

Chai~Lights



February 2012

8 Shevat - 6 Adar 5772

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Gloria on Lemon Trees and Tu B'Shevat - page 31

George & Muriel Swartz in Israel - page 33

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

February 2012

8 Shevat - 6 Adar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. Services are conducted every Friday.</p>			1 Men's Club Game Night 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Steve & Barbara Smith Erica Lieberman- Garrett</i>	4
5 KJCC Sisterhood Meeting 9:30 a.m. Yardena's Final Jerusalem Lecture 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Alan Beth's computer classes resume 6:30 p.m.	8 Tu B'Shevat	9	10 Stuart Sax & Gloria Avner <i>Joel & Linda Pollack (who will also re-marry on their 50th anniv.)</i>	11 Torah Learning w/ Rabbi Agler 10:00 a.m.
12 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. KJCC Annual Meeting 11:00	13	14	15	16	17 Alan Beth <i>Susan Ellner</i>	18
19 Dinner at 5:00, then "Going Home," a journey to Romania w/ Steve Smith.	20	21 Part II of Digital Pho- tography w/ Barbara & Richard Knowles 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24 Steve Steinbock & Yardena Kamely 6:30 Service <i>Jim & Rita Williams</i>	25 Chai-Yaking w/ Dave Mont 1:00 p.m.
26	27	28	29			

2011 - 2012 Officers and Board

President
Stuart Sax

Executive Vice President
Bernie Ginsberg

Vice Presidents
Gloria Avner – Marc Bloom – Susan Gordon

Treasurer
Linda Pollack

Recording Secretary
Beth Hayden

Financial Secretary
Rene Rose

Corresponding Secretary
Joyce Peckman

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Joan Boruszak – David Gitin – Steve Hartz
Kurt Kluger – Dave Mont – Medina Roy
Gene Silverman – Sam Vinicur

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Steve Friedman

Adult Education
Yardena Kamely

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Mary Lee Singer

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Jeff Schocket
Steve Steinbock
Alan Beth

Newsletter
Lisa Richardson Rutherford
Editor

CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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P.O. Box 1332
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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Stuart Sax



I'll get right to the point. Money. We have spent a lot of it recently and we need more of it. Even the small repairs add up to big dollars. Some repairs are planned; others grab us by surprise. So what do we do about it? Simple. We raise dues to match the expenses incurred. Right? Wrong!! Not on my watch.

The Budget Committee met recently and after hours of "what ifs?" we arrived at a budget for the coming fiscal year that we hope will allow us to continue to provide a safe and secure environment for our continued growth without having to raise our dues. It can be done with a little extra effort on the part of each member of this congregation. Like supporting as many events as possible. Many have extremely reasonable fees. Like our game nights and movie nights. Where one can enjoy an evening of fun with friends or view a new or classic film for less than five dollars. And most of our Shabbat dinners and Adult Education offerings cost less than meal at Burger King and the food is way better! And not even Starbucks can match Marc Bloom's coffee!!

In the coming months, there will be additional options for giving that will cause each of us to do a bit of introspection to determine

just how important the future of this congregation is to every member. If giving up the cost of one trip to a restaurant each month could insure that all of our expenses are covered, isn't that meaningful and attainable? Remember the days of congregations with mandatory building fees? We do not have them and, hopefully, never will. Steve Hartz is chairing a committee to look into long range planning and capital growth but we all know that money is the foundation of any programs that we plan. Remembering yahrtzeits and family mitzvahs with a donation to the KJCC is another way to help us grow. Sponsoring onegs and purchasing Tree of Life leaves, Meditation Garden bricks and benches, and book plates for our prayer books are additional ways to show your love and help our bottom line at the same time.

Another way to contribute and get a great return on your investment is to support the fundraising efforts of our Sisterhood. They have a solid track record of making things happen. Their major fundraiser in March should be on everyone's bucket list as should the women's and the family seder in April. Give a little. You'll get a lot in return. ◇

Nosh

Rabbi Agler and Torah Learning Feb. 11

Rabbi Richard Agler will be back at KJCC on Saturday morning, February 11th, to offer another in his series of Torah Learning Sessions, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (The Torah portion that week will be *Yitro*, Hebrew for Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. This is the Torah portion where God speaks – audibly – to the entire Hebrew nation encamped at the base of Mt. Sinai as they await the gift of the Ten Commandments and Torah. Rabbi Agler finds nuggets and fascinating elements in the driest of Torah portions. Imagine what he'll do with one so naturally filled with drama.) As usual, the morning will begin with a short service, to be followed by the discussion. And though led and guided by the Rabbi, it is indeed a discussion, an exploration of the Torah's ideas, non-dogmatic and open and often riveting. If you haven't joined in before, this would be the perfect time.

Alan's Computer Classes to Resume

On Tuesday evening, February 7th at 6:30, Alan Beth will resume his computer classes at KJCC. If you attended Alan's classes last spring, you know what a unique and rich source of both practical and insider information he is. (For those of you who don't know, Alan designed the brilliant KJCC database, which we're trying to get him to market to the outside world.) Previous classes have covered operating systems, security and understanding how to procure and use programs for computers, tablets and smart phones. Classes are intended to be on the first Tuesday of the month, at least for several months. Bring your problems (computer-related only, please) and your how-to questions.

Medina's Mother the Late Bloomer

Everyone loves a sweet story. Well, here's one. Medina Roy's mother Bianka, who's 96, recently moved to the Jewish Home in Miami. (The

TREE OF LIFE

Jim & Joan Boruszak

in honor of

**Joel & Linda Pollack's
50th Anniversary**

independent living wing, mind you.) As you know, such places always have lots of activities, including crafts. One of those crafts was conceiving and drawing/painting greeting cards. She'd never pursued anything artistic in her life, but the resulting cards were so beautiful that they're now being offered for sale in the KJCC Gift Shop. They really are charming. Come and take a look.

Yardena's Jerusalem Lecture Re-scheduled

Originally scheduled for January 29th, the final installment of Yardena's lecture series on the history of Jerusalem will take place Sunday, February 5th at KJCC beginning at 7:00 p.m. Part IV of this fascinating series will focus on Muslim Jerusalem under the sovereignty of the Mamelukes and Ottoman Turks beginning about 1,200 years ago. She will conclude with an overview of the problems facing Jewish Jerusalem today. (It was a restoration that took almost 2,000 years; you expected things would suddenly get easy?)

*The KJCC offers its deepest condolences to
Jerri and Ken Grossman
and their family on the death of Jerri's mother,
Iris Jackson.*

February Birthdays

1st.....	Evan Grossman
1st.....	Roy Pollack
2nd.....	Linda Rutkin
3rd.....	Caeleigh Stuart
3rd.....	Dick Bromwich
5th.....	Rebecca Smith Strasser
5th.....	Robin Kantor
6th.....	Martin Field
7th.....	Erica Lieberman-Garrett
7th.....	Larry Jacobs
9th.....	Deborah Kaplan
9th.....	Linda Pincus
9th.....	Ron Garrett
10th.....	Shirley Burnett
12th.....	Johnny Knowles
12th.....	Paul Roberts
13th.....	Jerrold Benowitz
14th.....	Debbie Madnick
14th.....	Steven B. Sanders
15th.....	Judith Weber
18th.....	Beth Hayden
21st.....	David J. Marmar
22nd.....	Harry J.C. Friedman
24th.....	Emily Caryn Gershowitz
24th.....	Muriel Swartz
24th.....	Suzie Greenman
25th.....	Rita Conklin
26th.....	Jim Williams
26th.....	John D. Schur
27th.....	Betsy Grossman
28th.....	Arlene Line

Her Daughter the Lawyer

Stuart—

The most amazing and wonderful thing happened on the 19th of January. Our daughter Sabrina Rachel Gillespie was sworn into the New York State Bar and is now officially known as Sabrina R. Gillespie, Esq. There is no prouder mother on G-d's green Earth. I want to share this wonderful news with my *mishpocha!* I left for California on January 5th and returned to the Keys on January 17th the proud mother of a wonderful young woman who makes my heart go

February Anniversaries

		Years
9th	Uri & Liliam Kameley.....	20
11th	Joel & Linda Pollack.....	50
21st	Murray & Claire Cooper.....	64

pitter-pat, as she does all that meet her! Love to Lauren and hope to see you all very soon.

—Miriam

A Request To Help the Keys' Hungry

I am a member of KJCC, but you probably don't know me because I never attend services. Well, almost never.

Recently, I started helping out at a local food bank, located at the Burton Memorial Methodist Church, almost next door. As far as I know, it's the only food bank in Key Largo. Indeed, people use it from as far as Marathon, so I'm guessing nothing exists further south.

Donations are always needed, for basics such as peanut butter, canned tuna, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, pasta and tomato sauce, and much more. I was surprised to see how fast things go out the door at the food bank, and how difficult a time they have maintaining supplies. So I'm asking KJCC members to help.

Members could bring their donations to KJCC, and I'd be happy to coordinate and pick the items up. Or you could call me at 852-1183 or e-mail me at smiller52@gmail.com.

-Best Regards,
Steven Miller

BOOK PLATE

From Keys Concert Series Committee

in memory of

Gary Kreitman

Steve Smith Shares a Personal Journey

Steve and Barbara Smith took a sentimental journey recently, back to Romania where Steve's family came from. Steve has turned this emotional trip into a PowerPoint presentation he'll be sharing with KJCC, on Sunday, February 19th. A Romanian-themed dinner will begin at 5:00, followed by Steve's presentation. Dinner is \$5 for KJCC members and \$10 for non-members and guests. Please R.S.V.P. by February 10th to Stuart at president@keysjewishcenter.com.

"Lunch and Learn" with Rabbi Agler.

On Sunday, January 29th at 1:00 p.m., Rabbi Agler will give the first of two talks on "How to Lead a Friday Night Service." This will be of special interest not only to anyone who has ever led a service or thinks they might like to try, but to anyone interested in the how and why of what we do together every Erev Shabbat. Anyone who was present at Rabbi Agler's talk on how to prepare and present a "D'var Torah" will tell you

that he is an entertaining, insightful and inspiring communicator and teacher. The class will be short, about an hour and a half, and a light, delicious lunch will be served (a second session will be held in March, date to be announced). Come to the schoolroom. You will be glad you did.

-Gloria

Religious Leaders Honor Fallen Homeless

On December 21st, three KJCC members participated in the National Homeless Person's Memorial Day Service. We honored eleven people who died this year, many fewer than last year. Names were read aloud and candles lit for each person. David Gitin and I took turns, along with Reverend Kerry Foote from Burton Memorial, reading the names. Reverend Pam Feeser, from the multi-faith group F.O.C.U.S., gave a talk. Father Charles Cannon gave each person a blessing, and Carol Steinbock, David, and I recited the mourner's Kaddish.

-Gloria

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 305-852-3959.

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 Bea Graham, 305-852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. Quantities to fit your needs and can be mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 305-852-0833.

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor - To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman, 305-451-0665.

Meditation Garden - Participate in our newest venture. A beautiful garden is in progress and you can be part of this exciting new project by making a donation for an engraved brick, an engraved bench, or for plants in honor or memory of a loved one or event. Call Steve Steinbock for information, 305-394-0143.

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for Siddurim - Call Carol Steinbock to arrange your donation, 305-852-6152.

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Nancy Kluger, 305-852-4353.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Carol Steinbock, 305-852-6152 to make your donation.

Advertisement In Chai-Lights or Directory - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights and/or annually in the Directory. Call Gene Silverman 305-664-3316 for rates.

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

New Year's Blessing of the Fleet

On January 1st, KJCC President Stuart Sax, Ritual Chair Gloria Avner, and KJCC's neighbor, Reverend Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial Methodist, stood at the top of Whale Harbor Bridge looking out at a long, snaking procession of boats great and small, as far as the eye could see. It was our second ecumenical event in ten days. (*Photos of this annual event appear on Page 23 in Photo Gallery — Ed.*)

Each boat approached the bridge in turn for its (her?) blessing. The day itself augured well: blue skies, calm seas, painterly skies, and warm breezes. Kerry, Stuart, and I took turns reciting blessings over the boats, their passengers and their worthy endeavors (loved Kerry's "May your wet side stay down and your dry side up").

-Gloria

Rabbi Agler's D'var Torah Class

We were 18 in all, sitting in the schoolroom on the last Thursday evening of 2011. It was a significant number (connoting both blessing and life) and a significant evening. In just over an hour, Rabbi Agler gave us a presentation on how

to create an educational, interesting, inspiring, entertaining, and *brief* "D'var Torah." We were all spellbound. He generously prepared a one-sheet guide, with all "how-to" elements clearly explained, and included excellent sources useful to the preparer. Write me (geetavner@gmail.com) if you are interested; I will e-mail you a copy of your very own. We will also be posting it on the KJCC web site.

-Gloria

Linda & Joel to Get Re-Married

Of all nights, make sure to be at KJCC on Friday, February 10th for the 8:00 service. It will, to say the least, be a special night for Joel & Linda Pollack and everyone who loves them. Yes, they'll be celebrating their 50th anniversary (and yes, cake will be available at the oneg). Most importantly, though, you'll want to be there because they're going to be getting married all over again. For real. Rabbi Agler will be there to conduct the ceremony. For details, please see page 14 of this issue. It would be wonderful if we could truly pack the house that night. And don't forget to bring a hankie.

Memo

To: All KJCC members

From: 2012-2013 Nominating Committee

Subject: Recommended slate of Officers and Directors for 2012-2013

Following the instructions in the KJCC by-laws, the committee chair was appointed by the KJCC president. The committee was duly constituted when three KJCC members were chosen by the chair. This Nominating Committee has met as instructed and presented its recommendations for the slate below of 2012-2013 Officers and Board to the sitting KJCC Board of Directors, which approved it. The slate next will be formally presented to the general KJCC membership for final approval at the Annual Meeting at 11:00 on Sunday, February 12th. All KJCC members in good standing and present are eligible to vote in this election:

President: Stuart Sax

Executive Vice-President: Bernie Ginsberg

Vice Presidents: Gloria Avner, Marc Bloom, Susan Gordon

Treasurer: Linda Pollack

Recording Secretary: Beth Hayden

Financial Secretary: Rene Rose

Corresponding Secretary: Joyce Peckman

Directors: Joan Boruszak, David Gitin, Steve Hartz, Dave Mont, Medina Roy, Gene Silverman, Sam Vinicur

Respectfully submitted,

2012-2013 Nominating Committee: Sam Vinicur (Chair), Alan Beth, Bernie Ginsberg, Steve Steinbock

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

BOOKPLATES

Bookplates are available for our new siddurim. Donation is \$36 per plate. These can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Place your order for one or several to support this new project. Use this form to send in your wording with your check. Be a regular presence at Services by having your message inscribed in our new prayer books.

In Honor of _____

for (occasion) _____

By _____

or

In Memory of _____

By _____

We will send a notification card to the honoree or giftee at your request.

Provide mailing information here: _____

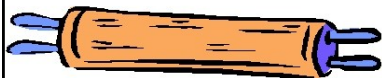


Contact Carol Steinbock for further information:

(305) 852-6152/cac147@gmail.com

Mail to KJCC, PO Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070

Use back of form for additional information.

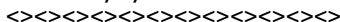


In Memoriam February 2012

In Memory Of

Lou Roazen

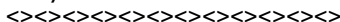
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Sunnie Bernstein

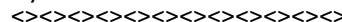
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

Kitty Nyman

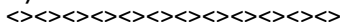
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Ted Nyman

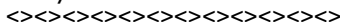
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Eve Greenstein

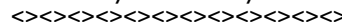
By Barnet & Ellen Coltman



In Memory Of

Robert Kinney

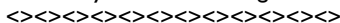
By Gerri Emkey



In Memory Of

William Feinberg

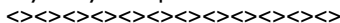
By Arthur Feinberg



In Memory Of

Elsie Gilderman

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman



In Memory Of

Rose Gilson

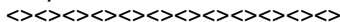
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

Charles Gilson

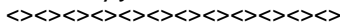
By Michael & Suzanne Gilson



In Memory Of

Joseph Gorson

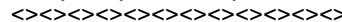
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Samuel Wolfe

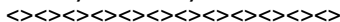
By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



In Memory Of

Nicholas Goldenberg

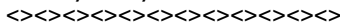
By Mrs. Marty Graham



In Memory Of

Robert Greenbaum

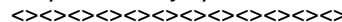
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Ilona Ban

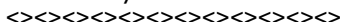
By Franklin & Judy Greenman



In Memory Of

Chalom Haviv

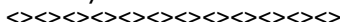
By Leo Haviv



In Memory Of

Fred H. Hermann

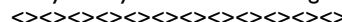
By Robert Hermann



In Memory Of

Fannie Phillips

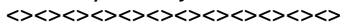
By Henry & Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Isaac Jacobson

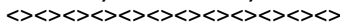
By Melvin Jacobson



In Memory Of

Pinchas Kamely

By Michal Kamely



In Memory Of

J. George Cooper

By David & Lois Kaufman

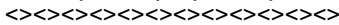


In Memoriam February 2012

In Memory Of

Sylvia Kay

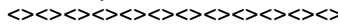
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

Joseph Krissel

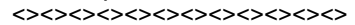
By Michael Krissel



In Memory Of

M. Teresa Astray-Caneda

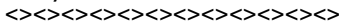
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

Samuel Marmar

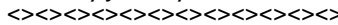
By David & Pamela Marmar



In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

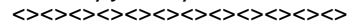
By Jim & Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

Irene Nobil

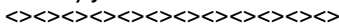
By Jim & Lynn Nobil



In Memory Of

William Pollack

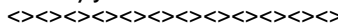
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Malka Frank

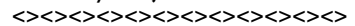
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Ida O. Present

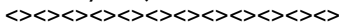
By Marjorie Present



In Memory Of

Amos M. Present

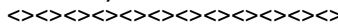
By Marjorie Present



In Memory Of

Shirley Horowitz

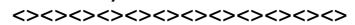
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

Al Roller

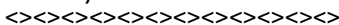
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

Irving Sanders

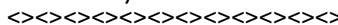
By Steven B. Sanders



In Memory Of

John A. Schur

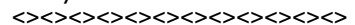
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

Miriam Blinder

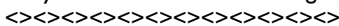
By Steven & Barbara Smith



In Memory Of

Sara J. Cohen

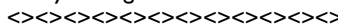
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Ann R. Kapulskey

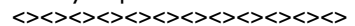
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Morris Estrin

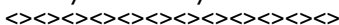
By Ralph & Lillian Tallent



In Memory Of

Minnie Berger

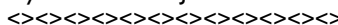
By Mark & Sofy Wasser



In Memory Of

David C. Willner

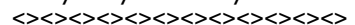
By Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner



In Memory Of

Morris Feinberg

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe



Sisterhood Lauren Sax



As I was presiding over our January meeting, a song made famous by the Beatles, “Come Together,” rang in my ears. There was much discussion over past and future events sponsored (and to be sponsored) by Sisterhood at the meeting, and many sign-up sheets were also being passed around the table. Much of the talk centered around the difficulty in getting KJCC members to respond early to various temple functions as well as recruiting Sisterhood ladies to help on committees. However, by the end of the meeting, our sheets of paper were full of names and helpers that we would be able to count on for our very special upcoming projects. And that’s what it’s all about.

We all came together for a fun and extremely filling dinner at our last Shabbat Dinner. For the first time, Directory and Chai-Lights advertisers were our guests for dinner. Thanks to a wonderful (and anonymous) donation, there was no charge to members for attending. I know I praise them often, but BIG applause to Erica and her entire crew of ladies for how they handle everything, from set-up to clean up. As I have said before, it is no easy task to clean up after 70-plus people and then quickly get reorganized for the oneg. We all should appreciate the hard work that goes into the planning and the execution of these Shabbat dinners.

As of this writing, big plans are being made for our Chinese New Year Tea. Teresa Kwalick and Kathy Shabathai are “coming together” to orchestrate an unusual and fun afternoon of schmoozing and noshing, strictly for Sisterhood. I will report back in the next issue of Chai-Lights.

Mary Lee Singer and Maryon Gould are “coming together” on our Passover Seder. Look for the promotion in this month’s Chai-Lights and “come together” to join us. (April 7th might seem like a long way off, but it’s

not.) The evening is always a joyous one, with Jim Boruszak and Gloria Avner conducting a magical seder. There is always plenty of food and drink, and even doggie bags available at the end. Seating is limited, so make sure to get your RSVP in ASAP.

“Come together” to see “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” on Sunday, March 18th. Joyce Peckman says there are still a few tickets left. As usual, we will carpool up to Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables. Their plays are always of the highest caliber and should not be missed. Call Joyce right away to reserve your seat.

Joan Kay is calling all Sisterhood ladies to “come together” at her house in Ocean Pointe for a monthly women’s discussion group. Topics will be anything and everything—Jewish and non-Jewish. Our first organizational meeting will be Monday, January 30th at 7 p.m. Call or e-mail me if you plan to attend.

Please “come together” to help make our major Sisterhood fundraiser a big hit. By now you should have circled Saturday, March 10th on your calendars and received the mailing. The fabulous Sarge will be onstage live at the KJCC. Sarge is the ultimate entertainer, and it should prove to be not only a hysterically funny evening but also an enjoyable one. At our highest donation level, you get to have dinner with Sarge at a local waterfront restaurant before the show. We will be selling tickets to the public, so hurry and send back your response cards. For questions, contact Nancy Kluger or me.

So “Come Together,” as I just need “A Little Help From My Friends.” Please “HELP” us with our cause and be a “Hero” as, “United We Stand,” we can do just about anything for our KJCC. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions. All donations made after the fifth of the month will appear in the following month's Chai-Lights. When you make a donation, please signify the fund it is to go to and the recognition of the name or names to be listed.

<i>Book Plates</i> Keys Concert Series Committee	<i>In Memory of</i> Gary Kreitman	Knowles, Richard & Barbara	loved ones, past and present
<i>General Fund</i> Bitton, Michel & Sylvie Coeurjoly	<i>In Honor of</i> Ellner, Susan	Lieberman-Garrett, Erica	family's visit from Toronto
Gould, Maryon	Jim Boruszak's birthday	Mahjongettes	KJCC
Hartz, Steve & Jan		Shabathai, Kathy	Joe's birthday
Irizarry, Raymond	thank you for the warm welcome on our visit	Gross, David & Patti	Alvin Gross
Kwalick, Teresa	Jim Boruszak's birthday and anniversary	<i>Tree of Life</i> Boruszak, Jim & Joan	Joel & Linda Pollack's 50th anniversary
Sachs, Joseph & Susan	Jim Boruszak's birthday	<i>Yartzeit Contributions</i> Cohn, Nancy	<i>In Memory of</i> David Cohn
Singer, Mary Lee	Jim Boruszak's birthday	Coltman, Barney & Ellen	Robert Coltman
<i>General Fund</i> Sachs, Joseph & Susan	<i>In Memory of</i> Alvan Field	Emkey, Gerri	Nathan Weisberg
<i>Oneg Fund</i> Boruszak, Joan	<i>In Honor of</i> Jim's birthday	Isenberg, Henry & Patricia	Ernest Isenberg
Knowles, Richard & Barbara	Moir'a's and Richard's birthdays	Olsen, Gerald & Sheila	Betty Weinstein
		Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	Rose Steinberg
		Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	Sally Sussman
		Taramona, Hermine	Norma Robinson

How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

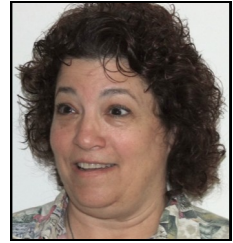
Book Plates: We are, after all, the People of the Book. For \$36 an inscription of your choice will be placed in one of our Siddurim or Tanakhs. An example: "In Loving Memory of my grandfather, who first taught me about the treasures that lie between these covers."

Tree of Life Leaves: We have two beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$50 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. No one ever made tastier blintzes."

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The Best Jewish Food Books of 2011

The Jewish Daily Forward, commonly referred to as simply *The Forward* (or, as my grandfather lovingly called it, *The Forverts*) has been chronicling Jewish life since 1897, when it began publication only in Yiddish. The legendary newspaper, now weekly, has come out with its list of the best Jewish food books of 2011. Among them are "Inside the Jewish Bakery: Recipes and Memories From the Golden Age of Jewish Baking," by Stanley Ginsberg and Norman Berg; "The Brisket Book: A Love Story With Recipes," by Stephanie Pierson; "Plenty," (a vegetarian cookbook) by Yotam Ottolenghi; and "Craft Beer Bar Mitzvah," a beer memoir by Jeremy Cowan and James Sullivan. Cowan is the founder and owner of He'Brew, believed to be the only American Jewish beer company. For the complete list of books with detailed annotations, go to <http://blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot/147917/>. (*The Forward*, 12-15-11)

And He Doesn't Drive on *Shabbat*

President Obama recently appointed Jacob (Jack) Lew as White House Chief of Staff. Lew is the first Orthodox Jew to hold this position. He lives an observant Jewish lifestyle, eats kosher, does not drive on *Shabbat* and is a member of an Orthodox synagogue in Potomac, Maryland. He has close ties to the Jewish community and is a staunch supporter of Israel. Under President Clinton, Lew was an adviser on domestic issues, including health care reform, and then moved on to head the Office of Management and Budget, a Cabinet-level position, where he was credited with helping balance the budget after years of deficits and at the end of the Clinton presidency providing the country with a large budgetary surplus. Rahm Emanuel, Obama's first Chief of Staff and now mayor of Chicago, and David Axelrod, former Obama

Senior Adviser who now heads Obama's reelection campaign, are also both Jewish, but neither are Orthodox. (*The Forward*, 1-9-12)

"Hidden Jews" Can Find Their Roots

Beginning over 500 years ago, during the Spanish Inquisition and the expulsion from Spain by Ferdinand and Isabella, Jews who wished to remain Jews dispersed across the globe. Those who stayed either had to convert or skillfully develop ways to hide their true identities. The latter group – no one really knows how numerous – are known as *Anusim*, (the Hebrew word meaning "forced"), or more commonly *Marranos* (Spanish for "swine," incidentally), *Conversos* and crypto-Jews. The descendants of these "Hidden Jews" now have access to a new online database, *NameYourRoots.com*, which allows anyone who suspects they might somehow have roots in Judaism to find out, or at least try. Launched at the end of December, the website has an extensive database of Sephardic Jewish names; individuals can begin their search by looking up the origins of their surname. Sylvie Sontag, the person responsible for the website's content, said that there is little documentation from the time of the Spanish Inquisition and that the major government decrees forcing Jews and Muslims to convert to Christianity or leave the country happened in 1492 and 1501. Jews who left the region from Iberia not only hid their identities, but also were deeply fearful of being exposed; that fear started during the Inquisition, but it eventually became culturally ingrained and was passed down for generations. They also often changed their names.

The website is provided free of charge in English, Spanish and Portuguese. It relies on sources gathered from museums, Spanish

communal archives, geographical locations where people with Spanish Jewish names were registered, and Jewish names found in cemeteries and cities. According to Sontag, the number of descendants of the *Anusim* who are returning to their Jewish roots is steadily growing in places such as South America, Spain, Portugal and, interestingly, the southwestern United States. (*Jerusalem Post*, 12-28-11)

And the Winner is...

In a poll sponsored by American Airlines and Gaycities.com, Tel Aviv has come in as the Best Gay City of 2011, winning 43 percent of the votes, followed by New York City (14 percent) and Toronto (7 percent). "Winning this competition constitutes an additional strengthening of the fact that Tel Aviv-Jaffa is a city that respects all people and allows everyone to live according to his/her own principles," Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai said. More than 5,000 gay tourists visited Tel Aviv this past June for its annual pride parade. (www.jta.org, 1-11-12)

And He Still Makes House Calls

Dr. Fred Goldman, an internist who celebrated his 100th birthday in December, is the oldest licensed physician practicing medicine in Ohio. He works three days a week, seeing twelve patients a day, at the "dump." That's what he calls his non-computerized office. He also makes house calls. "Hell, when I became a doctor in 1935," Goldman said, "Freud was still seeing patients." During World War II, he enlisted in the Navy and recalls celebrating Passover while in the service. "The Navy sent a rabbi ashore to celebrate Passover with wine," he said. "Suddenly, everyone around me was Jewish." Goldman's world-famous older brother Leon, who died in 1997 at the age of 91, founded the University of Cincinnati's dermatology department and was the father of laser surgery. Fred Goldman has survived major heart surgery and prostate cancer as well as having outlived most of his patients. He lost his wife of 60 years in 1998. He stopped hiking in the wilds of Alaska ("the place I love") in 2007. When he was asked

how it felt to be 100, he said, "Most people my age can't feel anything. They're dead." (*The Associated Press*, 12-18-11)

Reclaiming Names in France

At the end of November, French citizens who wanted to return to their former Jewish surnames were triumphant when they received permission from the country's Justice Ministry. "Until now we could not go back to our old names," said Celine Masson, one of the leaders of *La Force du Nom*, an organization that successfully lobbied the government to have the law changed. For centuries, having a Jewish surname meant possible exposure to anti-Semitism, which is one reason why in France – and many other parts of the world – a long list of Jewish personalities from Leon Trotsky (Lev Davidovich Bronshtein) to Lenny Bruce (Leonard Alfred Schneider), have adopted other names. "Many wanted to forget and not have their children go through what they did. But now many people are claiming back their identity," Masson said. (*Jerusalem Post*, 12-2-11)

I'm En Route: A Pastrami on Rye, Please

Millions of GPS (global positioning system) devices are sold each year with pre-installed points of interest (POI). Most also allow the user to install custom POIs. Now, for eighteen dollars a year, you can subscribe to *KosherRestaurantsGPS.com*, a database containing over 1,000 kosher restaurants that will give you addresses, phone numbers and directions while you are traveling in the United States and Canada. The database also contains 2,000 locations where you can find an Orthodox *minyan*, a list of *mikvahs* and even *Tfillot Haderech* (prayers for the traveler). Free monthly updates come with a one-year subscription. (www.worldjewishdaily.com, 12-28-11)

World Champion Debaters

Omer and Sela Nevo, Israeli brothers from Tel Aviv University, won the World Universities Debating Championships in the English-As-Second-Language category, held in Manila, Philippines, on January 3rd. More than 3,000

teams from around the world participated in the competition. Six months ago, the brothers won first place at the European championship that was held in Ireland. This is the second time in the past three years that an Israeli team has taken the world championship title. (www.ynetnews.com , 1-3-12)

In Memoriam

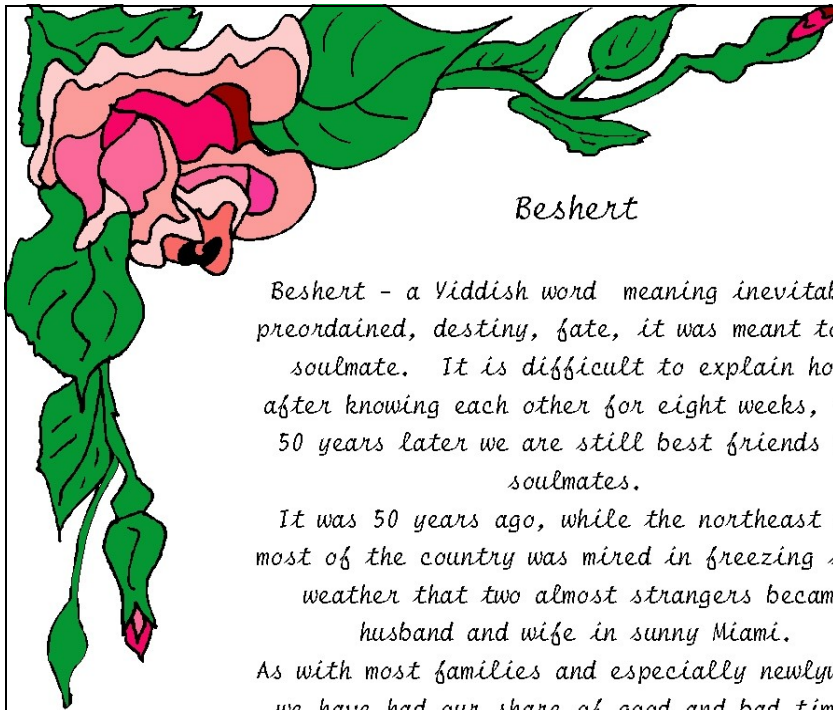
- Thomas T. Johnson, the judge who imposed a major setback for Holocaust deniers, has died at the age of 88. Johnson, a World War II veteran, made history in 1981 when as a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge he ruled that the Holocaust was “a fact and not reasonably subject to dispute.” Johnson’s ruling was in the case of Mel Mermelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald who had sued the Institute of Historical Research based in Torrance, California. In 1980, the “institute,” which labels the Holocaust a myth, had offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone who could prove that Jews were gassed at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Mermelstein submitted a notarized account describing how he saw Nazi guards take his mother and two sisters to the Birkenau gas chamber. When the institute reneged on the payment, Mermelstein sued for \$17 million. Judge Johnson applied the Doctrine of Judicial Notice, which allows courts to recognize as fact information that is common knowledge. Mermelstein ultimately won a settlement of \$90,000 and was issued a formal apology from the “institute.” The trial was dramatized in 1991 in the TV movie “Never Forget,” with Leonard Nimoy portraying Mermelstein. “By Bread Alone,” is Mermelstein’s autobiography. He is now 85. (www.jta.org , 1-1-12)

- Jerzy Kluger, a Polish-born Jew who was a life-long friend of the late Pope John Paul II (born Karol Wojtyła), has died. He was 92. Both the future Pope and Kluger were born in the southern Polish town of Wadowice and were boyhood playmates, friends from the first grade through high school. Kluger is credited with having had a major influence on the pope’s relations with Jews. The two lost track of each other at the outbreak of World War II in 1939 with the German invasion of

Poland. They did not see each other again until 1965; until that reunion, each presumed the other had died in the war. During the war, Kluger, along with his father, was arrested by the Russians and sent to a gulag in Siberia. In 1978, when Wojtyła became the first non-Italian pope in 455 years, their friendship reconnected and lasted right up to the time of the pope’s death in 2005. Kluger was present in Rome’s synagogue when the pope made his historic visit there in 1986, calling the Jews, “our beloved elder brothers.” (www.uk.reuters.com , 1-2-12)

- Vaclav Havel, Czechoslovakia’s dissident playwright and human rights champion who became his country’s first democratically elected president, has died at the age of 75. Havel, who repeatedly denounced anti-Semitism, helped lead Prague’s 1989 “Velvet Revolution,” a period of six weeks which resulted in the peaceful overthrow of the Czechoslovak communist regime, ending four decades of repression. In Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe, Havel had long been viewed as a hero in the Cold War struggle for democracy. In 1993, he oversaw the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia into two stable democracies, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and was elected president of the Czech Republic, where he served until 2003. Havel demonstrated his commitment to Jewish causes when he made a three-day visit to Israel in 1990, one of his first foreign trips after becoming president, bringing with him 180 Czech Jews. In 2010, he was one of the founding members of the Friends of Israel group of international political figures. (www.jta.org, 12-19-11) ♦

- Yaffa Yarkoni, known as Israel’s “War Singer,” who for decades entertained Israeli troops, has died at 86. Yarkoni was drafted into the army at the time of Israel’s War for Independence and joined a military band. During her long career, she recorded hundreds of songs and was awarded the Israel Prize for her contributions to Hebrew music. In 2002, Yarkoni criticized the Israeli military for its treatment of the Palestinians. Her actions led to the cancellation of a tribute event to her career. (www.jta.org, 1-1-12) ♦



Beshert

Beshert - a Yiddish word meaning inevitable, preordained, destiny, fate, it was meant to be, soulmate. It is difficult to explain how, after knowing each other for eight weeks, that 50 years later we are still best friends and soulmates.

It was 50 years ago, while the northeast and most of the country was mired in freezing snowy weather that two almost strangers became husband and wife in sunny Miami.

As with most families and especially newlyweds, we have had our share of good and bad times, laughter and tears, sickness and health, and disappointments and triumphs. Although 50 years have gone by we are still the best of friends and soulmates - Beshert.



Occasion: 50th Anniversary, Joel & Linda Pollack

Place: Keys Jewish Community Center,

Date: Friday, February 10th, 2012

Time: 8:00 pm

We will be renewing our wedding vows during the course of the regular Friday night service. Services will be led by Stuart and Gloria, and Rabbi Agler will perform the ceremony. Afterward we will celebrate during the oneg shabbat with champagne and anniversary cake.

We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion.



Jewish Key West

by Lee Schur

The next time I visit Key West I will be more observant, in more ways than one. I knew about and had visited many Israeli-owned clothing, jewelry and souvenir stores on Duval Street. (I confess that I really hadn't noticed the mezuzahs affixed to the doorposts of their businesses.)

What I did not know was that Jews have had a presence and history on the island for some 127 years. If you visit the historic Old Town, you will find streets with names such as Appelrouth Lane, Aronowitz Lane, Seidenberg Avenue, Ellsberg Court, Pearlman Court and Wolfson Lane. A famous home - with a mezuzah - that I have visited is the Curry Mansion Inn at 511 Caroline Street. It's currently owned by the Amsterdam family, who have had a presence on the island for four decades.

Another famous landmark is the Audubon House, which was facing destruction before being rescued by the Mitchell Wolfson family in 1958. That family has fascinating and substantial roots in Key West, and a long history. Many Jews initially came to Key West via shipwrecks. Such was the case with young Romanian immigrant Joe Wolfson, in 1884. His ship went down, he looked around and saw the beauty of the island, and decided to stay. Three years later, young Joe, along with Abraham Wolkowsky and Mendell Rippa, organized Rodef Shalom, a congregation "for all Hebrews who believe in and subscribe to the doctrines of the Hebrew religion." Today, at 750 United Street, sits congregation B'nai

Zion, founded exactly one hundred years ago. It has survived a merger and an arson attack and rebuilding in 2002. On my next visit to Key West I will try to visit the re-built synagogue, with an Ark designed by famed architect Morris Lapidus (who virtually defined 1950s Miami Beach, designing many hotels along Collins Avenue, most importantly the Eden Roc and Fontainebleau.)

Early Key West Jews had strong business and personal connections with Cubans, only 90 miles away across the Florida Straits. Cigar connoisseurs still covet Cuban cigars, but prior to 1900 the tobacco industry included many Jewish cigar manufacturers, such as the Rippa, Julius Ellinger and Samuel Seidenberg families, who all used Cuban tobacco.

Isadore Appelrouth was a passenger on Henry Flagler's first train to reach Key West from Miami, on January 22, 1912. He later opened a shoe store, after purchasing Louis Wolfson's store of fashion on Duval Street.

A trip to Key West always includes a visit to Mallory Square for the sunset celebration. I was not aware that the Wolfson family had restored the waterfront area. Personally, I have long been interested in Pier House, which was the first resort in Key West. It was built by David Wolkowsky. Bob and I stayed there when it was first built, and were intrigued with its unique, charming design. Mr. Wolkowsky was very hospitable, and in his antique car personally drove us around the island, to show us the historic landmarks.



**The Curry Mansion in Key West.
As you enter, look for the mezuzah.**

Hemingway's granddaughter was also staying there, and joined us on this very personal tour. Pier House today, of course, has become a mega-resort, with many additions. Upon returning many years later, we were disappointed to see that it had become just another huge, impersonal resort.

Now, when I re-visit Key West, I'll do so with a very different perspective. I'll be more observant and investigate other Jewish Key

West places of interest. I will look for and notice the mezuzahs and visit Jewish historical landmarks. One the side of Fast Buck Freddie's is a sign for the S. H. Kress Dime Store. I do not want to miss Louis Fine's old house at 1125 Duval, which is now the La Te Da Restaurant. I'll look for the little Kosher restaurant at 405 Petronia Street and maybe go to Shorty's Market at 215 Duval Street, which has a Kosher food section. ◇



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New Year!**



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**For further information contact
Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585
Patti Gross (305) 664-5168**

Jewish Apps

It was inevitable. Software design is heavily populated by people with Bar Mitzvah gifts in their past. So after designing apps that make money, they were destined to use their talents to write apps to tickle the fancy of their bubbes. Since we're stealing here, we'll give credit: this piece was written by Sala Levin for Moment Magazine. (You know, the one started by Elie Wiesel, about Jewish ideas and culture.) Download away.

Oy! — Ever wonder when it's okay to toss out an "oy?" The opportunities, it seems, are endless. The Oy! app for iPhones and iPads provides five recorded variations on the go-to favorite for moments when no other expression of dismay will work. Does the situation call for a full-blown "oy Gevalt?" Done. Need a classic "oy vey?" No problem. The app even covers that perennial favorite, "oyyyoyoy."

Jewish Mother — The makers of Jewish Mother have remedied the logistical difficulties of constant maternal accompaniment: In lieu of an actual mother, a virtual version programmed with more than 100 phrases follows users. "Happy Hanukkah, *bubbeleh*," she might say. "Of course, I'd be happier if you had kids." The digi-mom even spouts out different phrases based on gender and marital status.

Gematria Calculator — Gematria, part of Kabbalistic thought, assigns a numerical value to each of the Hebrew alphabet's 22 letters, used to decode deeper meanings in Hebrew words and phrases. For those unable to perform such complex calculations in their heads, the Gematria Calculator determines the numerical values of phrases in Jewish texts, making the trajectory to spiritual reward a little less mathematically onerous.

Jewish Temple Jigsaw — Re-jigger this app's puzzle pieces to form the Holy Temple, known in Hebrew as *Beit HaMikdash*. Those who solve the puzzle are rewarded—the screen flashes: "You built a *Beis Hamikdash!*" Not even King David could say that.

Yiddish Slang Dictionary — The next time you're at a party and someone calls you a *shlemiel* when you spill your soda, whip out

the Yiddish Slang Dictionary on your smartphone for an appropriate retort. Thanks to this app, Yiddish experts and neophytes alike can parse the language's rich rhetorical epithets. The dictionary includes common words (*schlep*, *mensch*) along with more obscure *bon mots* such as *tummler* and *schmutter*.

The Amazing Jewish-Fact-a-Day

Calendar — Can you name the play into which Shakespeare slipped some Hebrew? What do you know about the Talmud's seemingly prophetic stance on airplanes? This app winforms users about important historical events that occurred on that date, fascinating religious practices and famous figures. Learn about everything from Louis Armstrong's early job working for a Jewish family to historic disagreements between Hillel and Shammai.

Going Paprikash — Before World War II, as many as 250,000 Jews lived in Budapest, filling the Hungarian capital's 125 synagogues. When they weren't praying, they were cooking up a treasure trove of culinary treats, such as *rakott krumppli* (potato casserole), *paprikas csirke* (chicken paprikas) and *gomboc* (dumplings). Those longing for a taste of Hungary's Jewish heritage can download this app, which features 120 kosher Hungarian recipes and the tales of how they came to be.

Judoku — Thumb-twiddlers on subways and in office meetings can now brush up on their Jewish symbols while passing the time: A new version of the popular logic game Sudoku, usually played with numbers, features images such as the shofar, the Star of David and Hebrew letters. Just make sure to follow the cardinal rule of the game: no more than one menorah in each three-by-three box. ♦

**KJCC Sisterhood presents
an unforgettable evening
of entertainment starring**

S  RGE



a veteran of stage, nightclub, television,
and entertaining our troops in Iraq

- **SIDESPLITTING COMEDIAN • PIANO VIRTUOSO**
- **UNCANNY IMPERSONATOR • TOUCHING VOCALIST**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012
Keys Jewish Community Center**

Wine Reception 7:30 p.m. • Show starts 8:30 p.m.
General Admission \$60

Additional donation levels are available for this major fundraising event

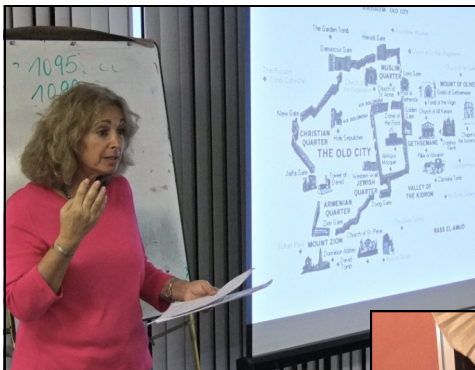
* * * * *
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Total Value \$900

**For further information, please call:
Nancy Kluger 305-393-2129 or
Lauren Sax 305-753-7623**

Photo Gallery



The photo top left is from Yardena Kamely's December 15th lecture in the KJCC classroom, the third in her series about the history of Jerusalem. If you look very carefully, you can see the inset of the Temple Mount complex inside the walls of the Old City, to the right.



My father, Alex Avner, became a sculptor after he retired, and carved this menorah/chanukiah out of black onyx 28 years ago. It's unbelievably heavy and I always feel a touch silly putting those skinny, traditional Chanukah candles into it. But, bottom line, I love it.

-Gloria



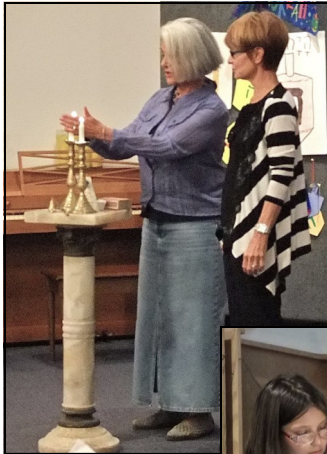
In the photo far left, Lauren Sax holds grandson Liam, who's clearly fascinated by the light emanating from the candles on Chanukah's eighth night. The two photos below were taken during Joyce Peckman's Chanukah visit to son Daniel's house in Denver.

Many of us would be quite content to never again look out our window on Chanukah and see snow. Joyce posed for the photo, but says she then eschewed the ensuing cascade down the snowy/icy hill.



The photos on this page and the next are all from KJCC's Chanukah Shabbat dinner on December 23rd. Erica Garrett, who manages all of KJCC's dinners for Sisterhood, stands beside her pristine table at right, just micromoments before it was descended upon by ravenous latke-lovers.





Services followed dinner, of course. At left, Gene Silverman and Patti Gross light the candles, ushering in Shabbat. The service was led by Gloria Avner and Susan Gordon, at right.



Membership Chairman Dave Mont, second from right, and Roger Levy are flanked by two guests at the oneg after services, above. Since it was Chanukah, Erica lit the candles on the KJCC Chanukiah, above right. In the center photo just right, Zoe Moshe stands with new hubby Joshua, both flanked by Joshua's twin daughters, visiting from Toronto.

As you can see from the cake, it was also Steve Smith's birthday. Skilled with any knife, he did the honors, surrounded by wife Barbara and KJCC's matriarch, Pauline Roller.





The photos on this page are all from Steve and Carol Steinbock's annual Christmas Day open house. In the background, above, you can see Carol's amazing cut-glass wall mosaic, which she finished just in time for the party. Their Labradoodle, Sarah, finally tired of all the goings-on, below.



Lauren and Stuart Sax pose with daughter Jorie, above, who flew in from Chicago for a quick holiday visit.

In the photo below, Steve sits with Sarah and their new Cockapoo



puppy, Rebecca. (And, yes, they've already been told, more than once, that they now need to get two more dogs and name them Rachel and Leah.)

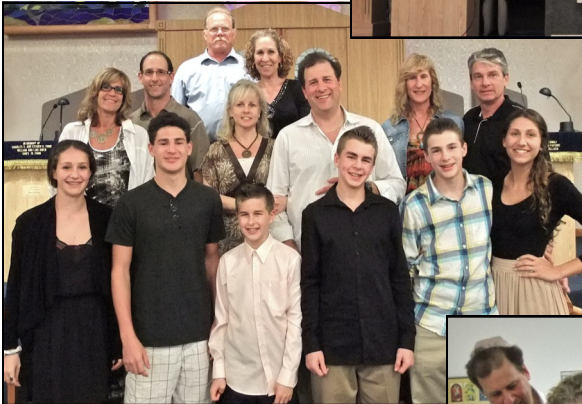
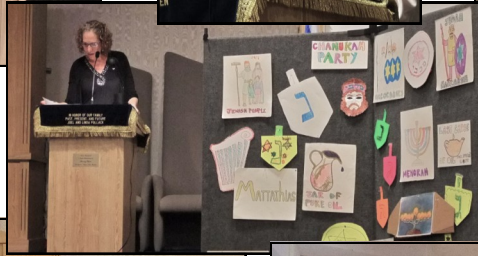
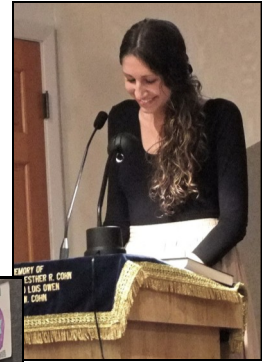


The three photos at top are from Rabbi Richard Agler's December 29th class on how to give an interesting and organized D'var Torah.

The bottom photos are from New Year's Day's annual Blessing of the Fleet. Blessers were in short supply this year, limited to our Gloria and Rev. Kerry Foote of Burton Memorial, shown below between Stuart and Gloria. But the blessees still came. The catamaran at right carries all four Steinbocks, two peeps and two pouches. (Our thanks to David Gitin for the photos.)



Above, Linda and Joel Pollack were among those who turned out for the January 8th ceremony unveiling the new mural commemorating the centennial of Henry Flagler's railroad expansion into the Keys. The first train reached Key West on January 12, 1912. The mural measures almost twelve feet high and sixty feet long. It's near MM95 in Key Largo.



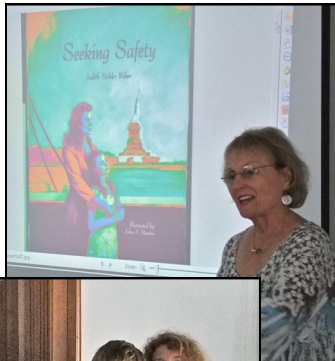
The photos on this page are all from the Friday, December 30th service led by Erica Garrett. Family members (a lot of them) were visiting from her hometown of Toronto, and she involved them all in the service: husband (he lives here), brother, brothers-in-law, sisters, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews. All the women join in lighting the Shabbat candles, top left. Everyone was brought to the bemah for a reading, some twice. It was an evening that will be fondly remembered by all who were there. There was warmth, and laughter, and a thoughtful, reflective service. It was very KJCC.



There was a sale on at Ikea, so Candy and Alan (well, not exactly Alan) decided to completely re-do the kitchen at their house in Sun City, near Tampa. First, of course, they had to rip out the old kitchen. You can see at right how the new kitchen came: not assembled but in boxes. That's a level Alan is holding, by the way, not a musket. The patient Golden you see at top is named Mason. (These are "before" pictures; "after" photos to come next month.)



January saw several talks and lectures by members at KJCC. In addition to Yardena, on Sunday, January 8th, Judy Weber spoke to our Sunday School students about her children's novel "Seeking Safety," based on the true story of European Jews being brought to an abandoned Army base in upstate New York during World War II. The following week, January 15th, Shirley Stein, below, regaled us with a PowerPoint presentation on the life and exploits of the indomitable Golda Meir.





On this page and the next, images from our January 13th Shabbat dinner. Why are we all wearing name tags, you ask? Because, to thank them for their support, we'd invited all our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to join us for dinner, and at the beginning some weren't yet *mishpocha*.



It's always risky to wait until the end of dinner to take pictures. We wanted to assemble all our non-member advertisers/guests for a photo, but some had already offered thanks and hugs and left. But we did manage to immortalize most of them, in the larger center photo, just as services were about to begin. (Several actually stayed for services.)

In the photo lower left, Lee Schur stands after dinner with son Paul, daughter Karen, grandson Michael and granddaughter Becky. Winter is always a great time to visit Grandma Lee's Keys shul. In the photo bottom right, Lauren, Gloria and Susan chant the HaMotzi.



KJCC Annual Passover Second Seder



Saturday, April 7, 2012

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

For information and reservations contact:

Mary Lee Singer 305-240-0061, mizzleez3@yahoo.com
or Maryon Gould 305-853-2541.

Mail your check to KJCC Sisterhood at PO Box 116,
Tavernier, FL 33070.

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will
be opening this to the public after March 15th.

PASSOVER

Donations

Members: Adults \$50; Children 12 and under are our guests.

Non-Members: \$75

-This Month in Jewish History-

February

362 – Roman Emperor Julian issues an edict recognizing equal rights for all religions in the Roman Empire. Occasionally referred to unkindly as Julian the Apostate, he effectively undoes the edicts of Constantine making Christianity the official state religion. He brings back old religions of the Empire, including those tied to Hellenism, the spiritual path he himself favors. Julian is sympathetic to the Roman Jews and is prepared to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, he is murdered by a Christian Arab soldier possibly angered by Julian's decision to deny state support to Christianity.

1095 – Henry IV of Germany issues a charter to the Jews and a decree against forced baptism. He desires to protect the Jews during the Crusades and even permits forcibly baptized Jews to return to Judaism. He does this partly because he views the Jews as valuable property. The Church is not pleased.

1267 – The Old Lutheran Church Synod of Breslau (Polish Wroclaw, the main city of southwestern Polish Silesia) orders the Jews of Silesia to wear special caps.

1413 – The first sitting of a “disputation” begins in which Jews are compelled to listen to the treatise of one Geronimo De Santa, a convert to Christianity, who contends that the Talmud recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. This disputation is ordered by Pope Benedict XIII and will last until November 1414, with a total of 68 sittings.

1451 – Sultan Mehmed II inherits the throne of the Ottoman Empire. He conquers Constantinople in 1453, to the relief of Jews living there under the ruling Byzantine Christians, and renames it Istanbul. Mehmed allows Jews from today's Greek Islands and Crete to settle there. He invites Ashkenazi Jews of Transylvania and Slovakia to settle in the Ottoman Empire. He orders synagogues

damaged by fire repaired. He employs at least five Jewish doctors as palace physicians. His declaration inviting the Jews reads: "Listen sons of the Hebrew who live in my country...May all of you who desire come to Constantinople and may the rest of your people find here a shelter".

1624 – Elias Legardo (or LeGarde), a 38-year-old French Jew, in Virginia since 1621 via the ship Abigail after being hired by a British company to plant a vineyard in the New World “and make it prosper,” appears on a census of the city of Jamestown in Virginia. Two years later he will marry Rebecca Isaake, the only known Jewish woman in Virginia. (The first Jew on record in North America is Joachim Gause, a Bohemian metallurgist and mining engineer recruited by Sir Walter Raleigh to join North Carolina's Roanoke Island Colony in 1585, known to history as the “Lost Colony.”)

1697 – In Great Britain, a site is acquired for the first Ashkenazi cemetery.

1738 – Heidelberg-born Joseph Süß Oppenheimer, a noted banker and court Jew, is hanged in Stuttgart. Falsely accused of a variety of crimes, he “confesses” after being tortured. Even facing death by hanging, he refuses to convert to Christianity. Hanging inside a human-size cage, surrounded by a huge crowd of spectators, his last words are *Shema Yisrael*. His name becomes part of an enduring anti-Semitic epithet – Jew Süß – and in 1938 he becomes the subject of the most successful anti-Semitic film of all time, made by Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels.

1749 – Sicily invites Jews to return to the island, ending a three-hundred-year ban. They hope that the Jews will restore trade to the island and improve its diminished economic conditions. In the same month, Pope Benedict XIV issues a papal bull, “Singulari Nobis Consolditioni,” that prohibits marriage between Jews and Christians.

1854 – Henry Ward Beecher (the father of Harriet Beecher Stowe) publishes a now-famous article titled "American Slavery." He draws a distinction between slavery as practiced among Biblical Jews and the version existing in southern American states. "Hebrew slavery admitted that a slave was a man with all appropriate human responsibilities and made ample provision for his civil and religious instruction. American slavery stands upon the fundamental idea that a slave is chattel, not a man; and it makes teaching him to read a penitentiary offense." Slavery advocates of the time regularly cite the Bible as one of their defenses for that "peculiar institution," arguing that since slavery is accepted in the Bible it should be acceptable in their time. Beecher, a Christian minister, is among those who publicly expose the comparison as invalid.

1859 – *The Codex Sinaiticus* is discovered in Egypt. It becomes one of several seminal ancient texts found by the emerging science of archaeology – including the Rosetta Stone, the Cairo Genizah and the Dead Sea Scrolls – that greatly advance knowledge of ancient civilizations. The earliest extant version of the Christian Bible, handwritten over 1600 years ago in Greek, the *Codex* gives all scholars, Jews included, many clues about life and practices in ancient Israel.

1875 – Violinist and composer Fritz Kreisler is born. Stories differ as to whether Kreisler is Jewish, Kreisler himself saying nothing and his wife adamant that the answer is no. In a 1992 interview Franz Rupp, Kreisler's piano accompanist in the 1930s, quotes Kreisler's brother, the cellist Hugo Kreisler, as saying, "I'm a Jew, but my brother, I don't know." Some reports imply that Fritz Kreisler downplays his Judaism to placate his anti-Semitic Christian wife. According to one story, she replies to a question from Leopold Godowsky about Kreisler's Jewishness with a vehement "Fritz hasn't a drop of Jewish blood in his veins!" To which Godowsky retorts: "He must be very anemic."

1890 – Rabbi Zeev Yavet, one founder of the
32 Chai-Lights February 2012

Misrachi movement, takes students to plant trees at Zichron Yaakov. The Jewish Teachers Union adopts the custom in 1908. This is the origin of the JNF Tree Planting Drive, now tied to the modern observance of Tu B'Shvat.

1899 – The U.S. Senate ratifies the peace treaty ending the Spanish-American War. Approximately 5,000 Jews serve in the war, with fifteen Jewish crewmen aboard the battleship U.S.S. Maine when it explodes in Havana's harbor in 1898. That same year there are reportedly four thousand requests for furloughs during the Jewish High Holidays. The first trooper signing up to join the soon-to-be-famous Rough Riders is Jewish.

1901 – Yasha Heifetz is born in Russia. A child prodigy, he solos for the first time at the age of four. He dies in 1987, a performer of worldwide acclaim for eighty-two years. Why, a comedian once asks Heifetz, do so many Jews play the violin? Because, the violinist answers, it is a lot easier to carry than the bass fiddle when you are being chased out of a country.

1921 – Physicist and mathematician Ralph Asher Alpher is born. His 1948 PhD dissertation offers the first model for the Big Bang Theory.

1931 – At a meeting held at the 92nd Street Y.M.H.A. "Jewish athletic clubs and youth organizations" announce that the first worldwide Jewish Olympic games will be held in Tel Aviv the following summer. The groups have come together to "organize the first American chapter of the World Maccabee Union."

1943 – Heinrich Himmler receives a carefully prepared, detailed report on the quantity of garments collected from Birkenau. The list includes: 97,000 sets of men's clothing; 76,000 sets of women's clothing; 132,000 men's shirts; 155,000 women's coats; and 3,000 kilograms of women's hair. The hair alone fills an entire railroad car. Children's items include 15,000 overcoats, 11,000 boys' jackets, 9,000 dresses and 22,000 pairs of shoes. The clothing fills 825 freight cars. Included in this inventory is also close to half a million dollars in American currency and gold worth \$116,420.◊

Of Fruit trees, Self Defense, Arrogance, and Humility

(A Movie Review on Tu B'Shvat)

Text and Artwork by Gloria Avner

I watched a movie called "Lemon Tree" the other night. It was in Hebrew with subtitles. One phrase I heard consistently was "*Kol B'seder.*" It came in both question and answer form. Is everything ok? Are you ok? It's ok. I'm ok. Everything is in order. Everything is fine.

Things in lemon-tree land, however, are anything but fine.

The beautiful lemon tree grove, owned and cared for by generations of one Palestinian family, now managed by the sole surviving, strong-willed widow, Zelma Sidana, sits cheek by jowl, on the border of Israel, with the Palestinian territories. It happens to abut Israel's newly appointed hardliner Defense Minister's brand-new expansive, high-end home. Despite the immediate building of a high lookout tower and installation of multiple television monitors, the minister and his associates quickly decide the grove is blocking the view of the secret service men protecting him and Israel from potential terrorists. The lemon trees are declared enemies of the state and scheduled for summary execution, in the form of uprooting. What ensues escalates into a life-death struggle, and the Israeli powers that be hold the lion's share of that power.

The military necessity to protect a small nation surrounded by enemies weighs heavily on one side of the scale. On the other is the lone dedicated empty-nester Zelma (who preserves the fruits in beautiful jars and makes her living selling them), and a community of trees, symbols of life, nourishment, and tradition, values held in high esteem by the Jewish people. In an act of chutzpah, the secret-service men walk through Zelma's grove and gather, without asking, lemons to garnish

drinks at the minister's house-warming party. The effrontery is appalling and the Arab woman's rage is totally appropriate. It is not difficult to guess who will win this war, and it is disturbing. The defense minister, a political man professing a hawkish hard line toward the Palestinians, is embarrassed when the press, led by a female reporter, seizes upon the reverse David-and-Goliath story, and tension escalates dramatically.

The parable in the movie is as much about conflicting attitudes between men and women as between cultural historical enemies. The defense minister's empathetic wife sees the dilemma of the Arab tree-tender. She is compassionate as well as strong. Both women can visualize themselves in the other's shoes. The trees are strong too, glossy with health, abundant with round, ripening fruit.

Spoiler alert! The much-publicized issue comes to court, and though the power of the Israeli minister far outweighs Zelma's, he does not quite get his wish to uproot the trees. Neither the Palestinian people nor the trees are killed outright.

Though Biblical Jewish law is never mentioned in the movie, the judge in the case decides in favor of radical pruning over outright extermination. Perhaps she remembers the strictures regarding trees that we honor on Tu B'Shvat.

We are told it is a mitzvah to plant trees. Specifically, we are told that, even in wartime, we must not destroy fruit-bearing trees (Deuteronomy 20:19-20). It is clear Halachic Law that we are not even allowed to eat the fruit of a tree less than four years old. The fruit is forbidden, non-kosher. Our ancestors protected a tree's chance to grow strong, and

the chance to eat its fruits for years to come.

Now here we are, on the eve of the 15th (the numerical value of the Hebrew letters that make up the Hebrew word *Tu*) of Sh'vat, about to celebrate the "Birthday of the Trees." Our KJCC children will be tasting the "seven species" of fruit, out planting papaya seedlings, saying blessings, singing, and dancing to the tune of "*Mayim, mayim*" as we offer our new trees water. In our last Sunday School class, Moira, Harry, Lili, and Natalie had the opportunity to harvest from our "orchard" as well. What was the fruit? As synchronicity would have it, we were picking miniature lemons, from our own Calamondin tree. Its fruit, besides being delicious, relieves itching from insect bite, conditions hair, cures coughs, removes stains, and acts as antidote to poison. Who knew? The plant kingdom is full of unexpected gifts. We will make our own lemonade.

According to the Creation story, seed-bearing plants and fruit trees were put on the Earth before any other living thing (Genesis 1:11-12), well before man.

Eytz Chaim Hi, we chant in our Shabbat morning Torah service: "The Torah shall be as a Tree of Life to those who uphold and cling to it." Metaphors abound.

As the holiday approaches, it is good to remember that trees and their fruit are the source of our nourishment in more than material ways, woven into our history, inextricable from our culture. The Tree of Life, which God placed in the heart of the Garden of Eden, is a symbol of Jewish existence, a core value of continuity in individual and community lives.

Judaism has always said that man is like a tree. Our roots are key to our survival. Indi-

vidual men and women, like leaves, will wither and die in season, but there is always hope at the end of winter for the promise of new birth in the spring. Leaves will appear again. We witness the ongoing, dependable cycles of growth and dissolution.

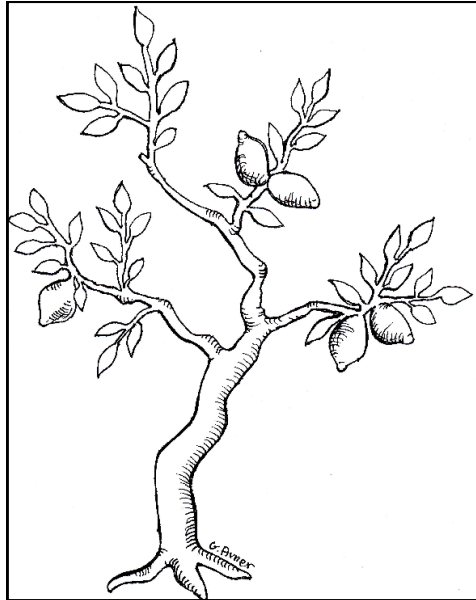
Life is the issue, the key to both the movie and our understanding of man's relationship with nature, especially Jewish relationship to nature. In the movie, the trees are not killed, but they are reduced to malnourished skeletons, shorter than our own miniature lemon tree, grossly deficient in power to fill their mandate to live, to nourish, to reproduce their species; they suffer. It is painful to watch the withering of the once lush trees and piles of rotting fruit on the ground as the movie proceeds. Whether the debilitating pruning will ultimately destroy the trees, or the woman's ability to survive, is an open question.

The Defense Minister in the movie has to be tough on the Palestinians in order to defend his nation. The women see the flaw in his over-reaction.

Neither the Jewish people nor the Palestinians can be reduced to definitions as enemies. All want to protect their land; all have their own gifts, even if unknown to us, just as the lemon is emblematic of all the gifts of Creation.

Let the lesson from the movie and our celebration of Tu B'Shvat walk hand in hand. Save the trees. Save the people. "To life," we say, *L'Chaim*, every time we bless the fruit of the vine, giving credit to the God of our Ancestors for commanding us to be grateful for what we have been given.

As the Midrashic tale instructs us: If you are planting a fruit tree and someone tells you the Messiah has come, finish planting the tree. Then, you may go and welcome the Messiah. *Kol B'seder*. ◇



Our Recent Trip to Israel

George and Muriel Swartz hadn't been to Israel, they said, in years. But they'd been planning. We think you'll agree, based on the evidence, that they planned well, and took in every detail. There's no typical narrative here, but we think you'll love the unique photo-plus-expanded caption format, which reads almost like a series of post-cards. All the photos and caption text are courtesy of George and Muriel.



The Dome of the Rock, situated on the Temple Mount, is sacred to Muslims. The rock under the dome is sacred to both Muslims and Jews. That rock is the traditional site of Abraham's sacrificial altar for Isaac and also the sanctuary of the First and Second Temples. Muslims believe that from here Mohammed ascended to heaven.



After donating many times to the Jewish National Fund to plant trees in Israel, George got to actually plant one of the saplings! This took place in the Aminadav Forest, which is part of the memorial to John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. The following is a portion of the prayer we said: Heavenly Father/ Make deep their roots/ And wide their crown,/ That they may blossom forth in grace/ Amongst all the trees in Israel,/ For good and for beauty.//Look down from Thy holy habitation,/ From heaven,/ And bless this land/ That it may flow again/ With milk and honey./ Amen.



The Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. was in reprisal for the preceding several years of armed Jewish revolt. In the Old City's Jewish Quarter are the remnants of the once-stately manor of an upper-class Jewish family of the priestly caste in Second Temple-period Jerusalem. We saw a small collection of period antiquities, including this spear.



The Dan River is the largest and most important source of the Jordan River. It is fed by the rain and snow that trickles down through the rock of Mount Hermon.





Three bullets ended the life of Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995, in Tel Aviv's main plaza in front of City Hall, after a huge rally in support of his government's peace policy. A year later, the monument to Rabin was dedicated on that spot. Created by the sculptor Yael Ben-Artzi, the memorial is made of sixteen basalt stones from the Golan Heights sunk into the earth to symbolize Rabin's roots and his deep connection to the land. The stones are placed to suggest the effects of an earthquake; indeed, a political and social earthquake had occurred on this spot.



George enjoyed a glass of freshly squeezed pomegranate juice from this shop in Nazareth. It was the pomegranate harvest season - right after Sukkot - so lots of the fresh juice was available virtually every place we visited.



This excavated wall is part of the wall that enclosed the City of David about 1,000 B.C.E. This was situated east of the present wall surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem, which had been built by Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent about 1527 C.E.



Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee), which divides the upper and lower portions of the Jordan River System, is the only freshwater lake in Israel. This view of the lake and the city of Tiberias is from Ben Gurion's favorite hotel (Rimonim Galei Kinnereth), where he would stay for each of his vacations.



עם הזמן הוקם, למען המטיילים, מזון שהפך למקום עבודה לגרשון ולחברים נוספים. במזון החל לטגן דגי אמנון וסרדינים מהכנתו. עם הזמן המזון הורחב והתפתח למסעדה של גרשון. ממנה צמחה 'מסעדת הדגים עין-גב' הגדולה ואולי אפילו הוותיקה במסעדות בישראל.

Ein-Gev Fish Restaurant

At first the restaurant was a table with sandwiches, bananas and glasses of milk, operated by Gershon, a kibbutz member who worked in the banana fields. Every time he would see a tour boat making its way across the lake from Tiberias he would leave whatever he was doing, go down to the beach and "open" his table.

After some time a kiosk for tourists and travelers was built, which became a working place for Gershon and other Kibbutz members. They began frying St. Peter's fish and sardines from the Kinneret in the kiosk. After a while it was expanded into Gershon's Restaurant and later "Ein-Gev Fish Restaurant" grew from it. It is probably the largest and maybe the oldest of Israeli restaurants.

After a tasty St. Peter's fish lunch at Kibbutz Ein Gev Restaurant (as delicious as a fish lunch at Islamorada Fish Company!), one of the Ein Gev residents explained all the workings of their kibbutz as he showed us their banana grove and their cows, goats, and ostriches.





Pictured here is a pagan altar. It was at this archaeological site at Tel Dan that a stele was found referring to a king of Damascus defeating someone from the House of King David. This very early archaeological reference was from around the 9th or 8th centuries B.C.E.



Here is a view of the model of ancient Jerusalem, a reconstruction of the city at the time of the Second Temple (66 C.E.). Yardenia used diagrams of this model during her recent adult education lectures on Jerusalem.



On a hilltop in the heart of the modern city of Jerusalem stands the Knesset, Israel's parliament, set within President's Park. Opposite the gate stands a large menorah – symbol of the state of Israel – a gift to the Knesset from the Jewish communities of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On the seven branches of the candelabrum are depicted in relief the principal figures and events marking the history of the Jewish people.



This memorial sculpture at Yad Vashem represents incomplete children (no heads, no faces) denoting the unfinished lives cruelly ended for the children who were Holocaust victims.



Here at the Naot Farm, we tasted some of the best goat cheese. This Nachimov family enterprise is an active farm, raising goats and manufacturing cheese, and also a tourist resort for desert lovers.



Overlooking the Dead Sea, the ruined village of Qumran was deserted for almost 2,000 years. The hidden scrolls found in the caves in 1947 exposed the secret life of the Essenes, a small ultra-religious sect who had disapproved of the corruption of the high priests of the Temple in Jerusalem. This photo shows the ruins of the Qumran pottery storeroom.



Excavated ruins of a Qumran mikveh.

Beit Alpha, the remains of a synagogue

from a Jewish village of the Byzantine period (5th-6th centuries C.E.), has the entire prayer hall floor paved in mosaic, with the Zodiac signs (a Hellenist influence) arranged in a circle accompanied by their Hebrew names.



While we were touring in Tzfat and learning about this holy city, considered the city of Kabbalah and the most mystical city in all of Israel, we saw several groups of young soldiers also touring and learning about their country. (This is part of their IDF training, whether they are sabras or recent immigrants, to insure that they become well-versed in the history of the country that they will be protecting and defending).



For generations Jews went to weep at the Western Wall for the fate of their nation, and it became known as "The Wailing Wall." Only after the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, nineteen years after the restoration of the Jewish state, was the Wall returned to Jewish hands. Since that historic day, Jews from every corner of the world have been able to come and go freely and pray at the Wall.



The dove seeks peace for all mankind as she perches on the Kotel, the sacred Western Wall.

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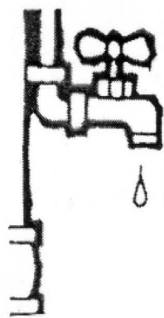
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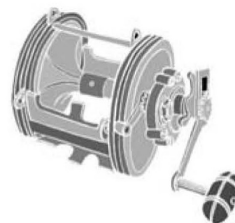
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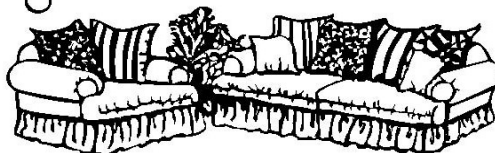


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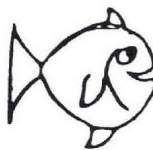
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