

Chai~Lights



January 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

January 2008

23 Tevet—24 Shevat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Sam Vinicur & the Cantorial Nightingales <i>Linda Rutkin</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Meredith A. Cline <i>Meredith A. Cline</i>	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 George Swartz <i>Franne & Barry Alter Pat & Henry Isenberg</i>	19
20	21	22 Tu B'Shevat New Year For Trees	23	24	25 Alan Beth <i>Carol & Steve Steinbock Michal Kamely</i>	26
27	28	29	30	31	<p>Names denote leaders of Friday services. <i>Italicized</i> names are Oneg sponsors.</p>	

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CHAI-LIGHTS is the
monthly newsletter of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
P.O. Box 1332
Tavernier, Florida 33070

President's Message Steve Steinbock



Here we are in 2008. I am looking forward to a better year, not that this last year was not good. As a matter of fact, it ended very well. This Chanukah was the best I have ever had in my entire life.

As a child and in past years as an adult, Chanukah did not mean much to me. This year, however, was a new and wonderful experience. What made this Chanukah so memorable? The success of our Chanukah-Shabbat dinner attended by over 75 people (organized by my wonderful Carol, a woman whose talents and energy never cease to amaze me, and sponsored once again by Joel and Linda Pollack, whose generosity means we don't have to charge for dinner), the children's play, the joy I saw in the eyes of the parents and members of the congregation watching the children, the Shabbat service, hearing our new temple choir sing, and then seeing the new crown for the Holocaust Torah, a gift to KJCC from Stan and Jenny Margulies, all combined to make this Chanukah one I will never forget.

I come from a reform background. My temple in New York City had a choir and organist that was part of every Shabbat service. We

had two student cantors with beautiful voices, one of whom had been an opera singer before he became a cantor. For me, music in the sanctuary is most inspiring. I look forward to hearing our choir often.

As always, I would like to see more participation by our members in whatever aspect of KJCC life they are interested in. You have so many choices: attend services, decide to lead a service, attend a board meeting, attend a Sisterhood meeting, join the choir, chair or become a member of one of the many committees we have, help with our Sunday school. There are many things to do and never enough people to do them.

Once again, I would like to thank each and every member of our Board. They do a magnificent job. Thank you to all who have made contributions to the temple, whether in the form of money, time, expertise or specific items. Thank you to all who have submitted stories and photos to Chai-Lights. I hope you continue to do so in the coming year.

Carol and I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2008.

Steve

Second Seder Reservations

Hard to believe, but planning has begun for the second Passover seder. The date is Sunday, April 20th, and the place is again the Islamorada Fishing Club. The cost is \$40 for all adults. Children 12 and under are free.

Reservations are limited to the first 100. We will accept reservations for members and their families only until April 10th. Then we will open reservations to visitors. It is never too early to make that reservations as we always fill up quickly. Please make your reservation by mailing your check to the KJCC Sisterhood, P.O. Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0822.

On Sponsoring an Oneg

There is no time of the week quite like Friday evening. Time seems to slow down as we look forward to unwinding and relaxing, doing our own thing. Our time belongs to us, not to our work. We seldom stop to ponder the value of this gift.

Here in the Keys, many of us--members of the KJCC--celebrate that gift by coming together for Shabbat services. We take part in the hour-long service, which varies somewhat, depending on who leads that particular week. Then we retire to the social hall, sing Kiddush (and then drink minis of wine),

make “ha motzi,” and sit around shmoozing with friends for another hour. It is said, “Jews don’t keep the Sabbath – Sabbath keeps the Jews.” This easy camaraderie is part of the glue that keeps us together. If you haven’t made time in your life recently to join us on a Friday night, whether at the regular 8 p.m. time or at 6:30 p.m. on the last Friday of the month, why not come this week?

That said, we have to give a big “thank you” to our many sponsors, whose donations pay for the wine, challah, coffee, soda, cake and paper goods, not to mention the able assistance of Angela in setting up and cleaning up. If you would like to honor a loved one or share a celebration, a basic sponsorship is only \$50. I would be happy to arrange it. My e-mail is Joyce@adoctorsbag.com, my phone number is (305) 451-0665. You, too, can be a part of who we are and what we do.

-Joyce Peckman

January Anniversaries

	Years
1st Leslie & Thomas Dillon.....	12
4th Amelia & Steve Kasinof.....	27
26th Pamela & David Marmar.....	23
17th Elaine & Alan Schulberg.....	15
12th Muriel & George Swartz.....	28

BOOK PLATE

IN MEMORY OF JOEL S. COHEN

By Michal Kamely

New Member

The KJCC is proud to announce our newest member (actually, she’s a lapsed and newly renewed member): Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett of Tavernier. Welcome back, Erica. We’ve missed you. The piano in the sanctuary will be glad to see you, too.

Upcoming Events

The Third Annual Tu B'Shevat Seder and Tree Planting is being planned for January, and is open to members of the congregation. For details please contact Steve Steinbock at president@keysjewishcenter.com. Also, look for Gloria Avner's article on Tu B'Shevat in this issue on page 19.

To contact Chai-Lights

Use the new e-mail our webmaster Alan has added to the KJCC web site. It's chailights@keysjewishcenter.com. Please send all ideas, comments, and questions there, as well as all submissions.

Jewish Princesses of Comedy

Through January 13th the Broward Center for the Performing Arts is presenting a salute to the pioneers of Jewish comedy such as Totie Fields and Belle Barth. Created by and starring Cory Kahane, the performance also features Jessica Kirson, Adrienne Tolsch and Sherry Davey. The event takes place in Miami Beach's Spiegeltent at 22nd Street and Collins Avenue. Go to broward-center.org for tickets and info. ◇

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 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, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards 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 Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

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

KJCC Tree of Life Leaves and Rocks, Sanctuary Seat Plates, Yartzeit Memorial Plaques, Bookplates for siddurim. Call Linda Pollack to arrange your donation, 852-8575.

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 Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Chai-Lights Mitzvah - Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, to make your donation.

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 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, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, or General Fund.

January Memoriam

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein
In Blessed Memory of
BERNICE BERNSTEIN
Eternal Rest

By Marilyn Greenbaum
In Blessed Memory of
MARVIN GREENBAUM
Always In Our Memory

By the Blumberg Family
In Blessed Memory of
CELIA MARKOWITZ
Always Remembered

By Laurence & Renee Green
In Blessed Memory of
RALPH BERNSTEIN
Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Mollie Gross
In Blessed Memory of
HENRY GROSS
In Our Memory Always

By Meredith A. Cline
In Blessed Memory of
MIRIAM S. MARKS
Always Remembered With Love

By Jeff & Lynn Dils
In Blessed Memory of
WILLIAM BROOKS
Eternal Peace

By Richard & Barbara Knowles
In Blessed Memory of
WALTER HANKIN
Long, Blessed Sleep

By Flo Neiman
In Blessed Memory of
JACOB NEIMAN
Rest in Blessed Peace

By Pauline Roller
In Blessed Memory of
ETA BROWNSTEIN
Forever In Our Hearts

By Steven Hartz
In Blessed Memory of
LOUIS HARTZ
We Remember Always

By Alan Netzman
In Blessed Memory of
ANN NETZMAN
Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Meredith A. Cline
In Blessed Memory of
CAROLYNNE H. CLINE
In Our Heart And Memory

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg
In Blessed Memory of
ERNEST ISENBERG
With Loving Remembrance

By Jackie LePree
In Blessed Memory of
SAMUEL NEUBAUER
Always Loved and Missed

By Jules & Nettie Seder
In Blessed Memory of
JOSEPH COHEN
Always In My Memory

By Ron Levy & Beth Kaminstein
In Blessed Memory of
BERNARD KAMINSTEIN
Sleep In Peace

By Marjorie Present
In Blessed Memory of
SYLAN OSER
Eternal Rest

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs
In Blessed Memory of
SYLVIA EMSIG
Rest In Peace

By James & Joan Boruszak
In Blessed Memory of
EMMA KOHLENBRENER
Remembered With Love

By Salomon & Mary Terner
In Blessed Memory of
ABRAHAM RAIJ
Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Robert Jay & Gloria Auston
In Blessed Memory of
CLARA GOLDSTONE
Rest In Eternal Peace

By Marilyn Greenbaum
In Blessed Memory of
JUDY LOMBARDI
Forever Remembered With Love

By Gene & Gail Saks
In Blessed Memory of
BLANCHE SAKS
Eternal Peace

By Marjorie Present
In Blessed Memory of
ANNA SAVAGE
Forever In Our Hearts

By Richard & Barbara Knowles
In Blessed Memory of
GOLDIE SCHWEITZER
In Our Heart And Memory

By Robert Jay & Gloria Auston
In Blessed Memory of
CAROL SIPERSTEIN
Always In My Memory

By Randy & Eileen Kominsky
In Blessed Memory of
HARRY STOLER
Rest In Peace

By the Cohen Family
In Blessed Memory of
SALLY SUSSMAN
Rest In Eternal Peace

By Eric & Ruth Schrader-Grace
In Blessed Memory of
BETTY WEINSTEIN
Always In Our Memory

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen
In Blessed Memory of
BETTY WEINSTEIN
In Our Memory Always

By Dick & Rita Bromwich
In Blessed Memory of
BETTY WEINSTEIN
Long, Blessed Sleep

By Gerri Weisberg
In Blessed Memory of
NATHAN WEISBERG
We Remember Always

By Janice Gorson
In Blessed Memory of
MARCUS WEISS
With Loving Remembrance

By Donald & Nancy Zinner
In Blessed Memory of
SYDNEY ZINNER
Sleep In Peace

January Birthdays

Barry Alter.....	18
Matthew Barrett.....	8
Jeffrey Boruszak.....	29
Meredith A. Cline.....	12
Murray Cooper.....	14
Alex Dutton.....	12
Suzi-Sarot Feder.....	17
Mark Feinberg.....	30
Benjamin Freidman.....	19
Randi W. Freundlich.....	4
Heather Gilson.....	15
Howard Gilson.....	4
Jamie Goodman.....	15
Laura Goodman.....	1
Janice Gorson.....	6
Stuart Grossman.....	24
Charlie Horowitz.....	15
Beth Hudson.....	27
Henry Isenberg.....	18
Sarah Kamely.....	9
Yardena Kamely.....	28
Beth Kaminstein.....	29
Andrea Kluger.....	17
Randy Kominsky.....	24
Arnold Lang.....	26
Brieze Levy.....	16
Stanley Margulies.....	6
Amy Nobil.....	13

Lawrence Novak.....	21
Jerry Olsen.....	1
Sheila Olsen.....	22
Cathy Rakov.....	9
Neal Rakov.....	17
Stanley Rosenberg.....	2
Sidney Samuels.....	22
Kristen M. Schur.....	30
Sandy Seder.....	19
Carol Ann Steinbock.....	26
Matthew Storeygard.....	24
Jill Taksey.....	15
Mary Terner.....	20
Sherrie Willner.....	2
Donald Zinner.....	16
Michelle Zinner.....	11

Mishebeyrach List

For those of you not regularly at services, each week we read aloud the names of those we know to be ailing so that we may include their names in a special supplication to G-d to heal them. Our printed list is read, and then the leader asks if anyone in the congregation has names to add. If you can't be at services, and would like someone you care about to be included in the *mishebeyrach* prayer, call or e-mail and let us know. We'll happily include any name (or names) you tell us about. The main KJCC number is 852-5235. The web site, which accepts e-mail, is keysjewishcenter.com.



The Mitzvah of Jewish Solidarity

Quite possibly, *mitzvah* is the most important word in Judaism. We are taught that in order to lead meaningful lives and to make the world a better place, we, each of us, must assume many responsibilities, like visiting the sick and saying the *MiShe'Berach* prayer, feeding the hungry, performing *tzedakah* (*mitzvah* of charity) and *cherut* (the *mitzvah* of freedom). By performing *mitzvot* (the plural of *mitzvah*, for those not in one of my Hebrew classes), we learn the proper way to live: how to treat our family, our friends, our community, our world and, just as importantly, ourselves. *Mitzvot* are Jewish values in action. They teach us the Jewish way to live our lives – everything from observing *Shabbat* and celebrating the holidays, to helping the homeless and supporting Israel.

K'lal Yisrael is the *mitzvah* of Jewish solidarity. "Israel is one, though dispersed among the seventy nations." –*Zohar Exodus 16:6*. *K'lal Yisrael* means literally "all the people of Israel" and is the *mitzvah* of promoting Jewish unity. This *mitzvah* reminds Jews that they are responsible for one another no matter where they are or how high or low their station.

One of the reasons it is a *mitzvah* for Jews to feel responsible for one another is simply that the Jewish people have never been large in number. Do the math: today only one-third of one percent, or less, of the world's population is Jewish. (Even though

we receive a full one-third of all Nobel Prizes.) The fragility of our numbers is certainly one factor contributing to the importance placed on this *mitzvah*. Shared history is another reason for working on behalf of *K'lal Yisrael*. Jews understand a simple and powerful truth: the solidarity of the present generation of Jews is necessary to ensure a future Jewish community.

In the past few months we have been celebrating joyous events together: Sukkot, Thanksgiving and Chanukah. The Jewish communities of South Miami took the occasion of the kindling of the first light of Chanukah to celebrate *Yom L'Chayal*, Day of the Israeli Soldier. *Yom L'Chayal* is an opportunity for us to give thanks to the Israeli soldiers of the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). A group of young soldiers was there, in uniform, to receive the appreciation of the local Jewish community. In turn, they expressed their own gratitude for the solidarity and support offered them by the Jewish community here. I am impressed by how young these soldiers are. They look like kids, but they are young adults - responsible, dependable, courageous, full of life and with dreams of their own.

In an article from Israel, "Thanking the Troops," I was introduced to Ya'akov Selavan, a young Israeli who shows his appreciation for Israeli soldiers in a deep and personal way. In the summer of 2006, during Israel's conflict with Lebanon, a close encounter with

death prompted Ya'akov to establish *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech (With You All the Way)*. He had just graduated from high school and not yet entered military service. Ya'akov and his cousin were volunteers in Tzefat, fixing homes destroyed by Hezbollah missiles. Suddenly, a bomb exploded nearby. "All my life, I realized, I had been safe because soldiers were protecting me," Ya'akov said. "If they're risking life and limb for us, we need to find a way to say Thank You."

As wounded troops arrived at a local hospital, he and his cousin visited them. "I wrote home explaining what I was doing," says Ya'akov, "and my Dad distributed my letter to many people. Suddenly I started getting e-mails expressing support." Donations flowed to *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech* from around the Jewish world.

"Ya'akov was simply an angel for us," says Dubi, a commander in the engineering corps who lost a leg while rescuing a comrade. Ya'akov carried messages between Dubi and the soldier whom the commander had saved. Surgeons and nurses reattached Dubi's leg,

but *Itchem Kol Ha'Derech* also helped him heal from the trauma of war. "Emotionally, Ya'akov helped me maintain a sense of proportion," says Dubi. The volunteer's kindness (*chesed*), reminded the wounded hero that his personal sacrifice was appreciated.

There are many different ways we can show our connection to the Jewish people. It may be our celebration of the Jewish holidays, the wearing of a *kippah*, or the hanging of a *mezuzah*. There are different ways we can show our solidarity and express our commitment to *K'lal Yisrael*. When American Jews helped and supported Jews in the Soviet Union, they were demonstrating *K'lal Yisrael*. When Jews participate in the Maccabiah Games, they help to build unity and pride. When Queen Esther risked her life to save the Jews of Persia, she fulfilled the *mitzvah* of *K'lal Yisrael*.

How are we going to express our commitment to *K'lal Yisrael*, especially now, when Israel and the Palestinians are starting yet another attempt at peace talks, and on Israel's 60th anniversary this year? ♦



An Evening of Solidarity:

These photos were taken at last year's Yom L'Chayal at the JCC in Kendall. The young Israeli officer pictured with Joseph Beth at right, and Freda and Bill Ferns above, is currently commanding a combat unit defending the border with Gaza.



Special Shabbat Dinner

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEMPLE/CONGREGATION? INVITE THEM TO COME AND SPEND AN EVENING AT THE KJCC! WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE KEYS AND MEET MORE OF OUR MISHPOCHA.

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008, WE WILL OPEN OUR TEMPLE TO JEWISH ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COME AND MEET MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, JOIN US FOR A BUFFET DINNER, AND ATTEND A SERVICE WITH US.

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 PM FOLLOWED BY A SHABBAT SERVICE AND THEN BY AN ONEG.

INFORMATION: CAROL STEINBOCK 305-393-1205

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Hamas calls for rescision of 1947 UN plan

To mark 60 years since the United Nations plan for the partition of Palestine, Hamas has called for the UN to rescind the decision which led to the establishment of the State of Israel. Reported by Israel's Army Radio, the Hamas statement was quoted as saying, "It is not shameful to correct a mistake. Palestine is Arab-Islamic land from the river to the sea, including Jerusalem, and Jews have no place there." (*The Forward*, 11-29-07)

Jewish chaplain in Iraq

Until about 2 months ago, Andrew Shulman had the distinction of being the only Jewish chaplain in Iraq. His yarmulke and a patch he wears of the Ten Commandments crowned by a Star of David made him somewhat of an oddity. Shulman, who counsels soldiers in their emotional needs, tells of the time he was called to testify for a soldier stationed in Baghdad who claimed that Judaism forbade him from washing pots in which pork products had been cooked. "I had to inform his superiors that, regrettably, this claim was not true. (He may have confused us with Muslims.) We later discovered the guy wasn't even Jewish. He was just looking for a creative way to get out of work." (*Jewish Journal*, 12-2-07)

LBJ's Jewish granddaughter

Claudia Taylor Brod, 28, the youngest child of Luci Baines Johnson Turpin - President Johnson's youngest daughter - is married to the grandchild of Holocaust survivors. She converted to Judaism in 2003. "I

started to read about the Jewish faith and I was really taken by it," she says. "I related to its unity and survival over thousands of years." Brod, who does not keep kosher and goes to temple only on holidays, says she has embraced Judaism's emphasis on family and traditions. She has lived in Miami Beach since 2000. To celebrate the birth of their first child, Brod and her husband Steven donated \$10,000, drawn from the Lyndon Johnson Family Foundation, to the Holocaust Survivors Program run by Jewish Community Services, a non-denominational agency for residents of Miami-Dade County. (*IsraelBehindTheNews.com/archives/Jul-13-04.htm*)

Turkey in Israel

According to a report cited by *National Geographic* magazine, residents of the Holy Land eat an average of 34.5 pounds of turkey each per year, making them the world's leader in the amount of turkey meat consumed. Second place is held by the Slovaks, with the United States coming in third. Turkey is a bird native to the U.S. (and the bird that Benjamin Franklin wanted as the new nation's national symbol, instead of the eagle). It was imported to Israel in the 1950s. (*The Forward*, 11-21-07)

Luxury bagel

Chef Frank Tujague of the Westin New York at Times Square has created a \$1,000 bagel. This (very rich) bagel comes complete with Alba white truffle cream cheese and goji berry-infused Riesling jelly with golden

leaves. All bagel sales will benefit Les Amis d'Escoffier Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to culinary art students. This is, to say the least, a far cry from a schmear with lox..... (*The Forward*, 11-28-07)

Tombstone of Hannah Szenes

On November 7, the 63rd anniversary of Hannah Szenes' (Senesh in English) execution by firing squad in Hungary in 1944, her nephew completed a four-year campaign to bring her gravestone from Hungary to Israel. The marker stood at Szenes' grave in Budapest's Jewish cemetery. Now, 57 years after Szenes' body was reinterred in Israel, the gravestone has followed. It was placed at Szenes' kibbutz, *Sdot Yam*, while a platoon of paratroopers stood behind it. Szenes was enlisted in pre-Israel Palestine to parachute into Yugoslavia during World War II, the mission that led to her arrest and execution. She had said, "A voice called out to me and I went." In 1950, Szenes' remains were brought to Israel with ceremonies in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and at the port in Haifa. She was buried on Mount Herzl. (www.haaretz.com, 11-25-07)

Pfefferberg, Keneally and Schindler

To the Nazis, Leopold Pfefferberg was prisoner 69006. To his family and friends, he was simply Poldek. Without this Holocaust survivor's perseverance, author Thomas Keneally probably would not have won the Booker Prize in 1982 for *Schindler's List*, and Steven Spielberg would not have collected his first Academy Award in 1994 for the movie version. More importantly, if not for Poldek, Spielberg might never have established the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation, an archive of more than 52,000 testimonies from 56 countries in 32 languages.

Now, 25 years after writing *Schindler's List*, Keneally has written "Searching for Schindler," which tells the story of how a chance 1980 encounter with Poldek began the incredible chain of events that so touched millions around the world. Poldek,

#173 on Schindler's now-famous list, had been trying to find a writer for his story. He told Keneally how he and his wife, Misia, were saved by the German industrialist who risked everything to save 1,200 Jews near the end of World War II. (The movie, by the way, touches on only parts of the amazing and complex Schindler story.)

Keneally explains what drew him to Poldek's tale: "I looked at his big honest face and thought, 'What is it about him that made the metropolitan Europeans believe he was a virus on European civilization and that he had to be obliterated?'" For Keneally, born in Australia to Irish immigrants, the 25 years since *Schindler's List* was published have been life-changing. He now posts a *mezuzah* at the entrance to his office. "Part of being Jewish is trying to honor the people that are gone," he says. "I feel that I should stand in for the people who are gone, too, even though I'm a gentile." Poldek died in 2001. (*Jerusalem Post*, 11-19-07)

United on the issue of pork

In August 2005, Sam Habib and Cindy Gluck opened their first Dunkin' Donuts. Mr. Habib is a 47-year-old Muslim immigrant from Egypt and Ms. Gluck, 34, is an Orthodox Jew from Brooklyn. The two had known each other only a few months when Habib, who says he dreamed for decades of running a Dunkin' Donuts, asked Gluck, a real estate broker he had met while looking for a location, to join him in business. Habib arrived in New York in 1982 with only the change he had in his pocket, and went to work in the kitchens of Brooklyn restaurants. Gluck grew up in Hasidic Williamsburg, and at 20 was married off to a man of her parents' choosing. Four children later, she went into real estate to try to make some money. Regarding pork, any money the business makes on the sale of bacon, sausage or ham - foods that are forbidden in both their religions - is split and given away, hers to her synagogue and to Israel, his to the workers as bonuses. (*The New York Times*, 11-18-07)

Shimon Peres and Jerry Seinfeld

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld met with Israeli President Shimon Peres in November on his arrival in Israel to promote his computer-animated film, "Bee Movie." Seinfeld told the president that he was very excited by the warm welcome he had received. Seinfeld first came to Israel in 1971 as a 17-year-old and worked as a volunteer on Kibbutz Saar in the Western Galilee near Nahariya. Kibbutz Saar, like the state, will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2008. (*Jerusalem Post*, 11-23-07)

Baptist works to build Jewish library

Wyman Brent isn't Jewish. He has no funding, or high-level contacts, or the support of any Jewish institution. Together with only his non-Jewish girlfriend, he's collecting books by Jewish authors or featuring Jewish themes—2,700 so far—in the hopes of creating a Jewish library in Vilnius, Lithuania, once a premier center of European Jewish learning and scholarship. [For more information about Jewish Vilnius, see Liati Mayk's report "Notes From Vilna" in the November Chai-Lights.] A bit of a Jewish restoration is already underway in Vilnius. The Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum exhibits artifacts from the pre-Holocaust period, and an effort is underway to rebuild the city's Great Synagogue. For reasons only he could possibly understand, Brent hopes to contribute a 100,000-volume library (all in English-language books) and help re-infuse Vilnius with a vigorous Jewish intellectual life. (*The Forward*, 11-30-07)

Masada concert filmed by PBS

Israel singer-songwriter David Broza had performed 13 times before at the foot of the Roman ramp leading to Herod's fortress at Masada near the Dead Sea. This time, the 14th, the concert was filmed by Chicago's PBS affiliate, WTTW, for national distribution. Joining Broza at the concert were, among others, American Jackson Browne and the Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam Israeli-

Palestinian School Choir, from a village co-founded by Jews and Arabs in the 1970s. The concert was sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel and by the Israel Ministry of Tourism. (*The Forward*, 11-16-07)

Jewish Rookie of the Year

There have always been Jews in major league baseball. Hank Greenberg of the Detroit Tigers and Sandy Koufax of the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers—both in the Hall of Fame—come immediately to mind. Perhaps there's a new star in the making. Ryan Braun, the Jewish third baseman of the Milwaukee Brewers, was voted the 2007 National League Rookie of the Year. He finished the season with a .324 average, 34 home runs and 97 runs batted in. If he can sustain these numbers, he'll surely become one of the elite. (*The Forward* 11-16-07)

A truly righteous gentile

Giovanni Palatucci, the Italian police chief of Fiume before and during World War II, saved as many as 5,000 Jews from the Nazis. He disregarded Mussolini's orders to gather Jews for concentration camps, forged visas and documents, destroyed files, and sent Jews to live in neighboring towns to live among the Italians. In his honor, The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has created the Giovanni Palatucci Courageous Leadership Award. Palatucci's efforts eventually landed him in Dachau, where he died in 1945, not quite 36 years old. (*The Forward*, 11-16-07)

Israel urging Disney to sue Hamas

The Israeli consulate in L.A. has asked Disney to pursue copyright infringement against Hamas. Farfour, a human dressed as a mouse with a striking resemblance to Mickey, taught the superiority of Islam and hatred of America and Israel in its children's shows. International outcry led Hamas to kill off Farfour. He was beaten to death by an actor portraying an Israeli security officer. (*ynetnews.com*) ◇

COLLEGE DIARY

As we check in with our freshman class, they're preparing for finals and the end of their first semester in college.. By the time you all read this, they will be new members in the I-may-have-stayed-up-all-night-but-I-survived-finals club. Congratulations.

Suzie

A belated Happy Chanukah to everyone! I'm sure you all enjoyed your warm 80-degree weather as you sat back eating latkes. I actually went to a latke party this week, but I had to tramp through the snow to get there.

It is freezing up here, literally. Today is the first day it's been above 35 in a while. But everything is so gorgeous. Snow just accentuates the city, highlighting and pointing out its beauty by quieting everything else. The ugly parts of the city are conveniently covered by snow. But, besides admiring this gorgeous city, I have been extremely busy these past few weeks. Since the week before Thanksgiving, Musical Theatre Guild has been gearing up to put on *Pippin*. I threw

myself into the production. These past two weekends we've put on six shows and we just closed Sunday night. It was

so much fun. The last couple of weeks, the cast really gelled together and got to know each other. All of us are having "*Pippin* with-drawals." The production itself was amazing; between our talented actors and stage effects, all of my friends who came to the show left completely creeped out. I was so

proud. :) The important thing, though, is that I had fun and met a bunch of really great people who I would not normally have met.

Along with theatre, I've been keeping up with school, which is much harder than it sounds. As the semester drew to a close, professors stepped everything up a notch, making sure there was nothing they'd missed. I was in a frenzy trying to study for tests, finish *Pippin* sets and go to rehearsal and still have time to sleep.



But today is the last day of the semester. I went to my last day of work on Monday (I tutor a local girl, teaching her how to read at the Community Center), and my last day of classes today. My chemistry teacher came in to class in a tux and made a toast of champagne to the class for getting through our first semester at MIT. As proud as he may be of us, we are so much more proud of ourselves. I have worked harder and been busier this semester than any other time of my life. I have never been this challenged before, or faced with things that I just could not do. It has been a new, incredible experience and I really look forward to second semester. As for now, I'm calmly sitting back, celebrating the end of semester with my sorority's semi-formal. Then, early tomorrow morning, I begin studying for exams. So wish me luck :).

Andrea

Hi all,
Greetings from Nashville. Well, it is finals time, which is by no means fun. Our finals run from December 15th until the 23rd, which is much later than typical colleges. I also have to come back from winter break about a week early for January rush, so my winter break is not long at all.

This is also the time when we have to pick our classes for next semester. Picking classes is very tough during freshman year considering that our most popular major is "undecided." Right now I am thinking of double majoring in Cognitive Studies and Political Science, but that may very well change. I am very excited to come home for winter break,

which is one week from tomorrow! I actually have three friends from here that are coming down towards the end of break, so that will be fun.

It is currently 44 degrees, which is painful considering it is probably double that in the Keys. I am writing a paper right now for a class called The Business of Music. One thing I love about Vanderbilt is that all of the professors are so well versed in the subjects they teach. Most of them have worked in the field they teach, and some are even known around the world. My Business of Music professor, Jim Foglesong, is a retired country music producer. He is in the Country Music Hall of Fame, and has signed a plethora of country music artists such as Reba McEntire and Garth Brooks.

Well, I better get back to this paper, but enjoy the heat and maybe I will see you over break! ◇



Keys Jewish Community Center Fashion Show Luncheon

Wednesday, January 30, 2008



11:30 am

Outback Steakhouse

MM 80 Oceanside

Fashions by Angelika
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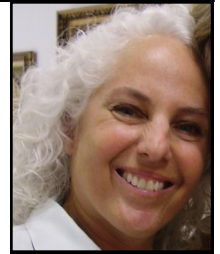
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Donation \$25



Sisterhood Joan Stark



Shalom! Happy New Year! Sisterhood is in the midst of planning for a busy season. We wrapped up the Chai Closet clothing drive, with a large number of bags and boxes delivered to the Women's Domestic Abuse Shelter. What a great motivation it was to clean out our closets! This will almost definitely be an annual event. We thank Meredith for her efforts and her guidance. The shelter also has need of children's books, and that will be our next focus.



Our Chanukah-Shabbat dinner could not have been a success without the hard work of so many of you. Thanks to those who decorated and fried! A special thanks to Carol Steinbock for coordinating, and to the Pollacks for sponsoring.



We're looking forward to the Fashion Show Luncheon, to be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. It will take place at the Outback Steakhouse, MM80, and be hosted by our own Stuart and Lauren Sax of "Angelika" and "Sunny Exposures." They make it a fun time for all. Even though our cost has increased, we are keeping the ticket price at \$25. So mark your calendars and bring your friends.

We have two theater outings planned this season: "Altar Boyz" on February 3 and "Footloose" on March 30. They are both on Sunday afternoons. Call or e-mail Bea Graham at 852-0214 or mbgrham@bellsouth.net.

Our annual fundraiser is just around the corner. Look for details in the next Chai-Lights, but don't make any other plans for Sunday, March 9th.

Joan Boruszak does a great job in keeping the gift shop stocked with items for all Jewish occasions. She's always available at 852-0833 or at joanborus@aol.com.



Our wonderful oneg Shabbats do not happen on their own. Joyce Peckman is the woman behind the scenes, as well as in front. She co-ordinates all the sponsors, does the shopping, and makes sure we have kosher challahs. Please call her if you have a special event you would like to honor.

Thanks again to all of you who show up for the meetings and who volunteer your time to make everything happen. The KJCC is really a "home away from home" for so many of us.



See you at the next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Nosh is at 9 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 9:30. ◇

Photo Gallery



Thanks to the generosity of Stan and Jenny Margulies, the KJCC Holocaust Torah now has a crown. It had its public debut at the Chanukah Shabbat service on December 7th. Our Torah is one of three remaining from Susice, Czechoslovakia, all of whose Jews save one were killed by the Nazis. KJCC has it on permanent loan.



The Chanukah Shabbat service also saw an award given to Alan Beth. It reads: "In Honor of Alan Beth for his Continuous Dedication and Hard Work as Ritual Chairman of KJCC, from Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood 2007." The award was presented by Linda Pollack.

Hi Steve,

This year we celebrated 39 years of hosting the Dayton, Ohio community's free Thanksgiving dinner. We provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings, a live band, clowns, and plenty of pumpkins, gourds and balloons! It is for anyone alone on the holiday. This year we had well over 3,000 people. This tradition was



started by Barbara's father Arthur Beerman and our family has continued it. We look forward to next year, our 40th anniversary.

The picture attached is of me (Bill), our daughter Corey, and her friend Gary Shapiro.



Sincerely,
Bill Weprin



Cammie Berk displays her shana punim and her spokesmodel skills at her recent birthday party, left. Above, Thanksgiving at the Steinbock's. Steve was the photographer.

KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder

Reservations will be taken
for members only until
April 1 at which time it will
be opened for others.

Send your check early to
confirm your place. Call
Joan Boruszak at 852-0833
for information and
reservations.



Sunday, April 20, 2008

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

PASSOVER

Adults \$40

Children 12 and under are our guests.

Happy New Year (of the Trees)

By Gloria Avner

I think of myself as fairly well informed about the time-marking customs of cultures throughout the world. I am familiar with the rituals of the Chinese New Year, the Tibetan New Year, the Bhutanese New Year, the Divali celebrations in India, and the Times Square ball-dropping ritual observed (on television) by millions of Americans. Still, I can think of no culture—in this or any other period in history, that celebrates four entirely different New Years, all of them in a single year, every year—like our own Jewish culture.

We, the multi-New Yeared, can talk about celebrating the birthday of the world on the first of *Tishrei*, with shofar blowing and honeyed apples. There are two other New Years, too, the one for counting the reign of kings that begins on the first of *Nisan*, and the New Year for tithing livestock that begins on the first of *Elul*. We will describe each of these in a new article when they occur.

But today let's talk about the New Year of the Trees, *Tu B'Shevat*, one of my favorite holidays.

Even when we had no homeland we still remembered and celebrated *Tu B'Shevat*. Although many could not plant trees because it was not spring during the fifteenth of Shevat where they lived, they ate the "fruit of the trees" and remembered. Work is not prohibited on this particular New Year. There are no required festive meals. There can be, however, a ceremonial seder in which one blesses all variety of fruit, nuts, and grains that grow in Israel, including almonds, dates, figs, raisins, carob, wheat, barley, grapes and pomegranate. It is considered a *mitzvah* to eat these fruits and recite the blessings. Our students have been celebrating with such a seder and planting trees for the past three years.


The *Tu B'Shevat* seder acknowledges the

seasons of dormancy and growth through the metaphor of wine. Four cups are blessed and drunk. The first is totally white, representing winter and the outward appearance of death, invisible energies waiting for the time in which to again blossom. The second cup of wine has a few drops of red mixed in, a hint of warmth and growth to come. The third, equal parts red and white, evokes the flush of fruition from flower, and finally, with the fourth cup, fully red, emblematic of the power of intense summer sun, the cycle is complete. The fruit is ripe. It is time to harvest, taste, say thank you, and bless the works of creation.

Jewish tradition talks and sings about "the tree of life," a symbol that transcends time and geography. Trees came into being on the third day of creation, making all else possible by providing food and shelter for the coming animals, birds, creepy crawlies, and two-leggeds. The Torah tells us that if the Jewish people were to go to war and besiege an enemy, it would be forbidden to needlessly destroy fruit-bearing trees.

The Torah has compared Man to a tree of the field. The tree is symbolic of mankind's vitality. We should not be disheartened in the winter, the dark, quiet time just before *Tu B'Shevat*. From the outside, trees may seem lifeless. Hidden from sight though, deep inside, sap is beginning to rise. New growth is swelling. Warmth, fruit, and nourishment are about to burst forth. We too have unseen vigor inside us. When we celebrate *Tu B'Shevat* we are not just celebrating the New Year for Trees. We are celebrating our own renaissance, both physically and spiritually.

In ancient times, Israel had a lovely custom involving trees. When a baby was born, the parents planted a tree in its honor on the next *Tu B'Shevat*, a cedar for a boy, a cypress for a girl. As the children grew, so did the trees. When the children married, the wood from their trees was used to build their *chuppas*. As the two trees are joined in the making of the *chuppa*, so were the bride and groom's different qualities joined in marriage. Birth, death, and continuity loom large in the New Year of *Tu B'Shevat*. ◇



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2:00 pm



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KJCC Celebrates Chanukah

A Scrapbook
of KJCC's
2007 Festival
of Lights.



"The Play's The Thing"

After the deliciousness of Sisterhood's Chanukah dinner on December seventh came a very sweet treat. Our KJCC Religious School students and tutors entertained themselves, their parents and a nearly full congregation with an enthusiastic and humorous (but respectful) performance of our play-within-a-play, "The Miracle of Oil."

Written and directed by, well, me (in collaboration with co-teacher Yardena Kamely, School Principal Susan Gordon, and the children themselves), the play told the Chanukah story (through the booming, manly voice of our tutor/narrator Cory Wasser), by focusing on the bravery necessary to stand up for one's beliefs, even under threat of death.

Folded around that story, Bubbe Susan and her grandchildren (no, there's no news; it's a *play*) were delightful as they prepared for their party, sang their songs with anarchic gusto and spun down the aisles as dreidels. Many thanks to



Cammie Berk, Max and Zach Schrader-Grace, Jerrie, Moira, Hannah and Lily Werthamer, Joshua Bernstein, and Danielle Zinner, for playing multiple roles--from grandchildren to Maccabees to rabbis to dreidels--all with joyous ease. Nyan Feder made a superbly hostile King Antiochus, and Mark Wasser, as the Greek soldier befuddled by Torah students,



struck just the right note of disgust with "those Jews." (Why does Mark always have to play the heavy? Next year he's going to be a good guy.)

The evening was also marked by two debuts. Joshua Bernstein began the festivities with a solo piano recital of Beethoven's "Für Elise." His playing was remarkable, assured, and roundly applauded. The second debut was that of the newly formed KJCC choir, comprised of David Feder, Linda Pollack, Susan Gordon, Zoe Berk, Yardena Kamely, Sam Vinicur, Alan Beth and, well, me. We owe thanks also to our piano accompanist, the multi-talented Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett.

-Gloria Avner



Great thanks to Carol Steinbock, Zoe Berk and Marcia Goldberg for providing us with the photographs of the Chanukah/Shabbat dinner and play.

The Channah Behind Chanukah?

By Gloria Avner

Her name was Channah. She was the daughter of Matityahu, the high priest. She was about to be married. Her brothers, the band that would come to be called the "Maccabees," were not yet called "The Hammers." They were then still the equivalent of yeshiva students, like most of their countrymen doing what they could to avoid the soldiers, striving to study Torah and survive as Jews in a world where Greek idols and practices had invaded even the holy Temple.

It was extremely dangerous to be a non-Hellenizing Jew, a Hasidean, in the era around 167 B.C.E., and disconcerting at best for those about to become a bride. The Seleucid Greeks had instituted the custom of *droit seigneur*, the right of government officials to sleep with a Jewish bride before she had consummated her marriage. (Interestingly, Alexander himself, just before his untimely death at 32, had instituted a policy of having his soldiers and officials intermarry with local populations, in order to cement ties to the conquering regime.)

Imagine with me the following scene: Here are the sons of local high priest Matityahu, assembled with their Jewish community to celebrate their sister's wedding. Channah is beautifully bedecked. Suddenly, without warning, she rips off all her clothes and stands utterly naked before her family and guests. The family is horrified. Imagine the uproar. "Cover yourself!!" shouts Judah, her brother. "What are you doing? You are SHAMING us!!!"

Channah refuses to put on her clothes. Armed with a righteous indignation that any woman would applaud, she shouts back to Judah, pointing at herself, "THIS shames you? THIS???" And then she asks, "And you are NOT ashamed of what you will allow to happen to me, your sister, this very night?"

The gathering must have gone utterly silent. The men's collective numbness, their refusal to think about her coming forced night with the governor, was breached. They got it. The brothers rallied around Judah, who was no longer furious at his sister but at himself and the Graeco-Assyrian rulers. Sparked by her courage and in her honor, the men armed themselves and began the revolution.

I always wondered what event could have inspired such unheard-of courage in the face of such odds and culminate (well, 25 years of continuous fighting later) in such a dramatic victory, restoring both the Jewish Commonwealth and, in large part, the Jewish spirit.

But did this event really happen? The story comes to us through the oral tradition. Chaim Schaffer, a "frum" friend some of you met last year, sent me a teaching by Rabbi Gershon Winkler, based on an old lesser-known *Midrash* recorded in *Midrash Ma'aseh Chanukah*, which in turn was recorded in *Otsar Ha Midrashim*. Do we say, "Oh, that's just oral tradition. How do we know whether this really happened?" But wait. The genius of oral tradition is that its stories so well illustrate larger truth often obscured by dry details.

We know for a fact that *droit seigneur* was the custom of the day. Among obvious other indignities, it was intended to obscure paternity of the firstborn. (There are commentaries that say Goliath was the product of such a union.) I say that this historical *Midrash* illuminates the story of Chanukah for me in a way that makes more sense than anything I've ever read about those times.

I say thank you not only to the brave Jewish men who risked their lives (and frequently lost them) to make continuation of our way of life possible. I say a special thank you to the women who inspired them, or else the Jewish light might have been extinguished over two thousand years ago. (How many cultures have a history of strong women as illustrious and documented as ours?) I also thank those who had the courage and foresight to commit this oral tradition to parchment and preserve it, in the face several hundred years later of another attempt to assimilate or destroy us, this time by the Romans. ◇



The weather in Denver was snowy and cold, but family was warm and energetic, especially with three children aged four and under. I showed up with a suitcase loaded with bargains from the Oshkosh B'gosh outlet, and gourmet kosher cheese from Miami. When I visit with Daniel, my eldest son, and his wife Guisela, I am immersed in Jewish practice and tradition, and joyously busy from the moment that Eliana and Yosef wake up and come looking for me, to the moment we (yes, all of us) read bedtime stories and collapse. I'm holding Michal.

-Joyce



Two separate Chanukah celebrations: Brittany and Jeremy Schur, above, grandchildren of Lee and Bob Schur. At the Graham's home, Michal and Yarden joined Bea and Nissan for a special mother/daughter evening.



Chanukiah Lighting Ceremony

For the third year in a row, the KJCC Religious School sponsored a night of blessings, candle-lighting, and latke-eating intended to strengthen the bonds between the families of our young students and the elders among our congregants. Pauline Roller, our gracious matriarch, hosted us once again. Songs were sung, great food was eaten, stories were told, and we all got to know each other a little bit better. This "haimishe" event is one of our proudest evenings.

High on the list of happy moments was the spontaneous birthday party and honoring of George Swartz, who turned 77 that evening. He was surprised



and appreciative of the card made for him by our students, not to mention his improvised jelly donut birthday cake.







Special Shabbat Dinner

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DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

TIME: DINNER AT 6:30 PM FOLLOWED BY A SHABBAT SERVICE AND THEN BY AN ONEG.

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Wednesday, January 30, 2008



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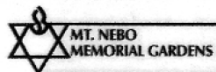
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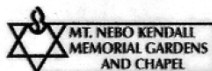
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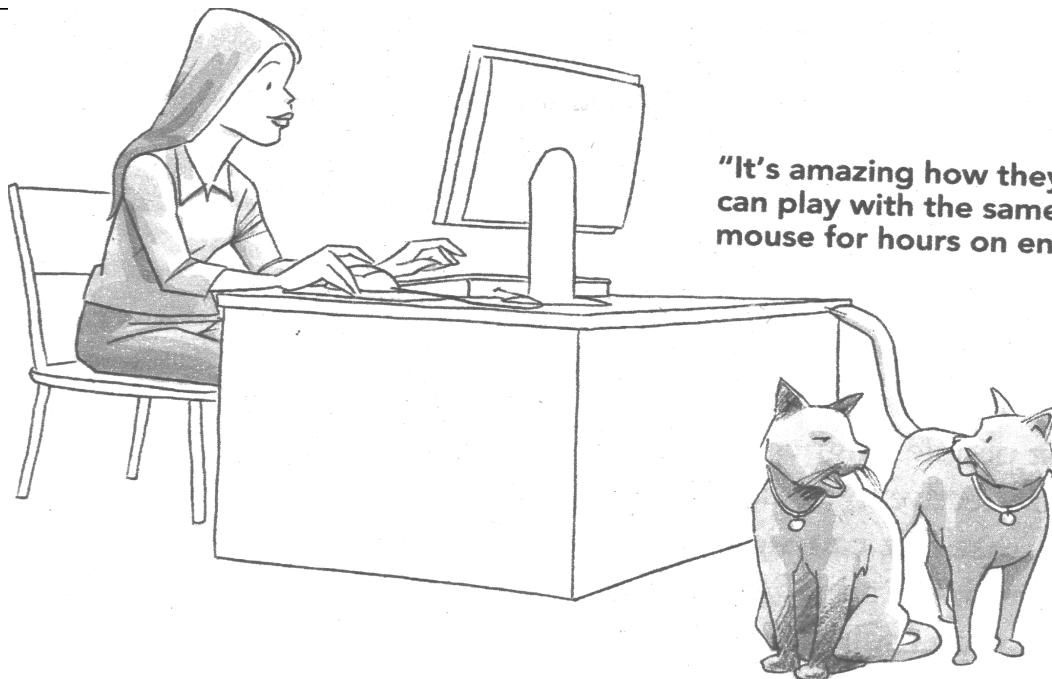


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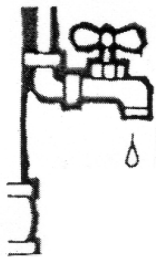
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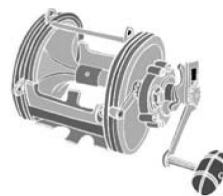
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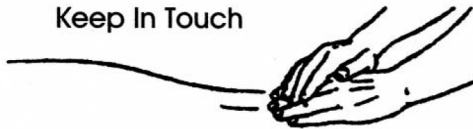
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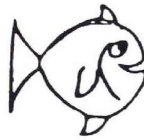
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