) in Lenexa, KS. Beekeepers.com is your only local full-service beekeeping store. We carry a full line of Beekeeping Supplies, Protective Clothing, Bottles, Bee Packages, Nucs and Queens. Visit our website Beekeepers.com, to view our entire line of beekeeping supplies. You can also shop in-person at our store in Lenexa. We ship queens directly to YOU! Order at QueenBees.com. Queens available March - October. Our hours are Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00, Saturday 9:00-12:00. You can find our honey at The Overland Park Farmers Market. **Robert Hughes**, 14054 W 107th St, Lenexa, KS 66215, 913-681-5777 or email Info@Beekeepers.com

COTTIN'S HARDWARE & RENTAL

Cottin's stocks a full line of beekeeping equipment year-round including items manufactured by Harvest Lane Honey, Little Giant, and Bug Baffler. Products include hives, supers, frames, foundations, extractors, tools, and protective apparel. We also stock a full line of Home Brewing Mead Making supplies. Located in Lawrence, KS at 1832 Massachusetts Street (South of Dillon's). We are open Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Call us at 785-843-2981 or email us at hardware@sunflower.com.

8

CB'S HONEY

CB's Honey offers pure raw Kansas honey available in 5 gal buckets. Grafted queens and queen cells, and a limited number of nucs/packages. CB's Honey | Facebook. Located just SE of Topeka. 4521 SE 61st Street, Berryton, KS 66409. Call or text Cheryl Burkhead at 785-224-9077 or cherylbhoney@gmail.com

CEDAR RIDGE BEES

5 Frame Nucs for Sale. We are your local Premier Bee Products Dealer specializing in plastic foundation made entirely in the U.S.A. We sell bucket feeders and other bee equipment. Call or text Philip Knaus at 785-581-4216 or contact us at cedarridgebeehives@gmail.com - Check out our bees and products at www.cedarridgebees.com Cedar Ridge Bees 585 N 500 Rd, Overbrook, KS 66524.

T CREEK BEES AND HONEY – Tecumseh/Berryton, KS

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HONEY BEE BIOLOGY AND BEEKEEPING

BIWLY M. CARDA NOR LABERCY JOHN COMORD THEOLOGICK

Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, Third Edition, Dewey M. Caron, and Lawrence John Connor

\$90 postage included. This book should stay on the dashboard of every beekeeper's truck. It's that good, and that necessary. Kim Flottum, Bee Culture. This comprehensive textbook easily replaces many beginner books while adding comprehensive details of bee biology essential to becoming a successful beekeeper and student of the honey bee. First released in 1999, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping is widely accepted as a major textbook of Apiculture (beekeeping). Beekeepers and bee clubs use it to teach other beekeepers. Universities use it to teach college students bee biology and beekeeping. It

concentrates on the 'why', 'how' and 'when' of beekeeping. It explains bee and beekeeping basics in a manner meaningful to people who lack an extensive background in biology. Yet it is not over-simplified and provides a meaningful source of beekeeping information for the informed beekeeper. The Third Edition has been carefully edited, updated, and expanded to 480 pages. New chapters have been added, as have colorful new graphics and photographs. The Glossary has also been expanded. **Wicwas Press LLC Kalamazoo, MI 49001** - www.wicwas.com

The Association does not endorse nor evaluate the advertisements, products, or services offered in the Buzzer.

Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association Robert Burns, Treasurer 7601 W 54th Terr Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-1129

Address Service Requested

Meeting:

Monday, Nov 17th, 2025 – Johnson County Extension Office

The Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association

Membership is open to anyone interested in bees or bee culture. Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (December 31-December 31) for the first in the family joining. Those joining in July or later in the year may pay \$12.50 for ½ year. Additional members of a family wanting voting privileges shall be assessed dues at \$1.00 per year. Youth memberships (18 years of age and younger) are \$12.50 per year. Please submit new memberships and renewals to the treasurer or on-line at www.nekba.org.

The Bee Buzzer is the official publication of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers' Association, Inc. and is published monthly. Commercial ads are accepted in the newsletter for a fee; non-commercial ads by paid members are accepted & are free.

The library of the association is free to all members. Books may be checked out at the meetings and kept for a period of 30 days. The bee publications, *The American Bee Journal* and *Bee Culture* can be subscribed to through the treasurer or on-line. The *American Bee Journal* is offered at a discount through the Association only.

The Association meets each month, generally on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m. except during the months of January and July. This is a non-profit organization; elected officers serve without pay. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Check *The Bee Buzzer* or website at www.nekba.org each month for the actual date, time, and location. If the weather is bad, call an officer or check the website to find out if the meeting will be held or cancelled.

2025 Officers

Ed Ed Office 15	
President: Cheryl Burkhead, 4521 SE 61st St., Berryton, KS 66409 cbfritz@aol.com	785-224-9077
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Visit on-line at www.nekba.org. Save time. Join, re-new, or register.