

# Chai~Lights



May 2013

21 Iyar - 22 Sivan 5773

**March Seders in photos - page 21**

**Watching the KJCC Library Grow - page 31**

**Gloria on a Special Tikkun Leil Shavuot - page 35**

**Keys Jewish Community Center**

P.O. Box 1332 • Tavernier, FL 33070 • 305-852-5235 • [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services.  <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i>            Services every Friday at 8:00 p.m. except            where noted.</p>			1	2	3 Beth Hayden & Gloria Avner  <i>Anonymous</i>	4 Havdalah KJCC Gazebo, sundown
5 <b>Board Meeting</b> 9:00 a.m.	6	7	8 <b>Yom Yerushalayim</b>	9	10 Rosh Chodesh Sivan Medina Roy & Bernie Ginsberg  <i>Medina Roy &amp; Bernie Ginsberg</i>	11 <b>Rabbi Mitch Chefitz</b> KJCC 7:00 p.m.
12 <b>Mother's Day</b>	13	14 Erev Shavuot	15 First Day of Shavuot	16 Second Day of Shavuot Megillat Ruth is read	17 George Swartz & Yardena Kamely <b>Yizkor Service</b> <i>Yardena Kamely</i>	18 <b>Rabbi Agler</b> Service and Discussion 10:00 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24  Stuart Sax  <i>Medina Roy</i>	25
26	27 <b>Memorial Day</b>	28	29	30	31 Harry Friedman, Gloria Avner & Yardena Kamely 6:30 service  <i>Linda Pincus</i>	1 <b>Harry Friedman's Bar Mitzvah</b>

## 2013 - 2014 Officers and Board

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Joel Pollack  
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Alan Beth  
Stuart Sax

**Newsletter**  
Lisa Richardson Rutherford

**CHAI-LIGHTS** is the  
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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

## President's Message Bernard Ginsberg



As summer is coming and the months grow hotter, the pace at our little synagogue slows a little (and so, thank G-d, does my practice). We will miss our snowbirds, who add so much vitality to all our programs. The Seders, the Solases, the Janowitzes, and the Grossmans have said their farewells until winter. Others will leave soon, and more empty chairs will be seen at services and programs.

We have to make up for the emptiness with more intimate and fun summer activities. We can turn the KJCC into a big *chavurah* instead of a small shul. More than ever, every member counts and every member should bring another with him or her. Invite your friends to join you for shul activities. Your call could provide them just the incentive they need to participate in a rewarding program.

We appreciated the excellent series of lectures on the Abrahamic faiths by morah Yardena, who immediately followed them with preparations for her programs about the Holocaust and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. Unfortunately, illness kept her from the Yom HaShoah lecture, but in true "can-do" KJCC style, Muriel Swartz and Medina Roy expanded their roles and gave a fantastic presentation of the material. It was a tour-de-force. No one in atten-

dance left with a dry eye.

Our wonderful students (and their teachers) led the early service of Friday, April 26th. Please make it a point to attend the children's programs. Compliment the ones who attend services. Make a "big deal" out of them. If you are in KJCC on Sundays and see our children, ask them what they are studying and if they are enjoying it. If we treat them as important and mature members of the congregation, we reinforce a child's innate desire to *assume* a role as important members of the congregation! Play is preparation for life.

I want ideas from everyone about how we can make the KJCC better than ever. We are exploring everything from more computer-internet activity in our Sunday School to a "Shabark Shalom" (dog-park day in the parking lot, a cool suggestion by Mindy Agler.) We had a Men's Club picnic and swim some years back. Is it time for another one?

My very sincere thanks to Sam Vinicur, Stuart Sax, Gloria Avner, Joyce Peckman, Medina Roy, Steve Hartz, Linda Pollack and all the KJCC officers and hard-working members who have given me the support and help that have enabled me to continue as president despite trying personal circumstances.

*B'ahava* (with love), Bernie

# Nosh

## A Sax Kvell-a-thon, Sort Of

Jeremy Sax, son of multiple past-presidents Stuart and Lauren, has been promoted to director of Allied Products Sales for Daltile, where he has worked for twelve years moving up the corporate chain, most recently in West Palm Beach. Stu and Lauren say they are a combination of proud and sad, the latter because the promotion means that Jeremy, wife Kristin and three-year-old son Liam (who finally got named in a recent ceremony at KJCC), will have to relocate to Dallas in early summer. Good thing they have Skype.

## You Don't Have to Reply in Triplicate

I would like to request that all members of the congregation that served in the military, please contact me by phone or email (sljjsax@aol.com or 305-586-8729). I would like to use the information in the service I will be leading on May 24th in honor of Memorial Day. Thanks.

-Stuart Sax

## Warm Thanks to Carl and Steve

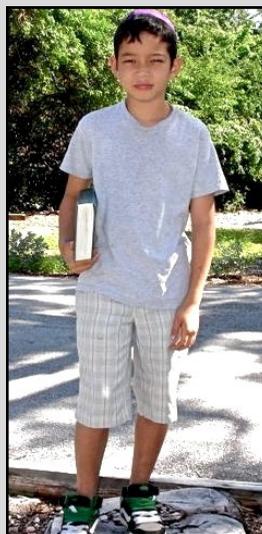
The hallway in the KJCC foyer has a new look, and we all thank Steve Steinbock and Carl Roy for their hard work in making it happen. First they had to move the heavy Gift Shop cabinet to its new (and much better and more visible) location right at the end of the hall leading from the outside door. (It was very heavy and Carl had to lift it to put sliders under the four corners.) They then did a truly professional job installing brackets and hanging the new shelves. (Note to Treasurer Linda: no bill is forthcoming for this great work. Nothing beats a gift of love. To our dear readers, please see photos of this handyman wizardry in Medina's library article on page 31.) As you'll see, Medina has already filled the shelves, and now our hallway truly looks and feels like one appropriate for the People of the Book.

## Final Call to Join the Israel Tour

Dave Mont writes that on May 1<sup>st</sup> we will be but 42 days from departure on the Rabbi Agler-led KJCC Israel Tour, which begins June 11<sup>th</sup>. There is still time to register and join the tour. But don't delay. Please call Arza World directly at 888-811-2812. For those already signed up, there will be a group meeting with Rabbi Agler to discuss details of the trip on Sunday, May 5, 2013 at KJCC (after the Board meeting), around 11:30 a.m. Immediately after our meeting, Yardena has kindly offered to give us all a lesson in essential Israeli Hebrew. If you cannot attend in person, we can arrange for you to call in on speakerphone. Also, notes will be taken and made available. Please call Dave at 305-393-9883 if you have any questions.

## Harry's Bar Mitzvah is June 1st

My wife Jane and I are proud to announce the Bar Mitzvah of our son Harry, on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at Keys Jewish Community Center in



Tavernier. Harry will conduct services both on Friday night, May 31<sup>st</sup> and Saturday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Friedman family cordially invites our entire KJCC *mish-pocha* to attend this important milestone in Harry's Jewish life. Rabbi Agler will officiate at the ceremony. An Oneg in honor of Harry will be offered in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall immediately after Saturday morning's service.

Jane and I would also like to acknowledge in advance the outstanding education and preparation Harry received for this event by his teachers, Yardena Kamely and Gloria Avner.

-Steve Friedman

## May Birthdays

1st.....	Jonathan Schenker
2nd.....	Barney Coltman
4th.....	Pamela G. Marmar
4th.....	Ryan Curtis
5th.....	Richard Palacino
7th.....	Murray Rapoport
8th.....	Kelley Greenman
8th.....	Sidney Boruszak
9th.....	Reid Schur
9th.....	Rhett Curtis
11th.....	Richard Agler
11th.....	Sheila R. Steinberg
12th.....	Madelyn Ruby Pollack
12th.....	Nyan Feder
12th.....	Robert Silk
13th.....	Rose Marie Gordon
14th.....	Bernie Ginsberg
14th.....	Eva Ban
14th.....	John Temkin
14th.....	Medina Roy
15th.....	Paul R. Schur
17th.....	Alex Shatz
18th.....	Andrea P. Silverman
18th.....	Jaime Boruszak
19th.....	Jonathon Hodgson
19th.....	Sylvie Coeurjoly
21st.....	Tracey Greenberg
22nd.....	Christian Strasser
22nd.....	Sharon Repka
23rd.....	Bianka Kirschenbaum
23rd.....	Jenny Margulies
23rd.....	Jules Seder
23rd.....	Nettie Seder
23rd.....	Rita Williams
25th.....	Matthew Birnbaum
26th.....	Randy Robins
27th.....	Alan Beth
27th.....	Jeffrey Pollack
27th.....	Joan Boruszak
29th.....	Liati Mayk
29th.....	Nancy Zinner
29th.....	Robin Forman
31st.....	Mark E. Silverman
31st.....	Robert Sherman
31st.....	Ves Conklin

## May Anniversaries

		Years
2nd	Bennett & Deborah Beinfest.....	23
4th	Alan & Susan Cooper.....	27
14th	Alan & Chely Markowitz.....	22
21st	Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	41
<b>24th</b>	<b>Alfred &amp; Sue Ann Wehl.....</b>	<b>54</b>
30th	Harold & Shelley Schenker.....	20

## Learning Opportunities in May: Three Saturday Nights

Anyone who thought our learning and ceremonial "season" would be over after Pesach is mistaken. May will be a trifecta month, with three well-respected (and entertaining) rabbis sharing their wisdom and experience with us. Each event will be unique and uplifting.

- May 4th, 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, who will be visiting us with his Eckerd College students, the reef-repairing Scuba Jews, will conduct a Havdalah Service and discussion on "Spirituality of the Sea."

- May 11th, 7:00 p.m. – Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz, respected author, teacher, and authority on Jewish Meditation will lead an early "Tikkun Leil Shavuot" program for us. "PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH: JEWISH LEARNING, MEDITATION, AND MYSTICISM" Do not miss this opportunity. The learning will be experiential (see article on Shavuot on page 35). The teacher is exceptional. Dairy refreshments will be served (yes, blintz soufflé and cheesecake) and the evening will conclude with a Havdalah Service in the Meditation Garden Gazebo.

- May 18th, 10:00 a.m. – Rabbi Rich Agler will lead a morning Shabbat service and discussion. Shabbat learning with Rabbi Agler has become a highlight of the month for many of us. He is a warm, informal teacher as well as leader. His services are enriching and inspiring.

-Gloria

## Thank You to Book Donors

KJCC Librarian Medina Roy would like to thank the following members for their recent book donations:

Three from Roberta and Rick McNew: *Cultures in Conflict: Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Age of Discovery* by Bernard Lewis. Location: History (HIS). Also *Choices in Modern Jewish Thought: A Partisan Guide*. Second edition, by Eugene B. Borowitz. Location: Philosophy (PHI). And *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History*, edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz. Location: Reference (REF).

From Steve Steinbock: *The 10-Second Diet: A Technique You Can Master in Less Time Than it Takes to Read the Cover of the Book*, by MernaLyn. Location: Miscellaneous (MIS).

All the books in our wonderful KJCC library come from donations by our members. These are just the latest.

## About That Joel Cohen Award...

Thank you is just not enough to express our gratitude for the prestigious honor of receiving the Joel Cohen Award. It is an honor that we share with each and every person that supported us over the years.

– Stuart & Lauren

## Oneg Sponsors for May 2013

May 3rd - Anonymous

May 10th - Medina Roy and Bernie Ginsberg to celebrate their shared birthday (May 14th).

May 17th - Yardena Kamely to honor Michal's birthday.

May 24th - Medina Roy in honor of mom Bianka's 98th birthday.

May 31st - Linda Pincus to honor her daughters' birthdays.

## 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 the 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 Stuart Sax, 305-586-8729.

**MEDITATION GARDEN:** Have you visited our beautiful garden? Call Steve Steinbock, 305-852-6152, to reserve a bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

**PICTURE POSTCARDS:** We have beautiful picture postcards in the KJCC Gift Shop bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

**ONEG SHABBAT SPONSOR:** To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665.

**KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT 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 Georgia Landau, 305-393-9885.

**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. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual 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, Meditation Garden, Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.*



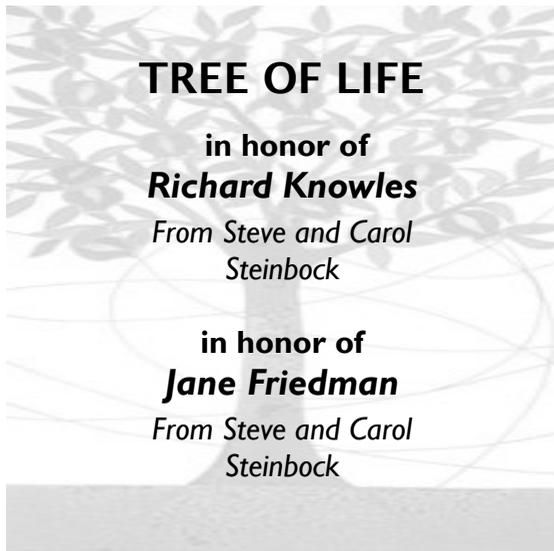
### **A Legal Merger and Mitzvah**

Sabrina Gillespie (daughter of Miriam Gillespie) and Dave Damast were engaged on December 14, 2012. Sabrina is an attorney with the U.S. Department

of Justice, and Dave is an attorney with the U.S. Department of Defense. The couple met at a potluck Shabbat lunch in Los Angeles, California, where they currently reside. Dave's parents, Robert and Marilyn Damast, reside in New Rochelle, New York, where they are members of Young Israel of Scarsdale Congregation.

### **A New Contact for Mishebeyrach**

One of the many appealing things about KJCC is our concern for each other. Toward the end of every service, we read aloud the names of those for whom we join together in prayer for their return to health. If you can't be here, and wish to add the name of a loved one to our list, contact Joyce Peckman at 305-451-0665 or e-mail her, [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com).



## **TREE OF LIFE**

**in honor of  
Richard Knowles**  
From Steve and Carol  
Steinbock

**in honor of  
Jane Friedman**  
From Steve and Carol  
Steinbock

## **KJCC Gift Shop**

**Tallit, Kipot, Kiddush Cups, Candlesticks  
Mezuzzot, Jewelry and More!**

**For further information contact:**  
**Susan Gordon (305) 766-3585**  
**Medina Roy (305) 852-3872**  
**Roberta McNew (305) 522-0643**

**Last Call: if your goal was to wait until the last minute to sign up for the June 11-23 KJCC trip to Israel being led by Rabbi Agler, congratulations. It's now the last minute.**



Bahai Gardens on Mt. Carmel in Haifa



Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem



The Eastern Gate



Dead Sea Scrolls



The Jewish Quarter

A wonderful opportunity is available to all members of KJCC. Join together with fellow congregants and with Rabbi Richard Agler (who has led such trips dozens of times) for a ten-day adventure in Israel beginning on June 11-23, 2013.

But now you need to hurry, because final preparations are being made. The cost is \$3,252 per person, not including airfare. What's included? The full trip itinerary and details are posted on the KJCC web site, [keysjewishcenter.com](http://keysjewishcenter.com); click on the "Misc." section. If you need a final push, contact Dave Mont, 305-393-9883. But Dave recommends that at this point you call Arza World Travel directly at 888-811-2812. They can answer any and all questions. (Are non-KJCC members or family welcome to join us? Absolutely.) Operators are standing by.

**Tour features:**

- 10 nights hotel accommodations;
- 18 meals: 10 Israeli buffet breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners;
- 9 days touring in a comfy motor coach;
- all program and entrance fees;
- tipping and all portage included.

**Tour highlights:**

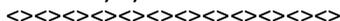
- Old City of Jaffa and a stroll through the artists' colony and the ancient port;
- A visit to Safed, the center of Jewish mysticism since the 16th century;
- The stunning Bahai Gardens & Shrine;
- A visit to Yad Vashem.

# *In Memoriam May 2013*

In Memory Of

**Rose Roazen**

By Sylvia Berman



In Memory Of

**Sam Hitzig**

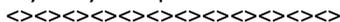
By Wes & Rita Conklin



In Memory Of

**Albert Gilderman**

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman



In Memory Of

**Belle Kirschenbaum**

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

**Esther Jacobs**

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

**Steven B. Kwalick**

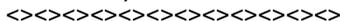
By Teresa Kwalick



In Memory Of

**Robert Schur**

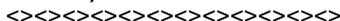
By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Neil H. Tomor**

By Barbara A. Calev



In Memory Of

**Emanuel Schafer**

By Barry & Natalie Dorf



In Memory Of

**Hyman Goldberg**

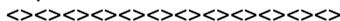
By Susan W. Goldberg



In Memory Of

**Kurt Scaller**

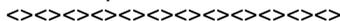
By Herbert & Elinor Grossman



In Memory Of

**Jack Kantor**

By Erwin Kantor



In Memory Of

**Morris Kornbloom**

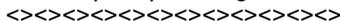
By Erica Lieberman-Garrett



In Memory Of

**Robert W. Singer**

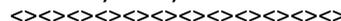
By Mary Lee Singer



In Memory Of

**Charles S. Cohn**

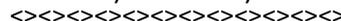
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

**Gertrude Weisberg**

By Gerri Emkey



In Memory Of

**Julie Gorson-Marrow**

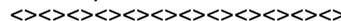
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

**Morris Moshe Grossman**

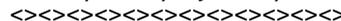
By Stuart Grossman



In Memory Of

**Cele Rosen**

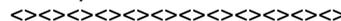
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

**Lilyan Sax**

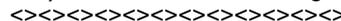
By Stuart & Lauren Sax



In Memory Of

**Rose Wainer**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



# In Memoriam May 2013

In Memory Of

**Sam Wainer**

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

**Susan Cimkowski**

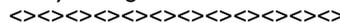
By Stephen & Carol Steinbock



In Memory Of

**Ida S. Reider**

By George & Muriel Swartz



In Memory Of

**Phillip Temkin**

By Robert Temkin



In Memory Of

**Etia Turner**

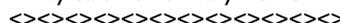
By Salomon & Mary Turner



In Memory Of

**Itka Raji**

By Salomon & Mary Turner



In Memory Of

**Benjamin Weber**

By Judith Weber



In Memory Of

**Norma Cutler**

By Donald Zinner



In Memory Of

**Robert Schur**

By Lee Schur



In Memory Of

**Robert W. Singer**

By Mary Lee Singer



**KJCC**  
**SISTERHOOD SHABBAT**  
**DINNER**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013**  
**6:30 PM**

**COVERED DISH ~ FLEISHIG**

Contact Barbara @ (305) 772-0503  
 iweddu@bellsouth.net to reserve your spot  
 and coordinate your covered dish.

**DONATION @ \$10**  
**PREPAYMENT WELCOME**  
**CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER @ NO CHARGE**

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## Sisterhood Barbara Knowles



Sisterhood has started winding down for this year. Our Final meeting was on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The next time the Sisterhood meets as a group, it will be for our Annual Sisterhood Luncheon to be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at The Pilot House. For those of you who don't know where the Pilot House is, it's at 13 Seagate Boulevard, Key Largo. All women who are members are invited to come. We're looking forward to a big turnout, so hope everyone will be there, even those who don't come to monthly meetings. We'd be delighted to have all the women of KJCC attend this wonderful luncheon. Separate checks will be given, so whether you like big lunches or small lunches, you will have the perfect lunch for you. Please contact me at 305-772-0503 to let me know that you will be attending. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Anyone needing directions or, even if you need a ride, please feel free to give me a call.

We had some great things happen in March and April. The Women's Seder as always was a great success. All *Tikkun Olam* donations that were collected are being distributed to three separate charities. KJCC's Tzedakah Fund, The Keys Cancer Foundation, and Take Stock In Children will each be sent an equal check, together with a beautiful letter from Gloria Avner.

The KJCC Family Second Seder went off without any problems at all. We were very lucky to have Stuart and Gloria (along with her surprise guest Susan Gordon) all leading us through the Haggadah. The Seder had a very good turnout and was the first I had ever been in charge of. My thanks and appreciation to Joan Boruszak for all her help. It's always satisfying to see your hard work pay off, when you put so many hours into planning and organizing an event. The Islamorada Fishing Club, by the way, has a new chef.

Chef Joseph is French-trained and comes from a great culinary background. His experience certainly shined through on Passover. We've always had well-prepared, good dinners there. But this Passover dinner was spectacular. There wasn't a thing that was missed. We had *charoset* prepared by our hardworking women Pauline Roller and Joan Boruszak. (Forgive me if I left anyone out). Chef Joseph prepared chicken that tasted better than any other I've ever had. He made *tsimmes* that we thought only our grandmothers were capable of making, matzo ball soup, and finished up with a delicious sorbet. I get hungry talking and thinking about it. Not only was the food delicious, the service was also great.

Sisterhood's next and last fundraiser will be a Friday night "fleishig" (meat) dinner on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30. Donations are \$10.00. We are asking for more volunteers to bring a covered dish of some kind, either meat or vegetable. Mimi Gillespie will be the chairperson and can be reached at 561-601-7888 to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dishes. You can also reach me at 305-772-0503. I'm looking forward to a great turnout along with Dr. Bernie's surprise entrée.

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> saw another heartwarming celebration, with the blessing of Rabbi and Mindy Agler's new home. They installed a beautiful white mezuzah on their door, which was blessed by Rabbi Agler. The second celebration was "A Renewal Of Their Marital Vows" performed by a friend, Rabbi Mark Mahler. We all ate, as we do in all of my columns, and celebrated the day with them. We wish them much luck and *mazel tov* on their new home and renewed marriage.

Until next month. Make it a great month. ◇

# 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>General Fund</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	<i>JNF Trees In Israel</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Calev, Barbara	Dr. Bernie Ginsberg	Gillespie, Miriam	daughter's engagement -
Friedman, Steve and Jane	Jane's conversion		Sabrina and Dave
Gould, Maryon	Congratulations to Dr.		
	Bernie on KJCC Presidency	<i>JNF Trees In Israel</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Toback, Fred & Phyllis	Great Shabbos on	Gillespie, Miriam	mother, Ellen Sklar
	3/8/13 - Thanks!		
		<i>Sisterhood Oneg Fund</i>	
<i>General Fund</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Ellner, Susan	
Calev, Barbara	Dr. Joe Goldberg	Knowles, Barbara	
Buchholtz, Anita	Richard J. Koch	Schur, Lee	
		<i>Tree of Life</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
<i>Meditation Garden</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>	Steinbock, Steve & Carol	Richard Knowles
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila	Bar Mitzvah of	Steinbock, Steve & Carol	Jane Friedman
	Benjamin Friedman (grandson)		
		<i>Yahrzeits</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
<i>Meditation Garden</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	Boruszak, Joan	Baruch Epstein
Coltman, Barney	brick - Eve L. Greenstein	Kaplan, Marshall & Myra	Gertrude F. Kaplan
		Sheinker, Miltra	Warren Sheinker

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## YEDA VE'TORASHA

Yardena Kamely



# Tel Aviv, the First Hebrew City in Israel

**T**el Aviv was founded on April 11, 1909. On that day, 60 families gathered on the sand dunes on the beach outside Yaffo to allocate plots of land for a new neighborhood they called *Ahuzat Bayit* (Homestead). As the families could not decide how to allocate the land, they held a lottery to ensure a fair division. Akiva Arie Weiss, chairman of the lottery committee and one of the prominent figures in the city's founding, gathered 66 grey seashells and 66 white seashells. Weiss wrote the names of the participants on the white shells and the plot numbers on the grey shells. He paired a white and grey shell, assigning each family a plot, and thus Tel Aviv's founding families began building the first modern, Hebrew city.

The time was at a peak wave of Jewish immigration – the Second Aliya. Neighborhoods in the ancient port city of Yaffo were becoming overpopulated and crowded. Many of the newcomers were Europeans of middle-class origin who wanted to build surroundings that would give them a sense of what they had

left behind. They wanted to build a modern suburb of Yaffo. They were willing to invest 100,000 francs from their own money for the building of the houses. They turned to Dr. Arthur Rupin, the representative of the Zionist Organization in Israel (1907), asking for a loan. Impressed by the motivation of these families to build a Hebrew town, he convinced the *Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael* (Jewish National Fund) to give a loan of 250,000 francs for the building of the first sixty houses.

The first street of the new town was *Rehov Herzl*. Within a year, *Ahad Ha'am*, *Yehuda Halevi*, *Lilienblum*, and *Rothschild* streets

were built; a water system was installed; and 66 houses were completed. As the Jewish population of *Ahuzat Bayit* was growing, the founders decided to call the town Tel Aviv. The now-familiar name is from Sokolow's translation of the title of Theodor Herzl's *Altneuland* ("Old New Land"), based on the name of a Mesopotamian site mentioned in Ezekiel 3:15: "Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel



**Walking along one of the first streets of Tel Aviv, leafy Rothschild Boulevard (the street was originally named *Rehov Ha'am*, the Nation Street), is like visiting a historical museum that lines both sides of the street.**

Aviv, that lived by the river Chebar.” It embraced the idea of a renaissance in the ancient Jewish homeland. Aviv is Hebrew for “spring,” symbolizing renewal, and Tel is a mound made up of the accumulation of layers of civilization built one over the other, symbolizing the ancient.

The true development of Tel Aviv took off with the arrival of Scottish urban planner Sir Patrick Geddes. In response to the unplanned expansion of the city, Geddes was invited by the municipality in 1925 to present a comprehensive master plan for Tel Aviv. In his vision, Tel Aviv was to be a garden city, as foreseen by its founders. In his plan he created main streets, residential streets and pedestrian boulevards filled with vegetation. An important element of his plan, reflecting the social climate of the time, was the creation of shared public spaces in the form of parks and squares, as well as green areas within residential blocks.

The city was again transformed starting in 1932 by a massive wave of immigration of Jews fleeing persecution in Europe, whose arrival rapidly expanded a small town of 42,000 people into a flourishing city of 130,000 by 1936. The housing needs of this wave of immigration brought the rise of the Bauhaus, or Modern Movement, style of architecture. (An import, ironically, from Germany, which was also the source of most of the Jews necessitating a building boom of in Tel Aviv in the first place. Architects trained in the Modern style were among the refugees from Europe.) Influenced by the clean, functional lines of the Bauhaus School, the immigrant architects adapted the Modern style to suit Tel Aviv’s culture and climate, giving the city its special look, what today is called “The



**An example of the modern architecture in the Bauhaus style, which has given Tel Aviv its nickname of “The White City.”**

White City.” This section of Tel Aviv, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, includes over 4,000 buildings in the Modern style.

In the 1930s, Tel Aviv became the country’s largest economic center and also the center of the pre-Israel emergence of Hebrew culture – and remains so to this very day. Tel Aviv became known for its modern cafes, hotels, concert halls and nightclubs. The city enjoyed a sense of international chic, which was rare for the region, especially at the time.

At the start of the 1948 War of Independence, the city and its periphery became the focal point of the conflict between Jews and Arabs. The fight over Yaffo’s

future started immediately after the UN decision for partition. As in other areas where Jewish and Arab forces clashed in close quarters, civilian populations both in Tel Aviv and Yaffo suffered, and ultimately many fled. In April 1950, Yaffo was formally merged with the Tel Aviv municipality and a unified city was established – Tel Aviv-Yaffo.

For the next several decades Tel Aviv maintained the status as Israel’s cultural and economic center, yet Tel Aviv-Yaffo was losing its vibrancy and its population was growing older. This trend changed in the 1980s, as a gradual migration from all over the country back to Tel Aviv began. Over the next decades, there was massive renovation and development throughout Tel Aviv-Yaffo, giving the city a makeover that beautified it. Tel Avivis today are passionate about their city and are proud to live in a center of commerce, culture, style and entertainment.

With boulevards filled with people at all hours, a thriving business sector, countless charming cafes and restaurants, a beautiful beachfront and rich cultural offerings, the vision of the city’s founders has come alive. ◊

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# World Jewish Report

## Medina Roy



### “They Were Everywhere”

According to a group of academics from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., it is very likely that the scale of the Nazis’ attempt to eradicate Europe’s Jewish population could far exceed what historians have long believed to be the case. As part of a 13-year project to catalog the sites of Nazi atrocities and build a comprehensive map of the Holocaust, the researchers have found evidence of 42,000 Nazi “killing centers,” ghettos, forced labor camps and other sites of persecution and murder for the period covering 1933 to 1945. It includes camps where women were forced into prostitution, as well as places where prisoners were forced to manufacture war supplies. Previously unknown Nazi sites are included, detailing 980 concentration camps and 1,150 Jewish ghettos. The researchers anticipated finding evidence of approximately 7,000 Nazi sites; they were not prepared to come across and identify six times that number. In an interview with the *New York Times*, Martin Dean, one of the project leaders, said that their findings suggested that ordinary Germans had to have known what the Nazis were doing. “You literally could not go anywhere in Germany without running into forced labor camps, POW camps, concentration camps,” he said. “They were everywhere.” The Museum has already published the first two volumes of the planned seven-volume encyclopedia of the project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2025. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 3-3-13)

### Unlikely Jewish Roots

The Texas county where a district attorney and his wife, along with another county prosecutor, were recently shot and killed, has roots that are surprisingly Jewish. Kaufman

County, just twenty miles southeast of Dallas, is named for David Spangler Kaufman (1813-1851). Kaufman was a lawmaker in the Republic of Texas and was the only Jewish Texan to serve in the U.S. Congress for over a hundred years, until the 1970s. According to the Texas State Historical Association, Kaufman was a “lawyer, Indian fighter, and politician.” He was born in Pennsylvania and graduated with high honors from Princeton College in 1830. He began his legal career in Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1835. Texas president Anson Jones named him *chargé d’affaires* to the United States in 1845. After Texas became a state, Mr. Kaufman served in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Congresses. (*The Forward*, 4-2-13)

### A Step Closer

At the end of March, the State of Israel moved a step closer to its goal of energy independence. Natural gas from the *Tamar* reservoir in the Mediterranean Sea began flowing to a terminal in the port of Ashdod, benefiting the country both strategically and economically. A partnership of Noble Energy, based in Houston, Texas, and two Israeli companies, Delek Group and Dor Gas Explorations, discovered large gas reserves at the *Tamar* site (about 56 miles west of Haifa) in 2009. Israel’s Ministry of Energy and Water Resources said that the *Tamar* field will supply 50 to 80 percent of Israel’s natural gas needs over the next 10 years. A subsequent discovery in 2010 of another major natural gas field off Israel’s northern coast, known as *Leviathan*, has even positioned Israel as a future energy exporter. *Leviathan* was said to have been one of the world’s largest offshore gas finds in a decade. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), 4-1-13)

## She's a First

Captain Sarah Schechter, the Jewish chaplain of the 11<sup>th</sup> Wing at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, is the first-ever female U.S. Air Force rabbi in the forty years that women have served as military chaplains. Schechter grew up in Greenwich Village, New York, the daughter of a rabbi. Her father was an Air Force chaplain in 1960. She never dreamed of becoming a "teacher of Torah" until her mother suggested it in 1999. Outside of Orthodox Judaism, the number of women rabbis is growing, but few ever join the military. She decided to enlist after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks on America, when she was in her fourth year of rabbinical school. Schechter said she could not remain on the sidelines and that a sense of duty as both a New Yorker and an American motivated her to enlist. ([www.military.com/daily-news](http://www.military.com/daily-news), 3-26-13)

## History Preserved

As the aging Holocaust survivor population dwindles, the fear is that their stories – some written down, others recorded – will have less of an impact on future generations. But now, the University of Southern California has teamed up with the *Shoah Foundation Institute* and design firm *Conscience Display* to create a new technology project where future generations can witness individual testimonies of the survivors giving their personalized testimony via holograms. This digitized hologram technology enables viewers to witness, face-to-face, life-size projections of individuals telling their stories. Viewers can even ask questions and the holograms respond, thanks to *Siri*-style natural language technology. ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com), 2-11-13)

## The Talmud: A Diet Book?

Every week we read of another study warning of the prevalence of obesity in America. It has been well documented that close to 70 percent of American adults are either overweight or obese. And the statistics for children are discouraging. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity has more than doubled in children and *tripled* in adolescents over the past thirty years. In

2010, more than one-third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. And some solutions to the problem have met with strong resistance. New York's Mayor Michael Bloomberg, for example, has tried outlawing the sale of sugary beverages over 16 ounces. (The statute, which the Mayor convinced the New York City Council to pass, was overturned by a judge in March. Bloomberg is planning to appeal the judge's decision). The state of Mississippi recently passed a bill essentially forbidding federal restrictions on what its people may eat or drink. It seems that most Americans do not want the government to tell them what they may eat or drink.

Perhaps an unusual "diet book" might be the Talmud, where Jews are counseled to "remove your hand from a meal that pleases you." In other words, eat until you are satisfied, not till you are full. The Talmud teaches that people should eat enough to fill a third of their stomachs, drink enough to fill another third and leave a third empty. (Interestingly, it's not only Judaism that teaches personal restraint. Christianity identifies gluttony as a mortal sin; the Koran teaches that improper and wasteful eating incurs God's wrath.) Rashi interpreted the Talmud to mean that the final empty third is necessary so that the body can metabolize emotions. In those days, emotions, like food and drink, were thought to be metabolized by the body. Maimonides similarly agreed that people should eat and drink less than what filled their bellies. He, too, thought the stomach should be no more than three-quarters full and that people should eat slowly. (Modern science corroborates Maimonides' thinking: it takes about twenty minutes for the brain to receive messages from the stomach that it has had enough.) ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 3-26-13)

## Taxed in Absentia

While conducting research on Jewish homeowners in the Netherlands during World War II, a 23-year-old university student discovered documents indicating that the city of Amsterdam issued fines to hundreds of Jewish Holocaust survivors for failing to pay city

taxes while they were in hiding or in concentration camps. The story broke in a local Dutch newspaper, which claimed that many of the houses in question were confiscated and used by members of the NSB (the Dutch Nazi party), while the Jewish owners were either in hiding or in concentration camps. The city went after survivors as late as 1947. Some Dutch municipalities waived the debts, and the following year Amsterdam agreed to reimburse half of what it charged to some Jews who were taxed in absentia. Amsterdam's city archives contain 342 requests for reimbursement. About 75 percent of Holland's pre-World War II Jewish population of 140,000 was murdered in the Holocaust. (*The Forward*, 4-2-13)

### In Memoriam

· Rabbi Herschel Schacter, one of the most prominent Modern Orthodox rabbis in the United States, has died at the age of 95. He enlisted in the army as a chaplain in 1942. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945, after learning that General George S. Patton's Third Army had liberated Buchenwald, he commandeered a jeep and a driver and rode through the gates of Buchenwald, the first Jewish chaplain to enter the camp. When he saw men in filthy barracks lying on raw wooden planks stacked from floor to ceiling, he shouted in Yiddish, "Shalom Aleichem, Yidden. Ihr zint frei!" (You are free!) Schacter discovered nearly a thousand orphaned children in Buchenwald; along with Rabbi Robert Marcus, he helped arrange for their transport to France, Switzerland and Palestine. The convoy to France included a seven-year-old child nicknamed Lulek and a teenager named Elie Wiesel. Schacter would remain at Buchenwald for months, tending to survivors and eventually helping to resettle thousands of Jews. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, the youngest of ten children to parents who had come from Poland. His father, Pincus, was a seventh-generation *shochet* (ritual slaughterer). Schacter received ordination from Yeshiva University in 1941 from Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, the founder of the Modern Orthodox movement. He was an outspoken advocate for the rights of

Soviet Jews and an adviser on the subject to President Richard Nixon. (Lulek grew up to become Yisrael Meir Lau, the former Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel from 1993 to 2003. He is now the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv.) ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 3-26-13)

### Did You Know...

· Former Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords will receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Giffords, who survived a 2011 shooting that killed six people, was recognized for the "political, personal, and physical courage she has demonstrated in her fearless public advocacy for policy reforms aimed at reducing gun violence." Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly launched a gun control initiative following the shootings in December at the elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Caroline Kennedy announced the award, given annually by the J.F.K. Presidential Library and Museum "to public servants who have made courageous decisions of conscience without regard for the personal or professional consequences." Giffords was the first Jewish woman elected to Congress in Arizona. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-10-13)

· The historic, 2,000-year-old Jobar Synagogue in Damascus, Syria was recently looted and burned to the ground. The Syrian army loyal to President Bashar Assad and rebel forces are blaming each other for the synagogue's destruction. Jobar Synagogue was said to have been built on the site where the prophet Elijah anointed his successor, Elisha, as a prophet. ([www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org), 3-31-13)

· Ed Koch, the feisty, proudly Jewish former mayor of New York City who died on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the age of 88, designed and chose his own tombstone years before his death. The marker bears the Star of David and the *shema* prayer along with the last words uttered by journalist Daniel Pearl before he was tortured and murdered by terrorists in 2002: "My father is Jewish. My mother is Jewish. I am Jewish." Koch had often said that he was moved by Pearl's affirmation of his Jewish faith and heritage in his last tragic moments. ([www.worldjewishcongress.org](http://www.worldjewishcongress.org), 2-4-13) ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center

# Sisterhood Luncheon

Sunday, May 5, 2013

12:30 pm

Pilot House -- Key Largo



## Last Get Together of the Season

Contact Barbara to reserve  
your seat

[iweddu@bellsouth.net](mailto:iweddu@bellsouth.net)

(305) 772-0503

Separate Checks

# Photo Gallery

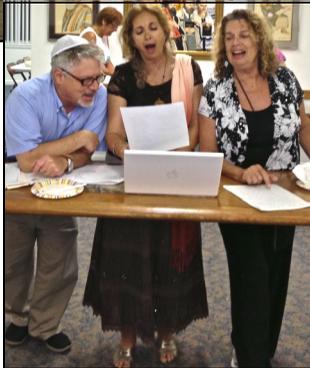
At top right, Susan Ellner enjoys the car-washing service she bought from Joyce Peckman on Deli Nite. But Susan delivered the car, then took Joyce to lunch. As Joyce said...not bad! At right, Joyce prepares to burn chometz before Pesach with grandchildren Eliana (next to Joyce), Michal and Yosef, in snowy Denver.



Susan Gordon sent along these photos of Commodore Dave Mont's monthly chai-yaking expedition, this one on March 23rd. It was one of those days with a gentle breeze and the water a rich, deep cerulean blue.

At right and bottom are two photos of KJCC's beautiful Meditation Garden, now beginning to bloom into spring after a very dry winter. Engraved bricks honoring friends and loved ones now stretch almost to the Beth/Stanlake gazebo. When it's full we'll begin a new path. We now have five living memorials planted, each with a descriptive plaque. The one at bottom honors the memory of Steve Steinbock's sister Karen; it was her favorite tree.





The three photos at top are all from Rabbi Richard Agler's Torah Learning Service on Saturday, April 13th. His friend (all the way back to Rabbinical

school) Rabbi Mark Mahler brought his traveling guitar, and acted as troubadour/cantor.

The four photos at center and bottom were taken on Friday, April 12th at Yardena's Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) celebration. There was also a display in the lobby. There were Israeli songs, and, as you can see, Israeli dancing. Our thanks to David Gitin for the photos.

The main reason Rabbi Mahler was here, it turns out, was to officiate at the housewarming for and renewal of vows between Rich and Mindy Agler at their new digs by the bay on April 14th. Many fellow KJCC members joined in. In case that chuppah looks vaguely familiar, it should: it's Rabbi Agler's talit.





**Marc and Ellen Bloom are now officially grandparents. Daughter Rachael recently gave birth to her own daughter, Madison Rose. That's dad Chris and Aunt Molly to the right.**



**Richard and Sheila Steinberg embrace grandson Ben, below and center,**

**at his Bar Mitzvah. Let's let Sheila tell her own story about the**



**photos: "Benjamin Friedman, our grandson, Joel and Sara Cohen's great-grandson, was called to the Torah on January 19th of this year. Ben chanted his Haftorah superbly; all prayers in harmony with the cantor! We are grateful to Hashem to have come to this life mitzvah...Sara and Joel are smiling."**



**Bernie took the shot at right of Rabbi Zucker conducting his Jewish mysticism course on March 6th. Rabbi Ed Rosenthal of Hillel, with student Elliot in tow, was here to again work on their reef-repair program. Bernie loved that maximum Jewish use is being made of our facility.**



# A March of Seders

by Gloria Avner

March was the month of Seders, filled with “extras,” the special occasions that have become integral to our Passover season.

The Womens’ Seder came first, and while still basking in its afterglow we moved on to celebrating with children at our Sunday School Family Seder. Nettie and Jules Seder played the roles of *Zadie* and *Nana*. We had a bonus this year. It turns out that when you open the door for Elijah, you don’t know who will appear. This special morning, two strangers appeared

who quickly became *mish-pocha*. A young mother from Homestead, Christal, and her four-year-old daughter, Jamie, found us online and made the trip to see our Sunday School. We were captivated by Jamie, who knew the *brachas* by heart, sang us “the song of baby Moses,” and was instantly adopted by students Mikhaela Bitton and Natalie Werthamer. A good, meaningful and delicious

time was had by all. *Todah rabah* to all the parents for preparing our ceremonial foods.

Just a few hours later (yes, the same day), four of us were bound for another seder, this one at the Epis-



copal Church, Saint Columba, in Marathon. It was a privilege to support the organizers of this now-annual inter-faith event – our



**Appreciation and photo credits for the Children’s Seder go to David Gitin, Gloria Avner and Richard & Barbara Knowles.**



asked not just to attend, but also to help plan their seder next year.

Most of us attended private seders the next night, Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-four hours later we were gathered again, for the KJCC

own Judy Greenman and Jessica Hernstadt. Together, along with (recent KJCC Bar Mitzvah boy and Jessica's son) Aidan Kahn and others, they graciously served chicken soup to all 80 guests. Among the attendees were two Holocaust survivors, one of whom is a founding member of KJCC, Stephen Ban, Judy Greenman's



father; the other was the sweet and delightful Howard Tischauer. Both spoke about their own



imprisonment and freedom, to a suddenly very quiet hall. Pauline quickly became the reigning matriarch of the event. Our participation was much appreciated and we've been



In the photo above, we assembled all the KJCC members in attendance at the Interfaith

**Seder at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Marathon (plus Howard Tischauer). Our sincere thanks to Larry Benvenuti of Marathon, who shot all the photos you see and graciously shared them with us.**

Community Seder at the Islamorada Fishing Club. Though we missed Jim Boruszak after so many years of his leadership, we



at our helm. The food this year was delicious. We sang, we drank, we blessed, we told our story. Next year in Jerusalem — and Tavernier, Marathon, and Islamorada as well. *(Photos of the KJCC Family Seder begin on page 25.)* ◇



enjoyed our ceremony, begun with a meaningful talk on what makes a good seder, by Rabbi Rich Agler, and very well led by Stuart Sax and Gloria Avner with the added voice of Susan Gordon and the participation of many children. A highlight of the evening was Carol and Steve Steinbock's



**At the seder in Marathon, founding KJCC member Stephan Ban, below, spoke of his Holocaust experiences. That's him as a young man, yellow star sewn onto his clothes, shortly**



**before he was separated from his family.**



presentation of the Joel Cohen Award. This year we had two winners. Both of our im-

mediate past-presidents, Stuart Sax and Lauren Sax, were honored for their magnificent contributions to KJCC during their two years



## Keys Jewish Community Center

# Arza World - Tour of Israel, June 11-23, 2013

Led by the best tour guide possible - our own  
Rabbi Richard Agler.

DAY ONE: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

DEPARTURE.....Depart U.S.A. Overnight: Flight

DAY TWO: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY THREE: Thursday, June 13, 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF A CITY AND A STATE.....Overnight: Tel Aviv

DAY FOUR: Friday, June 14, 2013

CONQUESTS AND CREATIVITY ALONG THE COAST.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY FIVE: Saturday, June 15, 2013

SPIRITUALITY, PRACTICALITY AND IDENTITY.....Overnight: Haifa

DAY SIX: Sunday, June 16, 2013

ROOTS, KABBALA AND ROOTS.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY SEVEN: Monday, June 17, 2013

SERENITY AND SECURITY ON THE GOLAN.....Overnight: Kibbutz Hotel, Upper Galilee

DAY EIGHT: Tuesday, June 18, 2013

NEW VISION AND OLD.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY NINE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TEN: Thursday, June 20, 2013

INTO THE DESERT, MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY ELEVEN: Friday, June 21, 2013

MEMORY AND RENEWAL.....Overnight: Jerusalem

DAY TWELVE: Saturday, June 22, 2013

SHABBAT IN JERUSALEM.....Overnight: Flight

DAY THIRTEEN: Sunday, June 23, 2013

DEPARTURE.....Arrival in the USA

**Complete tour information is available at [arzaworld.com](http://arzaworld.com),  
search word: *keys*, or call 888-811-2812. Tour cost \$3252.  
A deposit (\$300) can be made now and full payment is due by April 11, 2013.**

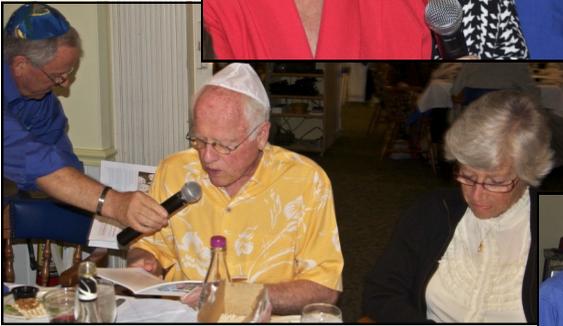
**Please contact Dave Mont if you have any questions at [moogoodave@yahoo.com](mailto:moogoodave@yahoo.com)  
or call 305-393-9883.**

# The KJCC Family Seder

*It was Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Barbara Knowles had helped plan her first annual seder. Gloria had a new and polished co-leader in Stuart Sax. Rabbi Richard Agler talked, in his easy and engaging way, about what seders mean and why they're so important. Stuart and Lauren Sax won the Joel Cohen Award. Lauren Sax won the Joel Cohen Award.*

*Everything hummed. Jim would have loved it all.*







*Our warm appreciation for the photographic efforts of Gloria Avner, Barbara Knowles, and especially Carol Steinbock (who worked all evening to shoot most of the KJCC Seder photos you see here).*



# MISHEBERACH – A PRAYER FOR HEALING

by Joyce Peckman

My extended family sat around the seder table, but one person was missing. My sister-in-law was in the hospital, already a week, battling pneumonia and not getting any better. Before opening the Haggadah, we joined hands and prayed for her recovery. The next morning we heard the good news. Her fever had broken...on the night of the seder. Many families can give anecdotal evidence of the power of prayer. Although scientific research on the efficacy of prayer to help the sick has produced mixed results, it has a long history in Jewish tradition, as early as Moses crying out on behalf of his sister, "Oh God, Please heal her."

In Kings I we find King Solomon's Prayer for the People, beseeching divine protection for them at the dedication of the first Temple in Jerusalem. As time went on it changed from a prayer that blessed a whole community, in imitation of Solomon's prayer for the people, to an occasional prayer that mentioned specific issues in the lives of particular communities. Research indicates that our *Misheberach* prayer seems to have evolved from its origins as a prayer for rain during times of draught, citing God's Providence in previous circumstances as justification for hoping that such Providence would reappear: "The One who caused rain will surely be able to bring rain upon...." (Mishnah Ta'anit). It is now a prayer recited in synagogues throughout Europe and the Middle East. *Misheberach*, meaning "He who blessed," has been used in various *nuscha'ot* (versions) and was chanted for a variety of occasions. There are *Misheberach* prayers for every kind of illness, and almost every kind of relationship; there are *Misheber-*

*ach* prayers for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, for people who refrain from gossip, and for people who maintain responsible business ethics.

When the Torah is read, we are granted an especially opportune moment to invoke blessing for those in need of divine intervention. So for hundreds of years it has been a tradition, before the Torah is returned to the ark, to recite the names of those who are ill, asking that Hashem, who blessed our founding ancestors, also bless those in need of healing. The person is not called by the standard Hebrew name (ex: *Moshe ben* {son of} *Amram*). Instead the mother's name is invoked (*Moshe ben Jochebed*.)

When the Reform movement moved the major Shabbat service from Saturday morning to Friday night, the prayer for healing, often

in the form composed by Debbie Friedman, became an important element of their Friday night service.

The KJCC is non-denominational, but we too have incorporated the *Misheberach* prayer into our Friday evening service, after the *dvar Torah* (Torah talk.) We maintain a list of long-term and short-term names, as well as inviting names to be called from the congregation. There are even post cards at the back of the room to be used by anyone who wants to inform a friend or family member that they have been the subject of our community's prayer.

If you have someone that you wish to add or remove from KJCC's *Misheberach* list, please contact me by email at [joycepeckman@gmail.com](mailto:joycepeckman@gmail.com), or by phone at 305-451-0665. ♦

The 18th Century Jewish Mystic  
Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, wrote:

*God of wholeness,  
God of healing,  
Hear our words,  
Accept our prayers; Send a special  
blessing  
Of healing  
To (name) son/daughter of  
(mother's name),  
among all those of Your children  
who are in need of  
Your healing blessing.*

**OUR ANCESTORS NEARLY SLEPT THROUGH THE GIVING OF THE TORAH,  
AFTER FORTY-NINE DAYS OF WALKING TOWARDS MT. SINAI!**  
*The Kabbalists of Safed in the 16th century began the practice of all-night study on Erev Shavuot, to make sure Jews would never again be asleep when, each year, they would once more celebrate the Gift of Torah. The evening has come to be called*

## **TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**

“Tikkun” means “repair,” or “improve,” or “period of study.”

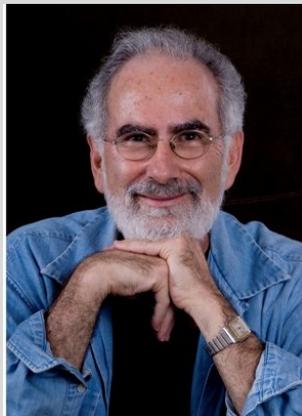
“Leil Shavuot” means Night of Shavuot. (Okay, so we’ll be a few days early.)

**On Saturday evening, May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at KJCC**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENT, AS WE WELCOME  
SCHOLAR, AUTHOR, AND FAMED TEACHER OF JEWISH MEDITATION

## **RABBI MITCHELL CHEFITZ**

Rabbi Chefitz was the founding rabbi of the Chavurah of South Florida, serving for 22 years in that capacity. He has authored two highly praised novels, one an L.A. Times bestseller, plus a book of stories. He has written extensively on Jewish mysticism.



Rabbi Lawrence Kushner has described Rabbi Chefitz as “one of the finest of a new generation of American Kabbalists. He brings an intuitive grasp of the mystical to everyday life. His teaching is disturbing, profound and inspiring.”

As he guides us on a unique Jewish journey:

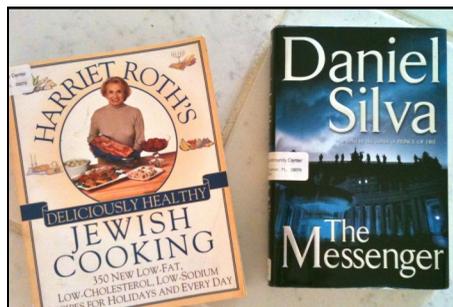
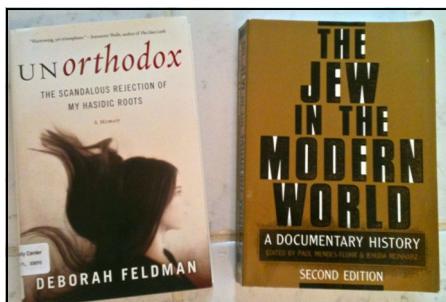
### ***PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH:***

### ***JEWISH LEARNING, MEDITATION, AND MYSTICISM***

We will learn how to be still enough to receive. (“Kabbalah” has the same root as the Hebrew verb “to receive.”) We will practice techniques of Jewish meditation and chant “niggunim” (ancient mystical melodies), aids to meditation developed over 500 years ago. The evening is free to all KJCC members. (Non-members \$18.)

Take the word of four KJCC members who drove to FIU to learn from Rabbi Chefitz. This will be a night to remember. Invite interested friends. And yes, there will be wonderful dairy refreshments afterwards (called for by tradition), including Muriel’s blintz soufflé and two homemade cheesecakes. Don’t miss this.

## Take Another Look...



## At the KJCC Library

by Medina Roy

It's no longer tucked away in the corner by the office, thanks to Steve Steinbock and, in some roundabout way, to David Gitin and Gloria Avner.

At a board meeting a few months ago, Gloria mentioned how much she and David valued our KJCC library and noticed that the shelves were quite full, leaving little room for expansion. They jokingly mentioned how nice it would be to construct a self-contained, small building outside to house a library. We all laughed, but I started imagining a mini-version of the New York Public Library's main reading room, complete with comfy chairs, huge tables and old, antique-like reading lamps. The only sounds heard would be those associated with the turning of pages. The discussion went on for a brief time, and I could see that Steve Hartz, chair of the Capital Improvements Committee, had a look on his face that read, "what about the leaky roof?" The discussion continued.

Again, I glanced at Steve, now holding his head in his hands and clearly suffering from a bad case of *shpilkes*, not knowing for sure if we were serious. He had to be thinking, "are

these people nuts?"

It was then that Steve Steinbock came up with a great idea. Why not move the Gift Shop to the left of its current position, where it would be the first thing one saw when entering the synagogue (possibly generating more sales for Sisterhood), and then use the area vacated by the gift shop to expand the library? The current library, surrounding the office, could be used as the library continued to grow. What an inspired and wonderful suggestion!

So, on a Friday early in April, Steve Steinbock and my husband Carl went to work installing brackets and shelves to form our new and improved library. They did a beautiful, professional job. Come and see for yourself.

Here's a brief look at some of the types of reading material you'll find in the library. I've also indicated the location in parenthesis for each title described:

***Souls on Fire: Portraits and Legends of Hasidic Masters***, by Elie Wiesel. Would you like to

know just a bit more about the great Rebbe and founder of Hasidism Israel Baal Shem Tov, or perhaps Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav? Or maybe you just really don't get the whole

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***I started imagining a mini-version of the New York Public Library's main reading room, complete with comfy chairs, huge tables and old, antique-like reading lamps.***

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**It took Carl Roy and Steve Steinbock most of a Sunday to install the new Library shelves. But they did find the time to laugh a little. And the shelves are perfect.**

“Hasidic” thing at all. In this book, Wiesel, one of the great Jewish thinkers of our time, has captured the essence of Hasidism through tales, legends, parables, sayings and personal reflections. He gives us portraits of the leaders of the movement that changed the Jewish world. Wiesel brings to the reader his profound knowledge of the Torah, the Talmud, and the Kabbalah. Location: Biography (BIO).

***The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels***, by Thomas Cahill. The author of the bestseller *How the Irish Saved Civilization* takes us on another journey into history, once again recreating a time when the actions of a small band of people had repercussions that are still felt today. Cahill reveals the critical change that made western civilization possible. In early cultures, life was seen as part of an endless cycle of birth and death. Somehow, the ancient Jews began to see time differently. For them, time had a beginning and an end. From this insight came a new conception of men and women as individuals with unique destinies – a concept that would, several thousand years later, inform the American Declaration of Independence. Cahill also explains the real significance of such Biblical figures as Abraham and Sarah, Moses

and the Pharaoh, Joshua, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Location: History (HIS).

***Code of Jewish Law (Kitzur Shulchan Aruch)***, by Rabbi Solomon Ganzfried. This is a one-volume, English translation of Ganzfried’s four-volume compilation of Jewish laws and customs, the cornerstone of Jewish life. It is an abridgment of Rabbi Joseph ben Ephraim Caro’s (1488-1575) *Shulchan Aruch*, which made Jewish law (*halacha*) available to the masses. The *Shulchan Aruch* is considered by many to be the ultimate authority when it comes to *halacha*. (The word “kitzur” in the Ganzfried edition is Hebrew for “shortening” or “abridgment.”) Everything you want to know about any Jewish practice, you’ll find in this book. Location: Law (LAW).

***Peninim on the Torah: An Anthology of Thought-Provoking Ideas and Practical Insights on the Weekly Parsha***, by Rabbi A.L. Scheinbaum. Okay, now there’s no excuse. This book, donated to our library by Rabbi Rich Agler, presents ideas to help you prepare a *dvar Torah* for Friday night services. Rabbi Scheinbaum selects Torah thoughts from a host of commentaries, ranging from the classic to the contemporary. The book is geared to beginner and scholar alike. Location: Judaic Studies (JUD).

In ***Have a Little Faith***, Mitch Albom, the

author of *Tuesdays With Morrie*, brings together the elderly rabbi from his childhood synagogue

and an African-American ex-convict, now an inner-city Detroit pastor leading a ministry for

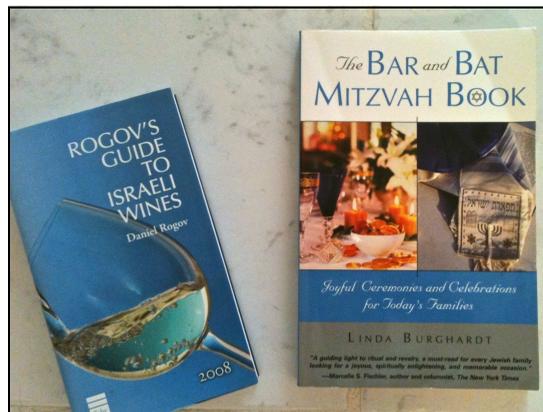


that city's homeless population. The rabbi, anticipating his own death, asks Albom to write and deliver his eulogy. The request takes Albom back to his Jewish roots on a journey that contrasts differing faiths, ethnicities, races, and social classes. Location: Biography (BIO).

***Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots***, by Deborah Feldman. As a member of the strictly religious *Satmar* sect of Hasidic Judaism, Deborah Feldman grew up under a code of customs governing everything from what she could wear and to whom she could speak to what she was allowed to read. It was stolen moments spent with the empowered literary characters of Jane Austen and Louisa May Alcott that helped her to imagine an alternative way of life. As a teenager, she was trapped in a sexually and emotionally dysfunctional marriage to a man she barely knew. This memoir tells of her determination to live her own life at any cost. Location: Biography (BIO).



**It didn't take Medina long to fill the new shelves. Donations have been pouring in. Both the librarian and the idea man have reason to smile.**



***Excavating the City of David: Where Jerusalem's History Began***, by Ronny Reich. This book summarizes, in a language accessible to all, the history of the excavation of the City of David, the small area in the south of today's Jerusalem, and the role the City played in Jerusalem's history. Location: Israel (ISR).

***The Messenger***, by Daniel Silva. This is one of Silva's numerous novels involving his protagonist, Gabriel Allon, Israeli art restorer and spy. Ahmed bin Shafiq, a former chief of a clandestine Saudi intelligence unit, targets the Vatican for attack, in particular Pope Paul VII and his private secretary, Monsignor Luigi Donati, an old friend of Allon. This time, Allon rushes to Rome to help his friend and assist in security. What they don't know, however, is that the Vatican has already been breached by the enemy. Silva has often been compared to spy novelist John Le Carre. Location: Fiction (FIC).  
***In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin***, by Erik Larson. The best-selling author of *Devil in the White City* gives us a remarkable true story set during Hitler's rise to power. The results speak volumes about why the world did not recognize the serious threat posed by Hitler until Berlin and Europe were "awash in blood and terror." This portrait of Berlin during the first years

of Hitler's reign is told through the stories of William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his carefree daughter, Martha. Dodd's growing misgivings about Hitler's ambitions fall on deaf ears among his peers, who are content to "give Hitler everything he wants." Martha, on the other hand, is mesmerized by the glamorous parties and has scandalous affairs with the head of the Gestapo and a Soviet spy. Location: History (HIS).

***From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict Over Palestine***, by Joan Peters. The result of seven years of research, this book has often been referred to as one of the definitive works analyzing the origins of and debunking the myths of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Peters dispels much of the misinformation and ignorance surrounding the conflict. She started out to write a book sympathetic to Palestinian Arabs, but her honest scholar's eye finally saw clearly that the claim that Arabs had been on the land the Romans named Palestine "since time immemorial" was not true, that there was, in fact, no such thing as a distinct Palestinian people (prior to 1948, the term "Palestinian" was typically used to refer to Zionist Jews), and that Arab claims to sovereignty were, in a word, fraudulent. This is not a book of polemics or impassioned argument; it is a book of painstaking scholarship, heavily annotated and fearlessly written. Published in 1984, it remains, thirty years later, riveting, topical and controversial. Location: Israel (ISR).

***The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History. Second Edition***, compiled and edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr and Jehuda Reinharz. This book, donated by Roberta and Rick McNew, is a comprehensive collection of primary source material on modern Jewish history. The materials range from legal codes to memoirs and come from documents that were originally written in a number of languages - French, German, Russian, Yiddish, and Hebrew, to name a few. Some topics covered include the Jewish experience in Eastern Europe, women in Jewish history, American Jewish life, and Zionism and the early Jewish community in Palestine on the eve of the es-

tablishment of the State of Israel. Location: Reference (REF). *Note: Because of the comprehensiveness of this volume and the value it holds having primary source material, we would like this volume to be accessible at all times. We ask users who wish to borrow this book to return it promptly.*

In ***Harriet Roth's Deliciously Healthy Jewish Cooking***, the author includes 350 low-fat, low-cholesterol, low-sodium recipes for holidays and every day. Location: Cookbooks (COO).

Some book titles are self-explanatory:

- *Rogov's Guide to Israeli Wines*, by Daniel Rogov. Location: Jewish World (JW).
- *The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Book: Joyful Ceremonies and Celebrations for Today's Families*, by Linda Burghardt. Location: Rituals, Traditions and Customs (RTC).
- *Jewish Museums of North America: A Guide to Collections, Artifacts and Memorabilia*, by Nancy Frazier. Location: Reference (REF).
- *Favorite Tales of Sholom Aleichem*, by Sholom Aleichem. Location: Stories in Collections (SC)
- *My Life*, by Golda Meir. Location: Biography (BIO).
- *The Jewish Traveler: Hadassah Magazine's Guide to the World's Jewish Communities and Sites*, edited by Alan M. Tigay. Location: Jewish World (JW).

There are several other categories, not reflected in the titles described above, including children's books (JUV), books for young adults (YA), audio-visual material (AV), Fine Arts (ART), Holocaust (HOL), Festivals (FES), Humor (HUM) and Kabbalah (KAB).

The KJCC library operates on the "honor" system. Procedures for borrowing library material are printed out. All you need to do is leave a written record of what you're borrowing and return the material when you're done. It's that simple. And remember: you don't have to worry about late fee charges.

So come and check it out. Bet you'll find something that interests you. And by the way, donations of books are always welcome. It's one of the reasons we're expanding our shelves.

See you at the library! ◇

# THE WALK FROM PESACH TO MOUNT SINAI: PREPARING TO RECEIVE TORAH

by Gloria Avner

First comes the party. Then we take the long walk home.

It was Torah study time at Rabbi Agler's April 13<sup>th</sup> Shabbat morning service and we were discussing laws relating to bodily functions. So many laws. So much...detail. *Mitzvot* after *mitzvot* about skin sores, oozing fluids, and loose tongues. There are even more laws for ancient rabbis, needing to act as more than physician, to create rituals making a person fit to participate in community sacred pursuits, not "pure" exactly, but fit to be declared "healed" and "whole."

This is when we started talking about which *mitzvot* are most observed, which are easy and which are hardest. It turns out that the *mitzvah* (accent on the second syllable) most observed by Jews of all description is attending a Passover seder. Why not? Freedom from slavery is a huge event, worthy of celebration. We love a good story, especially when it is our story, and - when we hold the celebration around a big dining room table with friends and family, great food, singing, and, um, lots of wine - the combination is irresistible. Most of us have childhood memories surrounding the event, too, and we want our children to share the experience. The popularity is easy to understand. But is Passover the end of the story? Of course not.

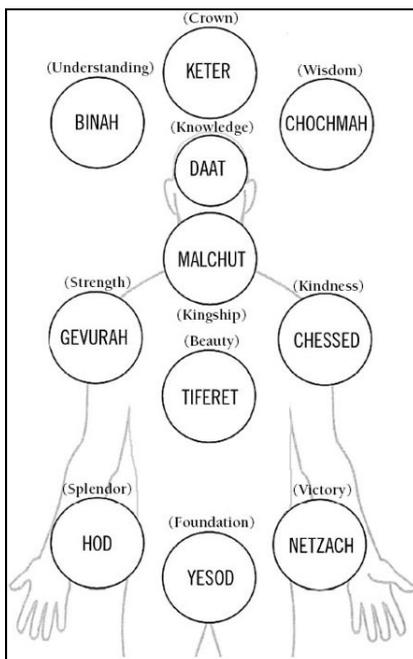
Nothing in Judaism stands independently,

not even independence. Our holidays and holy days are always part of a year's ritual cycle. We move from moon to moon and season to season. *Pesach* gives us the initial taste (both delicious and scary) of freedom. But *Pesach* is the appetizer course to *Shavuot*, a starting gate, the first step on a forty-nine day journey of preparation. Once *Pesach* is over, we have to uplift ourselves from slave state mentality to worthiness of freedom, of receiving the document that will instruct us on how to be a people, a user's manual, which, if followed, will help us be "a light unto the nations."

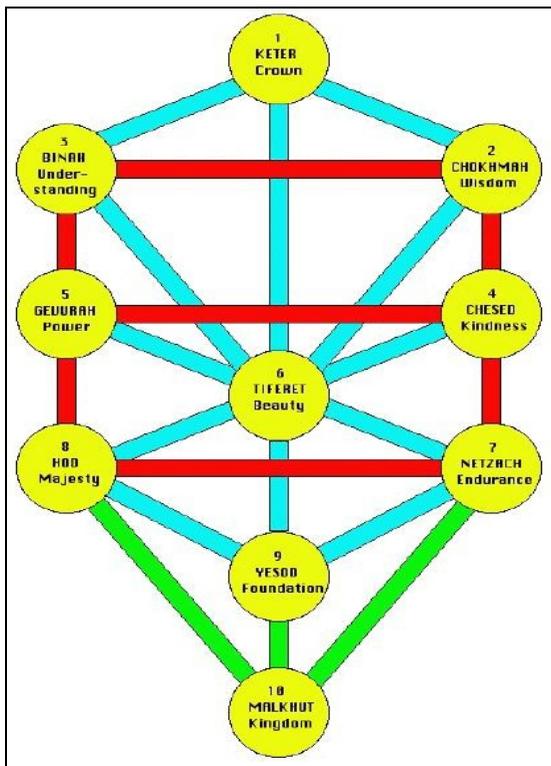
What will our 49 days wandering in the desert be like? How will we refine (and redefine) ourselves during the seven weeks from the second day of Passover until the first evening of *Shavuot*? Will we, unlike our ancestors, forego making golden calves, a salve to our insecurity? Will we, also unlike our ancestors, wake up on time, eager and ready to receive, to the accompaniment of blinding thunder, lightning and ear-splitting shofar blast, the gift of Torah?

How many families who celebrate *Pesach* do something, anything, to celebrate

*Shavuot*? If we are in *shul*, we may participate in counting the *omer*, the grain offerings brought to the original Temple. Our own congregation just started celebrating *Shavuot*



**This particular depiction of the Kabbalah's sefirot, the ten creative forces of our world, shows them superimposed over a human figure.**



**This is the more conventional illustration of the ten sefirot, showing them interlocked and interdependent. Kabbalah says that it is through these forces that God interacts with the created world.**

four years ago, creating our own “*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*,” a night of learning with intent (*kavanah*) to honor, to study and to stay awake for the gift of *Torah*. During those four years we’ve watched movies, discussed the Book of Ruth, printed out all 613 *mitzvot*, eaten delicious dairy meals, and talked about the Kabbalistic use of focus on “*sefirot*,” to help us look within and develop habits of loving-kindness over the seven-week period of preparation. (Be sure to check out KJCC’s ever-expanding library on the subject).

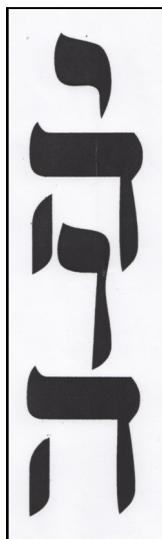
This year we will have a new, remarkable and experiential learning opportunity. Save the evening of Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> for a program on preparing to receive *Torah* with re-

nowned scholar, author, and Jewish Meditation teacher Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz. Thanks to a forward-looking Board of Directors, an energetic President committed to Jewish enrichment, and volunteers from both Ritual and Education Committees, KJCC will make this program available to our community. Rabbi Mitch’s style is warm, informal, serious, humorous, and fascinating.

Spend a special evening, three nights before *Shavuot* begins, focusing on Jewish learning, practicing meditation, and chanting *niggunim*, ancient mystical melodies. The program will start at 7 p.m., and will conclude some hours later with refreshments and a Havdalah service. Enjoy home-made dairy treats in honor of the land “flowing with milk and honey,” featuring some of our favorite *Shavuot* specialties, including Muriel Swartz’s blintz soufflé and Linda Perloff’s cheesecake. When the learning and eating and talking are done, we will assemble in the Meditation Garden’s Beth-Stanlake gazebo to light the multi-wicked candle, pour the wine, smell the spices, sing the blessings, and say an especially meaningful goodbye to that second soul that visits us each Shabbat. We will be in an elevated state as we sing to Elijah and welcome in a new week, prepared to receive *Torah* on *Shavuot* in a way we may never have experienced before.

The five of us who went to hear Mitch Chefitz speak on Jewish Meditation several months ago (re-read the article in March’s Chai-Lights) were all moved by the experience. That was merely a sampler presentation for college students and staff. This evening’s program will go deeper. We are eager to share time with him again. He has tools that will help us be still in order to receive. We will be fellow travelers, grateful to be taking this journey together. ◇

**Rabbi Chefitz’s vertical yud-hay-vov-hay (Adonai), suggesting a human figure.**



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To see for yourself why The Palace Gardens sets the standard Florida senior living, call or visit our web site.



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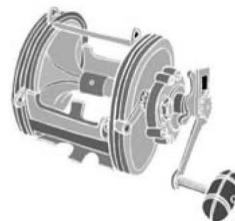
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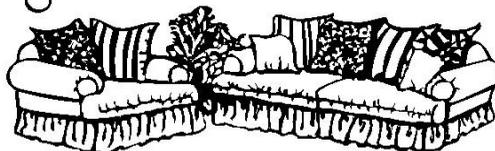
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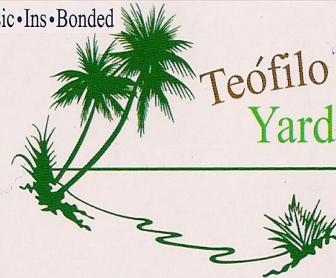
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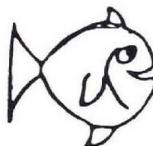
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