

Chai~Lights



March 2011

25 Adar I - 25 Adar II 5771

Celebrating *Tu B'Shvat* at KJCC - page 25

The KJCC Annual Meeting in photos - page 27

Exploring the *Shechinah* - page 29

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

March 2011

25 Adar I - 25 Adar II

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Men's Club Meeting & Poker Night, 7:30 p.m. at KJCC	3	4 Gloria, Susan, Yarden & KJCC students <i>Toby & David Goldfinger;</i> <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock</i>	5 Shabbat Across America & Canada
6 Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Joyce Peckman <i>Elinor & Herb Grossman;</i> <i>Joseph & Susan Sachs</i>	12
13 KJCC Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. Daylight Savings begins	14	15 The Ides of March (beware)	16	17 Ta'anit Esther	18 Bernie Ginsberg <i>The Mah Jonggettes</i>	19 Musical "Chicago" at Coral Shores 8:00 p.m.
20 Purim at KJCC – Megillah reading 10:30 a.m., then brunch	21 Shushan Purim	22	23	24	25 Ken Atlas 6:30 Service <i>Pat & David Van Artsdalen</i>	26
27 Sisterhood "Chai" Tea at home of Kathy Shabathai, 3:00 p.m.	28	29	30 Discussion Group at KJCC 7:30 p.m. w/ Rabbi Ed Rosenthal	31	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors. KJCC offers services every Friday. </div>	

2011 - 2012 Officers and Board

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

President's Message Stuart Sax



Following seven years on the KJCC Board, serving most recently as your Executive Vice President, I am honored to be the fifteenth President of the KJCC. I am also honored to follow in the footsteps of Alan Beth. My goal is not to re-invent the wheel but rather to keep it maintained and rolling forward. Alan's visions and mine are much the same; the only major difference between us is that I can carry a tune!

Many thanks to Carol Steinbock for organizing a wonderful and meaningful installation program. And to our fabulous Sisterhood, thank you for the delicious luncheon.

In the year ahead, my focus will be participation. Each of us pays membership dues, and I would like to see every member get the biggest "bang for their buck" through the wide spectrum of activities that are available. These include attendance at our weekly Shabbat services in addition to adult education programs, religious special events, Sisterhood-sponsored Shabbat dinners, and a myriad of other programs to enrich both adults and children in our congregation.

I look forward to serving this year with a Board that includes some energetic new faces along with many dedicated veterans who continue to be part of the total congregational experience. We have challenges ahead this year and I am convinced that we have

the talent to tackle each one head on.

I am reminded of my grandfather and father, both of whom served as presidents of their congregations in New Jersey and Indiana. Back then, much of life in their Jewish communities revolved around the temple. My grandfather attended shul nearly every day, and he and my grandmother would return several nights during the week for social activities with their friends. My father attended nearly every committee meeting in his congregation, played cards regularly with the Brotherhood, attended every special event and bowled twice a week with B'nai B'rith. So I guess it was my legacy and my destiny to serve my own congregation.

And so my journey begins as president of KJCC. My focus is simple: Seventy-five percent participation and twenty-five percent administration. I know that I will be successful because I have a strong Board dedicated to moving us forward. And I also have a secret weapon who just happens to be the Sisterhood president. Team Sax. It has a nice ring to it. ◇

Nosh

A note from Michal

In one of his last acts as KJCC president, Alan decided – just because – to send Michal Kameley some flowers. Yardena says her mother was very touched, overwhelmed even, and dictated this note in reply. (The original was in Hebrew, with translation by Yardena, who thought all of KJCC might like to see it. We thought so, too.)

What a pleasant surprise to receive such a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and to know that you remember me.

I am still receiving medical treatment at the Jewish Home, and waiting for the moment to return home. I hope that this will happen soon, and that we can see each other again. I send you *Shalom* and blessings for the whole congregation.

All the best and success for your future.

-Michal

New Members

KJCC offers its warmest welcome to Susan Ellner of Tavernier and River Vale, NJ, and Bennett and Deborah Beinfest of Key Largo. We hope you'll become an integral part of all the wonderful things we do here.

Megillah Mitzvah – March 20th, 10:30 a.m.

Don't forget to get dressed up. Bring your mask (or wear one made by our students). To be present at the reading of Purim's *Megillat Esther* is to perform an important *mitzvah*. Watch our young students parade, sing, and participate in the re-telling of the death-defying tale of one's man's persecution of the Jews, resulting not in genocide but in jubilation and justice. Come prepared to drown out Haman's name (and in the words of the rabbis, get so drunk you can't tell villain from hero). Celebrate Esther and Mordechai and the hand of G-d. Help us read from the *Megillah* and eat a wonderful sisterhood luncheon.

TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of the Birth of our Grandson

Aaron
12/10/10

Arthur & Johanna Willner

From Ritual: Two Events Not To Be Missed

• *On Friday, March 4th, 8 p.m.* – Be a part of “Shabbat Across America and Canada,” a continent-wide celebration of our most important holiday and keystone of our religion, family-oriented Shabbat. Last year twenty-seven of our “mishpocha” gathered for dinner at Bill and Freda’s and then went off to shul. This year, we will start at shul. Students from our KJCC Religious School will play important roles in a service full of singing, led by Gloria, Yardena, and Susan. We will chant our prayers joyously and follow with a special Oneg (delicious and hand-made by Sisterhood) under the stars on the grounds of our new Meditation Garden. We will be listed in a national locator guide by the promoters of this event, so we may have guests. Let's welcome them. Bring your friends.

• *On Wednesday, March 30th, 7:30 p.m.* – We are pleased to announce that a discussion group, a *Shiur*, will be led at KJCC by Hillel Rabbi Ed Rosenthal. We will be hosting Rabbi Rosenthal and eleven young Hillel men from Eckerd College in Tampa. The students have chosen to perform a week of Tikkun Olam here, working on the Keys coral reef instead of reveling in a typical spring break. Possible discussion topics are “Jewish reincarnation,” “Age of the Universe,” and “Jewish Astrology.” (Call me with topic ideas, 619-0216.) We at KJCC will be their “mishpocha” away from home from March 28th till April 1st.

-Gloria

March Birthdays

Melvin L. Jacobson.....	1st
Sasha Dutton.....	1st
Barbara Kantor.....	2nd
Stephanie Gilderman.....	3rd
Stephen Steinbock.....	3rd
Benjamin K. Kwalick.....	4th
Bea Graham.....	6th
Hannah Feig.....	7th
Toby Goldfinger.....	7th
Pearl Jacobs.....	9th
Kate Horowitz.....	10th
Thomas Davis Smith.....	10th
Alvin J. Gottlieb.....	11th
Bryan Schur.....	11th
Heath Greenbaum.....	12th
Carl Roy.....	13th
Ira Stein.....	13th
Jenna Lane.....	14th
Seth Horowitz.....	14th
Allan Boruszak.....	15th
Johanna Willner.....	15th
Steven Nobil.....	16th
Benjamin Schwaid.....	17th
Daniel E. Friedman.....	17th
Eric Grace.....	18th
Michelle Palacino.....	19th
Janet Palacino.....	20th
Susan Sachs.....	20th
Barbara A. Calev.....	21st
Erwin Kantor.....	21st
James Jr. Nobil.....	21st
Joseph Palacino.....	21st
Lois S. Kaufman.....	21st
Doug Graham.....	24th
Stephanie Coeurjoly.....	25th
Sylvia Berman.....	25th
Michelle E. Denker.....	27th
Roger Vorcheimer.....	28th
Joel Pollack.....	29th
Anthony A. Gutierrez.....	30th
David VanArtsdalen.....	30th
Lee Schur.....	30th
Eva Faust.....	31st
Jane S. Friedman.....	31st
Robert Gintel.....	31st
Sari Elizabeth Goldstein.....	31st

To my dearest *mishbucha* at the KJCC,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and thoughts. This has been a very difficult time for us and I can't express just how much it has meant to us to receive the heartfelt condolences from all of you, from all of your e-mails and cards to the beautiful basket of fruit delivered personally by Rene Rose. I can't thank you enough. What a wonderful feeling to have all this love and support from all of you. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Love, Sofy Wasser

BOOK PLATE

In Memory of

Lillian Skolnick

by

Jim and Joan Boruszak

Oneg Sponsors for March 2011

March 4th—David & Toby Goldfinger to

celebrate Toby's birthday; also

Carol & Steve Steinbock for Steve's birthday

March 11th—Elinor & Herb Grossman - "LeChaim";

also Joseph & Susan Sachs for their anniversary

March 18th—The Mah Jonggettes

March 25th—Pat and David Van Artsdalen

March Anniversaries

	Years
1st Jerry & Sheila Olsen.....	52
7th Joseph & Susan Sachs.....	46
14th Henry & Patricia Isenberg.....	41
16th Frank & Gerri Emkey.....	3
18th Alvan & Carol Field.....	23
22nd David & Patti Gross.....	14
24th Morris & Sherrie Willner.....	42
25th Joseph & Susan Goldberg.....	18

Food For Thought From “Miriam’s Kitchen” and Joyce

The leadership of the KJCC has just been passed to a new president and board. As I step down from the presidency of Sisterhood, and pass on all the responsibility and effort it entailed, I want to share with you some words adapted from “Miriam’s Kitchen,” by Elizabeth Ehrlich.

“It is nice to live in a world of bright diversity, with many forms and colors from which to choose in designing a life...But the wellsprings must be authentic, or else it is just a museum. Someone, many someones, must keep the sources alive.

“We want to pick and choose from the great shopping mall of expedient culture: a certain sandwich to feed a hungry nostalgia, particular communal values when we need them, ritual expertise at times of joy or stress. But when one decides, after all, to celebrate a child’s bar mitzvah, the synagogue and all the trappings must be there, maintained by a community. The old kosher bakery will close without regular shoppers. With no passionate discussants, the valued argumentative traditions of Jewish study will fade away into irrelevance.

“Without commitment, the sources will die. The forms we love to have the choice to return to will become hollow shells, cultural theme parks. Someone (many someones) has kept the forms alive and vital, has kept the choices available to us. They may have been skeptical. They must have had moments when their preferences were elsewhere.

“It is our turn now.”

-Joyce Peckman

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 or 305-393-1205.

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.

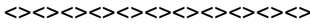
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam March 2011

In Memory Of

E. Paul Charlap

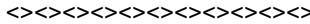
By Maryann C. Azzato



In Memory Of

Harvey Roazen

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Robert Berman

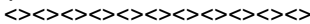
By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

Dorothy Stanlake

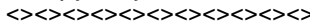
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Robert Kohlenbrener

By Jim & Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Louis Abraham Weinstein

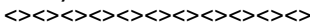
By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

Maurice Field

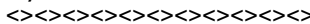
By Alvan & Carol Field



In Memory Of

Maxime Kaplan

By Tom & Marsha Garrettson



In Memory Of

Morris Shore

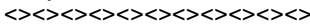
By Milton & Claire Geller



In Memory Of

Anna Shore

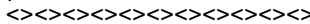
By Milton & Claire Geller



In Memory Of

Louis Weinstein

By Eric Grace & Ruth Schrader-Grace



In Memory Of

Selma Greenspan

By Bea Graham



In Memory Of

Arlene R. Brenner

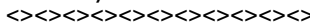
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Hanna Gross Klein

By Mollie Gross



In Memory Of

Louise Hermann

By Robert Hermann



In Memory Of

Dorothy Hirsch

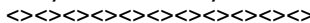
By Gerald Hirsch



In Memory Of

Anna Horn

By Ron & Dorothy Horn



In Memory Of

Rubin Bressick

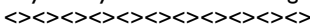
By Ron & Dorothy Horn



In Memory Of

Harry Phillips

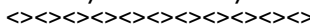
By Henry & Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Rachamim Levy

By Michal Kamely



In Memory Of

Judith N. Cooper

By David & Lois Kaufman





SHINE

30% OFF
Selected Items

Check your KJCC Gift Shop and buy Israel.



Multi-colored over-the-shoulder fabric purses and challah covers from Rifkas in the Old City of Jerusalem



Magnificent crystal mezuzahs designed by the artist Udi from the Blue and White gallery in the Cardo in the Old City of Jerusalem - Wonderful wedding gifts!



Also: Silver star necklaces with multi colored stones and hand made parchment note paper from Zickran Yaakov.



Blessing for the Home

*May there be light, joy,
peace and friendship in
this house, with an
abundance of blessing
in every room.*



Beautiful talit and kepehs from Jaffa

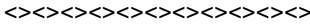
Individual orders can be accommodated.

In Memoriam March 2011

In Memory Of

Marian Rose Klimpl

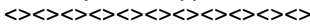
By Michael Klimpl



In Memory Of

Jennie Lippman

By Lillian Lippman



In Memory Of

Dorothy Ross

By Joyce Peckman



In Memory Of

Samual Fisch

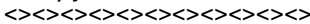
By Michael & Arlene Rosenbach



In Memory Of

Ida Seder

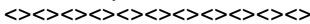
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Irving Taks

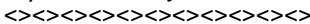
By Mel Taks



In Memory Of

Deborah Eichler

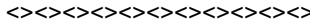
By Lawrence & Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Mrs. Mildred Lewit

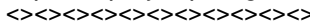
By Wendy Sue Lewit



In Memory Of

Oscar Margulies

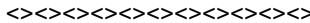
By Stanley & Jenny Margulies



In Memory Of

Denise Moss

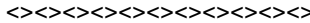
By Joel & Linda Pollack



In Memory Of

Esther Schur

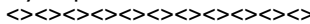
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

Theresa Steinbock

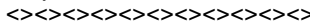
By Stephen & Carol Steinbock



In Memory Of

Anne Temkin

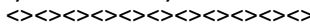
By Robert & Susan Temkin



In Memory Of

Tillie Zalmanovich

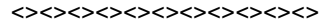
By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich



In Memory Of

Irving Line

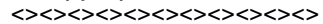
By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Louis Weinstein

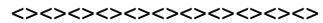
By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

Cissie Rose Lang

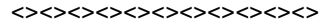
By Skip & Rene Rose



In Memory Of

Isadore Seder

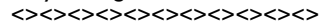
By Jules & Nettie Seder



In Memory Of

Abe M. Reider

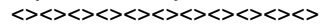
By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

Alice Weber

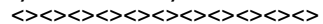
By Lawrence & Judith Weber



In Memory Of

Florence Patterson

By Morris & Evelyn Zalmanovich



Keys Jewish Community Center
MEN'S CLUB

**Monthly Meeting
& Poker Night**

The best combination since peanut butter and chocolate!

**FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH
7:30 PM AT THE KJCC
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**ALL KJCC MEN ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS
ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED
EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**Light Snacks (Potluck)
Refreshments
Worst Player Prize!**

FUN AND EXCITEMENT FOR ALL!

YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



Purim in the Community

Jewish communities around the world celebrate *Purim* as a holiday of feasting and gladness, '*mi'shenichnas Adar marbim b'simchah*' (with the start of the month of Adar we increase joy), of gift-giving - *mishlo'ach manot* - and *tzedakah* (charity), giving money to the poor, *matanot le'evyonim*. Purim is a time when Jewish communities, like the community in the Book of Esther, from whence the story comes, become aware of the fragility and particular vulnerability of living in the Diaspora, as a people "scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples" (Esther 3:8).

The observance of Purim centers around the *mitzvah* of reading the Book of Esther, called the *Megillah* (the scroll). Last year it was read in our David Kamely classroom at the KJCC, with the participation of a group of adults and our Religious School students and parents, a group much larger than the required *minyan*. Another tradition of Purim observance is *Ta'anit Esther*, the Fast of Esther. It is one of the four public fasts in the Jewish calendar. These so-called four minor fasts commemorate tragedies in Jewish history, tragic events related to the destruction of Jerusalem or to the loss of the Jewish state. (The major fast days are *Yom Kippur* and *Tisha B'Av*.)

A *ta'anit* may have one or more purposes: a tool for repentance; an expression of mourning; and supplication, such as the *Ta'anit Esther* which is a fast from dawn until dusk on Purim eve, commemorating the three-day fast observed by the Jewish people in the story of Purim. Whenever in peril, we are commanded to institute a fast day to repent, pray, and ask for Divine mercy. Thus, in the

story of Purim, the 13th of Adar, the day of battle, was a day of fasting. Earlier in the Purim narrative, Esther risked her life by appearing before the king without permission. But first she had asked the Jews to fast with her for three days. The source for the *ta'anit* is a *minhag* (custom) dating from the Gaonic period.

Purim is one of the most popular Jewish holidays for families and children. The day is celebrated with costumes, masquerades, plays, parodies, and liquor. All of these activities are meant to make Purim a day full of Carnival spirit. I remember celebrating Purim as a child in Haifa; every girl wanted to be Queen Esther, or a beautiful princess. Our mothers would spend weeks in preparing the costumes. My mother was looking for some beautiful pieces of fabrics that grandmother Dina or aunt Rivka had kept in the closet.



The tomb of Esther and Mordechai in Hamadan, a city in western Persia (Iran) said to be on the ruins of Shushan.

With those costumes, my sister and I looked like real Persian princesses.

In Israel, Tel-Aviv has become "The City of Purim." The saying is: "Purim was born in the *Galut* (Exile), but has been adopted by *Tel-Aviv* as its very own. Let *Yerushalayim* have its pilgrim festivals! Let little *Meron* rejoice over *Lag Ba'Omer* and proud *Modi'in* over Hanukkah! *Tel-Aviv* embraces joyously and passionately Purim, festival of the *Galut*." In the Diaspora the custom is to celebrate most holidays for two days, but give only one day to Purim. In Tel-Aviv it is different: one day for most holidays, but for Purim two, and even more! New ceremonies and celebrations have been created to express in modern ways the spirit of this ancient festival of Queen Esther. The buildings and streets in the city are decorated, and costume pa-

In the story of Purim, King Achashverosh's kingdom of Persia covered the areas now known as Iran and Iraq. In this spirit, below is a recipe for Iraqi Hamantaschen: (From Judy Zeidler's 'Purim Pastries with a Twist.' Recipe by: Linda Haim Meadows)

Ba'ba Beh Tamur (Iraqi Filled Pastries)

Note: The word "tamur" comes from the Hebrew word "tamar," meaning dates.

(These pastries often include a date filling; however, the recipe below offers different suggestions.)

Ingredients:

- 1 package active dry yeast
- 1 cup lukewarm water
- 3 cups flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon ground fennel
- ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Cheese or almond filling (recipes below)

- 1) Combine the yeast and water. Set aside for 10 minutes.
- 2) Mix flour, salt, baking powder, fennel, yeast mixture, and melted butter together. Cover with a damp cloth, and let rise until doubled, about 1 hour.
- 3) For cheese and almond fillings, cut dough into circles, and place filling in the center. Brush the edge with water and fold to make a crescent shape. Seal edges with a fork, and bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes.

Cheese Filling:

- ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese
- ½ cup shredded Muenster cheese
- 1 egg

Almond Filling:

- 1 cup ground almonds
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon rose water
- 1 tablespoon orange blossom water

rades are planned. Since 1933, Tel-Aviv has issued an official guide named *Kerobez*. Its name is made up of the first letters of the Hebrew words: *Kol rinah vi'ye-shuah be'ohale tzadikim* (Psalm 118.15). The name *Kerobez* expresses the spirit of Jewish joy, for the words of the Psalmist say that the righteous rejoice when God makes justice triumph in the world.

The festivities begin with plays and shows telling the story of Purim in different versions for adults and children. At one place you can hear choral singing, at another an orchestra playing music of Purim melodies. For the children,

a special pageant is prepared dramatizing the Book of Esther. Like a living *Megillah*, the characters of the story step out of the pages of a gigantic scroll. Guest artists and singers, dancers, musicians and actors participate in these performances.

One of the most important events of the Purim celebration is the election of *Malkat Esther*, the Queen who reigns over Tel-Aviv *mi'yom Purim zeh ad yom Purim ha'ba*, that is, "from this Purim unto the Purim to come."

Not always is the most beautiful young girl crowned Queen Esther. Sometimes she is chosen for beauty, but sometimes for other reasons. One year an Ashkenazi girl is chosen, then perhaps a Sephardic beauty. Once, a Yemenite girl of *Neve Tzedek*, a beautiful old quarter in Tel-Aviv, was crowned queen.

It was a Cinderella story of a poor orphan girl. The joy of the Yemenites was great; at last they had come to feel a certain pride as an ethnic group; they were now considered the full equals of other Jews. Thus, the selection of the queen can contribute to a sense of Jewish unity. A wit in *Kerobez* says: *Kol Yisrael yesh lahem chelek be Esther ha'Malkah*, which means that all Israel is united in the pride they share in glorious Queen Esther.

Another interesting city connected with the celebration of Purim is *Hamadan* in Persia, today's Iran. To make a pilgrimage on certain occasions to the grave of some ancestor has long been a religious custom among Oriental Jews. This custom can be traced back to the influence of the Islamic environment in which these Jews have lived. They say that the most important holy place of the Persian Jews

is the tomb of Esther and Mordechai, in Hamadan, which supposedly is on the site of biblical *Shushan Ha'Birah* (Shushan the Capital).

W. J. Fischel writes: "I must confess that a curious sense of solemnity filled me when, on my way from Jerusalem via Bagdad into the interior of Persia, I found myself in *Shushan Ha'Birah*, at the graves of Mordechai and Esther. First came the impressive road from the Tigris plain to the high Persian plateau, a

stair-like, rising pass, on which for thousands of years the armies of all kings, merchants and pilgrims of all nations have travelled – that old caravan road to China which is a natural passage connecting East and West...then there is *Hamadan* itself, one of the most ancient of cities, standing on the ruins of old Achmetha,



The interior of the tomb of Esther and Mordechai.

the summer residence of the kings of the Medes. But there was another reason why I felt that in this city I stood on holy ground; I recalled the *Megillat Esther*, the characters of which come to life as one stands beside the tomb of its heroes. One can fairly see the procession of mourning, fasting Jews: Mordechai in sackcloth and ashes; beautiful, graceful Esther; hate-filled Haman; the vacillating king and then the messengers who bear the tidings of salvation to all the Jewish communities of the great Persian Empire, the festive rejoicing of the Jews. No wonder that at Purim everybody wants to make a pilgrimage to the graves of these heroes of the *Megillah*. Dark and narrow though the tomb is, everybody wants to perform the special *Mitzvah* of hearing the reading of the *Megillah* at the historic site of the actual events." ◇

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.

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Cole, Ronald
Sax, Stu & Lauren

General Fund

Sax, Stu & Lauren
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Shutan, Alvina

In Honor of

Lauren Sax as
president

In Honor of

love offering
Joel Pollack

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Eileen Hermann
Eileen Hermann, Sofia Ojeda

In Honor of

grandson Crue LaMarche

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Wolfe, Larry & Dorothy

In Memory of

Max & Flora Rosenthal
Elsie Gilderman
Fannie Phillips
Joseph Krissel
M. Teresa Astray-Caneda
Samuel Marmar
Amos & Ida Present
Sally Sussman
Morris Feinberg
Samuel Wolfe

KJCC Annual Passover Second Seder



Tuesday, April 19, 2011

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

Contact Leslie Dillon at 305-853-2693,
222law@gmail.com, for information and reservations.

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

Your check is your reservation. Reserve early as we will
be opening this up to the public after April 1st.

PASSOVER

Adults \$50

Children 12 and under are our guests.

Sisterhood Lauren Sax



“If you want something done, your best bet is to ask a Jewish woman to do it. Jewish women, by our tradition and by the way we were raised, have an ability to cut through all the reasons why something should, shouldn’t or can’t be done and pull people together to be successful.”

This is a quote from Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords that then-President Alan Beth read one Sabbath eve service. Our KJCC Sisterhood certainly exemplifies its meaning. Erica Lieberman-Garrett, Kathy Shabathai and their crew banded together to pull off a fabulous “Deli Nite” evening of fun, food and schmoozing just as the ads guaranteed. Hats off to everyone who gave of their time and talents, including: Leslie Dillon, Patti Gross, Georgia Landau, Roberta McNew and Joan Stark. You really outdid yourselves and we all thank you for a terrific and very profitable fundraiser.

Sisterhood sends its own *mazel tov* to the newly elected President of the KJCC, Stuart Sax (that name sounds vaguely familiar) and his Board of Directors. In their honor, Sisterhood hosted a light luncheon immediately following the installation and I want to thank all those who cooked, baked, schlepped, organized and cleaned up. You know who you are and I am most appreciative of all your efforts.

As we head into March, Sisterhood continues to be busy and vibrant. The weekend of the 19th and 20th is turning out to be a KJCC weekend. I hope you are all planning to see “Chicago” at Coral Shores High School on Saturday, March 19th. This outstanding musical is the winner of six Tony Awards and is the longest-running musical revival on Broadway. Linda Pollack is in charge of tickets for what promises to be a very entertaining performance. The following morning the KJCC Sunday School students will lead the congregation in the *Megillah* reading, followed by a brunch sponsored by Sisterhood. This is always a fun holiday at the KJCC and we hope as many of you as possible will join us. Since this will be a potluck brunch, Erica is coordinating the food. So please call her.

Continuing the theme of a Jewish woman being necessary to get something done, we are excited about our newest event, a membership “Chai” tea. Kathy Shabathai is not only sponsoring but also cooking and baking for what should be a relaxing and very social afternoon. We hope those of you who are not familiar with what Sisterhood does, or those who just want to forge new friendships, will join us at Kathy’s (and Joe’s) home on March 27th at 2 p.m. We are all looking forward to some good conversation with our feet up – something we don’t usually get to do!! And remember, all female members of the KJCC are automatically members of Sisterhood.

For those of you who have been putting on a few pounds this season, it might be due in part to our wonderful Oneg Shabbat hosts and the good food that has been provided. We truly appreciate all those who have chosen to celebrate a mitzvah with the rest of their “mishpocha” at the KJCC. There are always dates available, so don’t hesitate to contact Joyce Peckman (451-0665 or 240-1000 or joyce@adoctorsbag.com) and she will coordinate it all. Thanks, Joyce for your help and being so organized.

To avoid any confusion, I thought it might be helpful to include a roster of our committee chairwomen. Keep it handy for reference.

President	Lauren Sax
Vice President	Georgia Landau
Treasurer	Nancy Kluger
Recording Sec’y.	Carol Steinbock
Kitchen/Dinners	Erica Lieberman-Garrett/ Kathy Shabathai
Picture Wall	Candy Stanlake
Publicity	Lauren Sax/Linda Pollack
Gift Shop	Susan Gordon/Roberta McNew
Oneg Scheduling	Joyce Peckman
Oneg Food	Lauren Sax/Georgia Landau

KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

CHICAGO

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:00 pm

Coral Shores High School

Plantation Key - MM 89 Oceanside



Book by Fred Ebb & Bob Fosse

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Based on the play *CHICAGO* by Maurine Dallas Watkins

Directed by Debra Ginsberg

Produced by the Miami Acting Company

Contact: Linda Pollack to reserve your ticket
lindap4000@earthlink.net

Donation: \$25

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Would You Like Fries With That?

The Subway sandwich chain is experimenting with a new falafel sandwich, testing it in the Chicago area. Subway has nearly 24,000 restaurants in the United States and five locations in Israel, four in Egypt and 41 in Saudi Arabia. Bahrain was the first place it opened outside of North America back in 1984. In a related story, the McDonald's fast food chain is about to roll out its latest offering of the "McFalafel" in Israel. It will come with a side of techina and the classic Israeli salad made up of chopped tomatoes and cucumbers. (*The Forward*, 1-11-11)

From the Bible

According to figures recently released by the Israeli Bureau of Statistics, Noa continues – after almost 10 years – to be the most popular name for Jewish newborn girls. For boys it is Noam. Other top names for girls are Shira, Tamar and Yael, while Iti, Uri and Daniel head the list for boys. When choosing names for babies of both sexes, Israelis typically go to the Bible, which is also the source for the top twenty names. (*Dateline: World Jewry*, February 2011)

A Nation of Immigrants

Israel's Immigration and Absorption Committee revealed that one of every four people living in Israel today, and one-third of its workforce, was born abroad. Since the founding of the State in 1948, some three million Jews have immigrated to Israel. Between 1948 and 1951, two main waves of *aliya* (Jewish immigration) brought 600,000 new residents, doubling the nation's population. In addition, nearly 400,000 Jews immigrated to Israel from former Soviet Union countries in just one year, between 1990 and 1991, with some 1.2 million arriving since

the fall of the Iron Curtain. All of Israel's prime ministers except Yitzchak Rabin, Ehud Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu have been immigrants. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 2-8-11)

Permaculture?

Eco-Israel is offering English-speaking young adults, between the ages of 18-30, the opportunity to explore environmental issues while living five months on an organic farm in central Israel. The international program of the *Hava & Adam Eco-Educational Farm* is located halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The program allows students "to explore how ecology, Judaism and Israel blend together in a working model of self-sustaining ecological community." Upon completion of the program, participants receive an internationally recognized certificate in Permaculture Design. Permaculture is rooted in the observation of nature and is a philosophy of working with, rather than against, nature. To download an application, go to www.eco-israel.org. (In case you missed it, "Hava" is the Hebrew name for Adam's better-half, "Eve.") (*The Jewish Council for Public Affairs*, www.thejcpa.org, 1-18-11)

Tomb of Zechariah

The Israeli Antiquities Authority has recently unearthed a 1,500-year-old Byzantine church, which includes an unusually well preserved mosaic floor. The discovery was made at *Hirbet Madras* in central Israel, southwest of Jerusalem. The church was built on top of another structure, about 500 years older, dating to Roman times, when it is believed that the settlement was inhabited by Jews. Various scholars who visited the site believe

it could mark the residence and burial place of the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. *Hirbet Madras* had a large, important Jewish community for hundreds of years, from the Second Temple period until its destruction during the Bar Kokhba Revolt against Rome in 135 C.E. (*Associated Press*, 2-2-11)

A Place to Worship in the Caribbean

The Jewish community of St. Martin, a Dutch and French island in the Caribbean, has opened its first synagogue since the 18th century. It is part of a new Chabad Center. There are about 300 Jewish residents in St. Martin, but the population swells to about 1,000 during tourist season. Jews first came to the island as refugees from the Spanish Inquisition, and the community grew during the 16th and 17th centuries. The synagogue was abandoned in 1781 and later destroyed by a hurricane. A historic Jewish cemetery also was recently discovered. (*World Jewish Congress*, 1-28-11)

Be Fruitful and Multiply (and Multiply...)

A Jerusalem woman has given birth to her 18th child, a baby boy who is already an uncle twice over. Rivka, 44, has two grandchildren older than her new son. Part of the strictly Orthodox Chasidic community, Rivka herself has 15 siblings. Her husband helps out by making the children sandwiches every morning, and it takes him almost an hour since each one gets his or her favorite. Two washing machines work non-stop and when asked about transporting the family, Rivka said, "A car isn't enough for our family - we need a train." (*www.thjc.com*, 2-11-11)

2011 Sydney Taylor Book Awards

The 2011 winners of the prestigious Sydney Taylor Book Awards were announced by the Association of Jewish Libraries in January. The award honors new books for children and teens that "exemplify the highest literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience." The award is named for the author of the classic *All-of-a-Kind Family* children's series. Winners are:

- For young readers: *Gathering Sparks*, by

Howard Schwartz;

Honor awards in this category:

Modeh Ani: A Good Morning Book, by Sarah Gershman;
Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty, by Linda Glasser;
Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale, by Barbara Diamond Goldin;

• For older readers: *Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword*, by Barry Deutsch;

Honor awards in this category:

Resistance, by Carla Jablonski;
One Is Not a Lonely Number, by Evelyn Krieger;

Black Radishes, by Susan Lynn Meyer;
• For teen readers: *The Things a Brother Knows*, by Dana Reinhardt;

Honor awards in this category:

Hush, by Eishes Chayil;
Once, by Morris Gleitzman;
Life, After, by Sarah Darer Littman;

In addition to the medal winners, the Association designated 27 Notable Books of Jewish Content for 2011. For details about all titles, go to www.SydneyTaylorBookAward.org or Amazon.com for full annotations. (*Association of Jewish Libraries, January 2011*)

Profiles of the Fallen

Later this year, the United States will mark the 10th anniversary of its military involvement in Afghanistan. The eighth anniversary of the war in Iraq will be observed on March 20th. As of February 7th, the number of service men and women killed in these wars reached 5,775 and approximately 37 of them were Jewish. That number may be higher, as some soldiers don't declare their religion, especially when serving in Muslim countries. Among the Jewish dead are the first female airman to die in Iraq and the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard killed in action since the Vietnam War. Because the Jews who have died have not been very well covered by the Jewish community, *The Forward* newspaper has come out and told their individual stories. For a moving tribute to these fallen men and women, go to www.forward.com/articles/135331. (*The Forward*, 2-9-11)

In Memoriam

-Tuvia Friedman, who hunted Nazis for decades and gathered material that helped identify Adolf Eichmann in advance of his capture by Israel in 1960, died in mid-January. He was 89. Friedman lost his entire family in the Holocaust, except for one sister. He managed to escape from the Nazis towards the end of the war by grabbing the rifle of the German soldier who fell asleep while guarding him. Friedman worked with Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal in the early days after the war, and together the two succeeded in capturing and bringing over 250 Nazi criminals to justice. Like Wiesenthal, Friedman decided to drop everything after the Holocaust and devote his life to bringing Nazi murderers to justice. After Wiesenthal settled in Vienna, Friedman moved to Israel and continued on his own. In 1952 he established the Institute for the Documentation of Nazi War Crimes in Haifa. Friedman published an autobiography in 1961 titled "The Hunter." (www.jta.org, 1-17-11)

-Maria Altmann, who waged a seven-year legal battle to recover her family's Nazi-looted paintings, has died. She was 94. In 1998, when she was 82, Altmann retained E. Randol Schoenberg, an attorney, to investigate the Nazi theft of five Gustav Klimt works owned by her family. The collection included Klimt's famous "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer," which was hanging in the Austrian National Gallery. Adele Bloch-Bauer was Altmann's aunt. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the case could go forward, resulting in an Austrian mediation panel ultimately awarding Altmann the five Klimt paintings in January, 2006. The paintings were subsequently sold for \$327.7 million. The portrait of Bloch-Bauer is now on permanent display at Ronald S. Lauder's Neue Galerie in New York. (www.latimes.com, 2-8-11)

A Living Tribute

The Hebrew Union College's (HUC) School of Sacred Music has a new name. The Reform movement's cantorial school has been named for the late Debbie Friedman, who died in January at the age of 59. Friedman trans-

formed Jewish worship in American liberal synagogues with her style of folk-inspired music, often with new tunes for ancient texts. The school will now be known as *The Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music*. The HUC's cantorial school in New York was established in 1948 and has invested 462 cantors. (For a moving tribute to the life of Friedman, see the article in the February 2011 issue of *Chai-Lights*.) (Jerusalem Post, 1-31-11)

And the Award Goes To.....

Two Israeli filmmakers received awards at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah at the end of January. Erez Kav-El won the World Cinema Dramatic Screening Award for his film "Restoration," about a man coming to terms with his estranged son. Talya Lavie received an inaugural Sundance award, which supports emerging independent filmmakers from around the world. Her film, "Zero Motivation," deals with three women working in an administrative office at a remote Israeli army base and their power struggles. (www.jta.org, 1-31-11)

Did You Know...

-Israeli scientist Yosef Shiloh of Tel Aviv University's Sackler Medical School has become the first Israeli researcher to win a prestigious award given by the American Association for Cancer Research. Shiloh has devoted his research to ataxia-telangiectasia, a rare neurodegenerative hereditary disease. It is prevalent among people of North African origin, as well as in the Palestinian and Bedouin communities. (www.jta.org, 1-25-11)

-David Gorr, 68, a Jewish grandfather from Melbourne, Australia, won the world's second-largest poker tournament. Gorr took nearly two million dollars in prize money in the Crown Aussie Millions Main Event 2011 tournament, beating 721 competitors, including the top poker players from around the world. Last year's tournament was won by Tyron Krost, who also is Jewish. (Our sources report on good and unimpeachable authority that Gorr will *not* be invited to the next KJCC Men's Club poker night, as there is great concern that humiliating losses there could damage his burgeoning international career.) (www.jta.org, 1-31-11) ♦



Keys Jewish Community Center

Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

Cordially Invites All KJCC Women to a

"Chai Tea"

Date: Sunday, March 27, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Home of Katherine and Joseph Shabathai

106 Royal Lane

Plantation Key, FL 33070

MM 87.5 Bayside

RSVP: kathyshabathai@hotmail.com

by March 23rd

Sponsored by Joe and Kathy Shabathai

Refreshments prepared by Kathy Shabathai

*This is a wonderful
opportunity to meet and mingle
with your fellow sisters in the
congregation.*

Photo Gallery

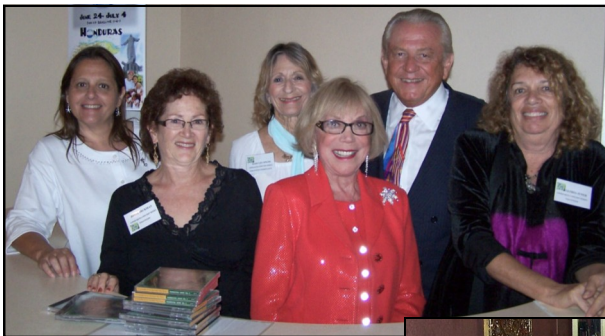
Yardena's Ulpan classes met at Michal's house on January 22nd, left, to go beyond language study and explore topics of Jewish ethics and culture. Joyce and Gloria, below, address their first audience of the



year at the beginning of the Upper Keys Concert series. The first concert, on January 25th, was the Harry James

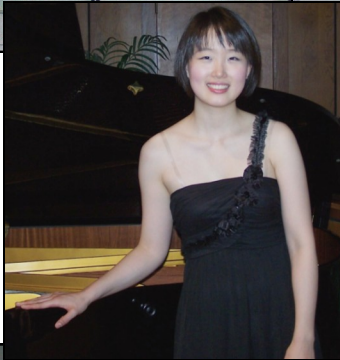


Orchestra, now led by old hand Fred Radke, shown at left with wife and vocalist Gina and the KJCC volunteers.



After the early service on January 28th, a group headed to Num Thai in Key Largo, above, to celebrate the birthdays of Carol Steinbock and Yardena Kamely. (And, yes, to eat.) Obviously they have a lot of fans. The two ageless birthday girls pose without their entourage, left.





Separate from Yom HaShoah, the U.N. has mandated that January 27th is to be an International Holocaust Observance; it's the date that Russian troops first encountered the horrors of Auschwitz/Birkenau. Yardena and her committee - Muriel,

Medina and Rachel - created a display that's now in the KJCC lobby but will soon go to Coral Shores High School.

The second in the Upper Keys Concert Series took place January 29th, and featured the Chopin Award-winning Korean pianist Soo-Yeon Ham. One wonders if Chopin himself could have played his etudes more beautifully than she does.

Gloria couldn't be there that night, but how often does KJCC enjoy a Donna Bolton sighting? (Group shot, far right.)

It was, if you'll remember, cold in January, and Yardena was just able to begin resuming normal activities, so chivalrous Dave Mont mans both oars and transports Yardena on a very blue Atlantic off Key Largo.

The photo at bottom is of Joel and Linda Pollack's grandchildren Will and Maddy. What's amazing about this shot is that they live in Austin, Texas, where it never snows. Except it did that day. If you'll remember, about three-quarters of the country was covered in snow.



There will very shortly be a plaque on the beautiful new gazebo in KJCC's beautiful new Meditation Garden, which will read:

"Gazebo Donated and Built by Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake in Honor of our Parents, Rose & Laurie Beth and Dorothy & J.D. Stanlake."

For any of you who'd think that Candy would do all the real work, here are photos of Alan hard at it, even if getting a little help from Steve Steinbock. Gloria and Susan enjoy the remarkably comfortable benches, right, and many in the crowd after the Annual Meeting on February 13th get their first look at the finished product (which might also become our new Sukkah).





PURIM

**The whole Megillah--
The real Megillah--
The KJCC Megillah--**

Sunday, March 20, 2011

Wear a costume - Bring a dish!

**10:30 Megillah Reading and Purim presentation
11:30 Brunch - Potluck**

Megillah reading will be moderated by Joyce Peckman with participation by our students and congregation. Tzedakah will be collected to be used for Passover meals for those in need.

**Contact Erica Garrett, (305) 853-1003
hippiejap@hotmail.com, to coordinate
your dish.**

The 2011 KJCC Fashion Show

by Joyce Peckman

Sisterhood's fabulous fashion show on January 18th featured many firsts this year. It was held for the first time at Braza Lena, which is generally only available for sumptuous Brazilian barbeque/buffet dinners.

It was the first time that the always-engaging presenters from Angelika's were also the incoming presidents of Sisterhood and the KJCC. And the main model was not a Sisterhood



member. (Actually, she was a mannequin.) Over eighty women attended, many using the occasion to dress up a bit.



Joyce with the Brighton necklace she won.

The dinner began with the blessing over the bread - the *HaMotzi* - led by a duo performance of Stuart and me.

Featured were interesting and unusual belts, scarves and jewelry. For over an hour, attendees were treated to the latest trends in fashion and colors, with the main theme being how to stretch your existing wardrobe with new acces-

sories. Stuart, in his inimitable way, previewed Angelika's newest merchandise, including magnetic broaches, re-



Well, at least this model works cheap, and Stu seems to like her.



versible shawls, and necklaces that double as belts. Lauren, with her unerring eye, managed to find women wearing exactly the outfits that could be perfectly complemented and enlivened by the accessories she'd brought. Thus the audience became





the models. (At which point the mannequin graciously stepped aside.)

After the show there was a drawing for prizes donated by



Oh, there are times I just loooooove the retail business!



Angelika. Pauline, our KJCC matriarch, drew the raffle tickets from the bowl. Coincidentally, the owner of Curves in Key Largo, Anna, won the lovely



ing the ticket sales; to Sofy Wasser and Roberta for check-in; and to Carol Steinbock for single-handedly selling over \$400 in raffle tickets. To everyone else who helped with the luncheon and to all who supported it, we offer you thanks as well. ♦



shawl that she had been modeling. I had just been walking around demonstrating a magnetically transforming necklace, and won a Brighton necklace.

We all offer many thanks to Joan Stark for chairing the event and making all of the arrangements; to Roberta McNew for organiz-



Our great thanks to Mary Lee Singer and Carol Steinbock for all the photos.

New Year For The Trees

Our Wonderful 2011 *Tu B'Shvat* Seder at KJCC

by Gloria Avner

Sometimes being replaced is a good thing. That's how Yardena and I felt as we *kvelled* over our students' beautifully set *Tu B'Shvat*

table and listened. Our mystical seder honoring the birthday of fruit-bearing trees was led for the first time, not by us, but by our own students: Joshua, Harry, Noach and Moira did the honors this year,

Max facilitated decoration of the schoolroom as the efficient and creative tutor he is. Lily and Zach, in addition to helping with decorations, created their annual floral centerpieces with flowers from our own grounds, and Natalie and Mikhaela decorated and arranged the table.

Behind the scenes, our students' parents contributed fruits and creative labor as they broke walnut shells, opened pomegranates and made beautiful trays with the season's "first" fruits (not to



Nettie, Barbara and Sylvie helped prepare all the food.



All KJCC members are invited to the Tu B'Shvat seder, and many came.



Three of the four service leaders: Moira, Joshua and Harry. Noach eluded the camera.

mention providing shovels, dirt, seedlings, and fertilizer). Bless the Bittons, the Friedmans, the Grace/Schrader-Graces, the Bernsteins, the Werthamers, and the Knowleses.

We said the blessings for all the fruits, those with edible skin and inedible skin, those with pits and without. We blessed and drank four cups of wine, moving metaphorically from the pure white of winter to the hint of rosy warmth in spring to near fiery red in summer to the pure red of autumn harvest time. Our table was full and we were grateful. There were children, parents and tutors, teachers, board

members and future board members, our president, a past-president, sisterhood president, our future president (and excellent photographer) Stuart Sax, Lee Schur, and the Seders. The feeling of community support for the children's efforts was palpable.

And then the grand finale! Our kids love to dig; they love to plant. They love to grow.



Since Tu B'Shvat is the New Year of the Trees, each year our KJCC religious students plant a fruit tree, or two or three, on our grounds in celebration. Top left, Gloria prepares a

We dig, we place, we water. Three new trees joined our KJCC orchard—a fig, an avocado, and an (ask Susan—I forget the name, but it is something like carborundom :-). We held hands, danced around the trees and sang “Mayim, Mayim.” (Water, Water.) How can one help but be struck by the parallels between our beautiful young trees and our equally beautiful and evolving students? ◇



blowing for the new plant as the students dig the hole. At bottom left, Robert Werthamer helps the students get the plant in properly. At bottom right, the students enter the new KJCC Meditation Garden through the front gate.



Our thanks to Stuart Sax for taking all the photographs, indoors and out, for this article.



Introducing Your New 2011 - 2012 KJCC Officers and Board

On Sunday, February 13th, 2011, the membership of KJCC met in open session in the KJCC Sanctuary and formally voted to elect the following officers and directors as recommended by the Nominating Committee, to serve for a term of one year:

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, Kurt Kluger, Dave Mont, Medina Roy, Gene Silverman, Sam Vinicur



In the photo top left, Jim Boruszak reads a prayer from our siddur for the welfare of our country. As head of Ritual, Gloria Avner reads a benediction. Alan Beth addresses KJCC for the last time as president, and Stuart Sax for the first. After the formal meeting it was time for Sisterhood's lunch. Georgia found herself sandwiched between two presidents. We all laughed at the misspelling on the cake, but appreciated the message.

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In his first act as KJCC president, Stuart Sax presented the following plaque to his predecessor, Alan Beth:

**Presented to ALAN L. BETH
President 2009-2011**

For your unwavering dedication and extraordinary leadership, enhancing our Ritual programs, designing and implementing our data management system, and so much more, we thank you.

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The new officers and board for 2011 for KJCC, center. Only Bernie Ginsberg was absent. At right, Stuart stands with four past presidents, who all still make major contributions to the life and direction of KJCC. Alan and Jim, who round out a stellar ex-prez club, had to leave immediately after the ceremony so aren't pictured.



"Shechinah" Among and Within Us

by Gloria Avner

Women's Seder time approaches, and my thoughts turn both to creativity – our play with clay – and divinity. Perhaps they are the same, the feminine aspect of divinity and the feminine spirit's place in Judaism.

A month ago, a Friday evening's parsha spoke about the great care and amount of precious materials used by the homeless Jews to build the *Mishkan*, or Tabernacle, in the desert, creating an awe-inspiring place for *Shechinah* to dwell. How striking that the word for tabernacle (*Mishkan*) and the word for *Shechinah*, share the same root letters.

When we were herdsmen and farmers, living close to the land, *Shechinah* had always been seen as the source of all things in nature. In traditional Jewish writings, *Shechinah* is defined as the "female aspect of God" or the "presence" of the infinite God in the world. She shares in the exile of the Jewish people. Construction of the *Mishkan* was made necessary by exile. We needed a place to house "creator spirit" while we wandered in the desert. *Shechinah* wandered with us. She is introduced in the early rabbinical commentaries as the "immanence" or "indwelling" of the living God, whose role as the animating life force of the earth is to balance the transcendent deity. She does not appear by name in the five books of Moses, the Torah. Still, scholars of the Old Testament refer to her while interpreting the text. When Moses meets the burning bush, he is told to remove his shoes and prepare himself to receive the *Shechinah*. According to the rabbis, the choice of the simple thorn bush as the vehicle for the revelation emphasizes the *Shechinah's* presence; nothing in nature can exist without her.

Talmudists emphasize her association with humanity. They see her as suffering

when human beings erred: "Acts of bloodshed, incest, perversion of justice and falsification of measures cause her to depart." They tell us: "Whoever is humble will ultimately cause the *Shechinah* to dwell upon Earth. Whoever is haughty brings about the defilement of the Earth and the departure of the *Shechinah*." In their view, actions harmful to other human beings or the Earth cause the *Shechinah* to flee, and she rises upward to the Seven Heavens. On the other side of the scale are the positive actions of humanity, which attract her presence downward to the earth.

Shechinah also comes to earth when people need her comforting presence. She hovers, rabbis tell us, at the bed of all who are ill, and is seen by the dying as they exit the world into the great light. According to tradition, the *Shechinah* comes to the good and true at death, giving them the opportunity to go straight up the center of the heavenly ladder in a moment of pure consciousness, into the merger with the Divine.

We don't know if the *Shechinah* spoke to our matriarchs or other women. Women did not write. But women did sing. And women drummed and danced. Not least among them was Miriam, as she led the ecstatic call and response at the shore of the just-parted sea, "*Shirat HaYam*."

The Talmud reports that the *Shechinah* is what caused prophets to prophesy and King David to compose his psalms. Creativity and inspiration. Appreciation and joy.

I am writing these final paragraphs on Valentine's Day, hardly a Jewish holiday. I mention it only because the *Shechinah* is intimately connected with expressions of human love, particularly romantic and marital bliss. It is she who blesses a happy couple; the glow of lovers is considered to be the reflection of her presence. Making love on Shabbat is said

to be a *mitzvah*, blessed by *Shechinah*. Once again we come back to creativity and to joy, the joy associated with a *mitzvah*.

Early Jewish mystics emphasized the splendor of the *Shechinah*, often envisioning her as God's glory. In their conception, she is the jewel or precious stone represented by the Torah, as the crowned bride of God we welcome on Shabbat. She is the luminous presence of the Divine, the great light who shines on all creatures.

I believe she is also the light within us, made manifest by our creativity and joy in observing *mitzvot*. As we at KJCC get our hands "dirty" while creating clay teacups, or hammer boards for a garden pergola, or plant flowering bushes alongside our meditation garden, it occurs to me that we, as a congregation, male and female, young and old, are creating our own *Mishkan*, a place of joy and creativity where *Shechinah* will feel welcome and treasured. ◇

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Purim:

Interpretations, Teachings and Arcana



You all know the basics, the cast of characters, and the rituals. If nothing else, Purim is the ultimate “they tried to kill us...we survived...let’s eat!” story. But as with everything else in Judaism, scrupulous study of the text by our rabbis has yielded a rich literature, many layers of understanding, and (surprise) some difference of opinion. We waded into the commentary to give you a representative sample:

Eulogies and fasting are prohibited on Purim, and in a leap year they are prohibited in the first month of Adar as well. A mourner likewise does not mourn publicly on Purim. He does not sit on the ground nor remove his shoes, but observes the private aspects of mourning, as is the case on Shabbat.

The most preferred manner of fulfilling the mitzvah is to read the *Megillah* publicly, and in the synagogue. Even if one could form a *minyan* elsewhere, he should go to the synagogue, since, “in a multitude there is majesty,” and that way the miracle is made known more widely.

Positive Torah commandments (things you should do, as opposed to things you are ordered to eschew) are all deferred for the sake of hearing the *Megillah*. Even the study of Torah is suspended for the *Megillah* Reading.

If one hears the *Megillah* read aloud, he fulfills the obligation as if he were to read it himself. It is, however, necessary to hear every single word, for if one has not heard the entire *Megillah*, he has not fulfilled his obligation.

The names of the ten sons of Haman, together with the four preceding words (“500 men and...”), and the word “ten” which follows, are all read in one breath, to stress that they were all slain and hung together.

The miracle of Purim occurred through wine. Vashti was removed from her throne because of a wine-feast and Esther replaced

her. The downfall of Haman was brought about through the wine feasting which Esther held. The rabbis, therefore, have prescribed the drinking of wine on Purim, and said: “A person is obligated to drink on Purim till he no longer knows the difference between ‘Cursed-is-Haman’ and ‘Blessed-is-Mordechai.’

In rabbi-speak, this does not mean excessive drinking of wine so that one might descend to “levity,” or forget the required *brachot* or prayer. It is sufficient to drink a little more than is one’s usual habit, and to take a nap. In rabbi-think, this fulfills the precept, for one who sleeps does not know the difference between a curse and a blessing. Aware of a strong propensity for alcohol abuse amongst the very observant, modern orthodox rabbis now play down the command to drink. In the words of Rabbi Alexander Ziskind of Grodno, quoted by Rabbi Weinreb of the Orthodox Union, we may become “a bit warm, a bit fragrant,” but becoming drunk is absolutely forbidden.

The Purim Feast is especially significant in that it elevates the soul as it provides pleasure to the body. The Zohar states that on Purim one may accomplish through bodily pleasure what he can accomplish on Yom Kippur through bodily affliction.

It is obligatory to send a gift consisting of at least two “portions” to another person. Both men and women are included in this *mitzvah*. Only what is edible or drinkable without further cooking or preparation is considered a “portion.” One may therefore send cooked meats or fish, pastry goods, fruit, sweets, wine and other beverages.

A person cannot free himself, through gifts to the poor on Purim, from the general obligation of *tzedakah* that the Torah places upon him. Even a poor person is obligated to fulfill this *mitzvah* at least once a year, aside from what he gives to the poor on Purim.

A story is told in Chabad of Purim in 1953. The Lubavitcher Rebbe was asked to give a blessing for the Jews of the Soviet Union, known to be in danger. The Rebbe instead told a cryptic story about a man voting in the Soviet Union who heard people cheering for the candidate, "Hoorah! Hoorah!" The man did not want to cheer, but was afraid to *not* cheer, so he said "hoorah," but in his heart, he meant it in Hebrew: *hu ra*, which means, "he is evil"! The crowd at the Rebbe's 1953 gathering began chanting "hu ra!" regarding Stalin. That night, Stalin suffered the stroke that led to his death a few days later.

In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second Adar, so that it is always one month before Passover. The 14th day of first Adar is then celebrated as a minor holiday called Purim Katan, which means "little Purim." There are no specific observances for Purim Katan.

The Book of Esther, more than anything else, is responsible for the continued celebration of Purim. It also opened the way for the establishment of later holidays that, like Purim, could be instituted without Divine command if they commemorated an important event or served an important function in the life of the Jewish people. (The Purim story, remember, preceded the Chanukah story.)

Although Esther and Mordecai are the heroes of the Purim story, some see Vashti, the queen Esther replaced, as a heroine in her own right. She refused to debase herself before the king and his drunken friends, choosing to value her dignity above submitting to her husband's whims. Vashti is seen as a strong character who does not use her beauty or sexuality to advance herself, which some argue is exactly what Esther does later in the text. In the Talmud, by the way, it is sug-

gested that Vashti was unwilling to appear nude before the king and his guests either because she had leprosy or because she had grown a tail.

In short, the four mitzvot to celebrate Purim:

1. We hear the story of Esther as recounted in the Bible;
2. We have a festive meal with more wine than usual;
3. We deliver two different kinds of food to friends and neighbors;
4. We give gifts to the poor.

Like Hanukkah, Purim has never been universally considered a religious holy day, in spite of the fact that it is designated by the term "yom-*tov*." Business transactions and even manual labor are allowed on Purim.

In the *Mishnah* there was a difference of opinion as to how much of the *Megillah* one must read in order to discharge one's duty. According to Rabbi Judah, a portion sufficed. Rabbi Meir demanded the reading of the entire scroll; his view was accepted in the Talmud.

Purim was an occasion when joyous license was permitted even within the walls of the synagogue, such as the boisterous hissing, stamping, and rattling during the public service, at the mention of Haman or his sons, as well as the whistling at the mention of Mordechai. This practice traces its origin to French and German rabbis of the thirteenth century, who introduced the custom of writing the name of Haman, the offspring of Amalek, on two smooth stones and of knocking or rubbing them constantly until the name was blotted out. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name stamped their feet as a sign of contempt.

As early as the fifth century, and especially in the Gaonic period (9th and 10th centuries), it was a custom to burn Haman in effigy on Purim. In Italy the Jewish children would arrange themselves in rows and pelt one another with nuts; while the adults rode through the streets with fir-branches in their hands, shouted, or blew trumpets around a doll representing Haman, which was finally burned at the stake, with due solemnity. ◊

Stained Glass of KJCC

Part seven of our closer look at the story behind the art.

It's fitting, perhaps, that the last window image we find as we finish our journey around the stained glass windows in KJCC's sanctuary is that of a ship, the universally understood symbol of a journey. There is the familiar radiant sunshine in this window, as the ship sits atop a very blue Mediterranean Sea. The sunshine is missing from the two windows that feature martial images, so it's reasonable to assume that this is a ship of commerce, not war. Indeed, the tribe that this window represents is said to have been the great seagoing purveyor of commerce among their brethren. Our last tribal window is that of the tribe of Zebulon.

It's a little strange that Zebulon was chosen for one of the windows. There is very little mention of him in the Bible, either as a son of Jacob or as the tribe that bore his name. Perhaps his inclusion was as simple as the boat image being both very visually arresting and also fitting perfectly with the themes and pastimes of the Keys.

What we do know about Zebulon was that he was the sixth and last son of Jacob with Leah, his first wife. In one place the Torah says Leah derived his name from *zebed*, a word for gift; in another it says the name derives from *yizbeleni*, meaning honor, as a hope that Jacob would honor her since she had now given him six sons. (As with Rachel and the two handmaiden "wives," Bilhah and Zilpah, apparently the women alone, and never Jacob, gave names to the newborns.)

The Torah states that Zebulon had three sons – Sered, Elon and Jahleel. His tomb is said to be a surviving brick structure in the ancient Phoenician city of Sidon, on the Mediterranean coast of today's Lebanon. As for Zebulon himself, that's all we know.

His tribe, which numbered 60,500 fighting men in Moses' second census, fought conspicuously in the two major early battles of the conquest of Canaan. The Song of Deborah mentions them approvingly for their valor at the battle of Merom. They also fought with Deborah and her general Barak against the Canaanite general Sisera in the Jezreel Valley. As with Naphtali, Zebulon is mentioned as having contributed tens of thousands of troops and voluminous supplies of food and drink at the coronation of



KJCC's stained glass window honoring the tribe of Zebulon.

King David in Hebron.

Zebulon's blessing from Jacob noted that he "shall dwell at the haven of the sea." Indeed, all the mentions of Zebulon state that it was a seagoing tribe, skilled in fishing and trade, and even expert in extracting a rare and expensive purple dye from a sea mollusk. (Hence the tribal symbol of the ship.) Yet tribal maps clearly show that their territorial allotment was not on the Mediterranean coast, but abutted that of Asher, which was.

As a northern tribe, Zebulon was one of the ten comprising the northern kingdom of Israel. Like the others, it disappeared to history upon Israel's conquest by a suddenly active and powerful Assyria in 722 B.C.E. ◊

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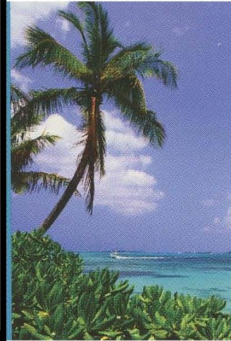
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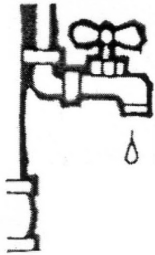
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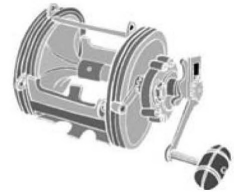
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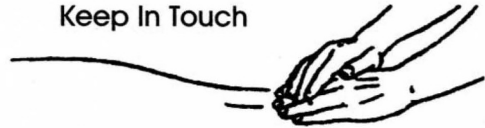


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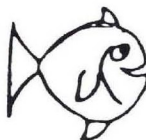
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