

Chai~Lights



December 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

27 Kislev - 29 Shevat 5782

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

December 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 DEC	2	3 Hanukkah celebration 7:00 p.m. <i>Gloria Avner Linda Pollack Steve & Jan Hartz</i>	4
5 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	6 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	7 JOY Center Tech Class at KJCC 1 p.m.	8	9	10 Erica Lieberman Garrett & Jane Friedman <i>Gerl & Stuart Smith</i>	11 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler on Zoom 12:30 p.m.
12 KJCC Board meeting 10 a.m.	13 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	14 JOY Center Tech Class at KJCC 1 p.m.	15	16	17 Yardena Kamely <i>Barney Coltman</i>	18
19	20 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	21 Memorial Service for Homeless at Settlers' Park 12:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Joyce Peckman <i>Sisterhood</i>	25
26	27 Sisterhood Book club Zoom 12:30 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	28	29	30	31 Joe Shabathai <i>Steve & Amelia Kasinof</i>	1 JAN
2 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m.	3 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	4 New Moon Group led by Lucinda Kurtz 3 p.m.	5	6	7 Laurie Blum <i>Sherrie Willner</i>	8
9 KJCC Board meeting 10 a.m.	10 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	11	12	13	14 Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack <i>Barney Coltman</i>	15
16	17 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	18	19	20	21 Steve Hartz <i>KJCC Sisterhood</i>	22
23	24 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	25	26	27	28 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner <i>Sylvia & Alfred Rimm</i>	29 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Agler on Zoom 12:30 p.m.
30	31 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m.	Names denote leaders of Friday Services. Italicized names are Oneg sponsors. Services every Friday at 7:30pm All services and meetings are on Zoom unless indicated				

2021 - 2022 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joyce Peckman



Last week I co-lead services at KJCC with Jane and gave a “dvar” (talk), some of which I would like to share now: Rabbi Jonathon Sacks, before his death, created a year’s worth of parasha notes to survive him. Without going into the enormous depth and breadth of his legacy, I honor his memory by using those notes. He noted that Jacob encountered angels several times in his life. As a young man he fled alone from his home to his uncle Laban, and on the road dreamed of a ladder reaching to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. Twenty years later, returning home with a large family and herds to the brother from whom he had fled, Jacob twice met angels on route – once in a dream and once in a fight. These decisive spiritual encounters of Jacob’s life all happened in what Rabbi Sacks calls liminal space (the space between, neither a starting point nor a destination), at a time when Jacob was at risk in both directions – where he comes from and where he is going to. It was at these points of maximal vulnerability that he confronted God and found the courage to continue despite all the hazards of the journey. That is the strength Jacob bequeathed to the Jewish people.

We too are in a liminal space – We closed up our spiritual home, survived a time that was

tragic for many and difficult for all, and are now beginning our journey back. We too are in a time of maximum vulnerability. We must overcome both fear and inertia. We must show strength and bravery, and we must seek the inspiration and take the actions needed to re-establish and renew this Jewish home.

We have taken steps needed to open, created protocols and purchased air purifiers. Now we need you. We need people to lead or co-lead services at KJCC. We need people to make phone calls as part of our Caring Kehillah, to learn and help with technology, to come when we do security and first aid training, and to share your ideas and expertise. We are much more than just Friday services. We are a community that helps and celebrates and learns from each other.

Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah and a great 2022.◇

by KJCC Sisterhood:

Plaque For Kitchen

Marc Bloom
Coffee Center



WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

December 2021 – January 2022

Many of our activities remain on Zoom.
Look for details & more events in the Tuesday President's messages.

Every Monday	2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat. Contact us to be added to the mailing list.
Friday, Dec. 3	7:00 p.m. Hanukkah celebration at KJCC. Service led by Gloria Avner
Sunday, Dec. 5	10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 7	1 p.m. JOY Center Tech Class at KJCC
Friday, Dec. 10	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service at KJCC led by Erica Lieberman Garrett & Jane Friedman
Saturday, Dec. 11	12:30 p.m. Lunch & Learn on Zoom with Rabbi Agler
Sunday, Dec. 12	10 a.m. KJCC Board meeting at KJCC & Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 14	1 p.m. Joy Center Tech Class at KJCC
Friday, Dec. 17	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Yardena Kamely on Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 21	12:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Homeless at Settlers' Park
Friday, Dec. 24	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service at KJCC led by Joyce Peckman
Monday, Dec. 27	12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book club on Zoom
Friday, Dec. 31	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service at KJCC led by Joe Shabathai
Sunday, Jan. 2	10 a.m. Sisterhood meeting at KJCC
Tuesday, Jan. 4	3 p.m. New Moon Group led by Lucinda Kurtz
Friday, Jan. 7	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Laurie Blum on Zoom
Sunday, Jan. 9	10 a.m. KJCC Board meeting at KJCC & Zoom
Friday, Jan. 14	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service at KJCC led by Susan Gordon & Linda Pollack
Friday, Jan. 21	7:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by Steve Hartz on Zoom
Friday, Jan. 28	7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service at KJCC led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner
Saturday, Jan. 29	12:30 p.m. Lunch & Learn on Zoom with Rabbi Agler

NOSH

Sisterhood welcomes the New Moon

For thousands of years, the new moon has had special significance to women. Many women use Rosh Chodesh events to discuss the upcoming Hebrew month and build spiritual and emotional energy through meditation, poetry, movement and more. Our own Lucinda Kurtz is a saging mentor with Jewish Renewal who has led Rosh Chodesh groups for years in Ann Arbor. She will be leading a series of four Rosh Chodesh events for Sisterhood from 3–5 p.m. at KJCC welcoming the months of Shevat through Nissan. These sessions will end before dark so those of us who hate to drive at night can enjoy the experience.

Save these dates: Tues. January 4, Weds. February 2, Weds. March 2 and Weds. March 30. They will be afternoons of bonding and renewal.

Remembering the Homeless

Once again this year we will join religious congregations around the country, remembering our neighbors who died while homeless in 2021. We will meet, together with representatives of local churches, at Settlers' Park in Tavernier at noon, December 21, on the shortest day before the longest night of the year. We will read aloud the names of those who died while homeless in the Keys, saying a prayer for each and reciting Kaddish.

Saturday Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Agler

Politics, lust and murder are all part of the fasci-

nating saga of King David. Join Rabbi Agler and a dedicated group of students as we delve into this timeless story. Bring your own lunch to the Zoom sessions on December 11th and January 29th at 12:30 Eastern time. Thank you, Rabbi, for getting up early on the west coast to lead this discussion.

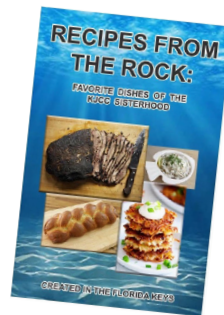
Sisterhood Book Club

We continue to meet on Zoom, but that may change, so keep posted. We just read Aaron Lansky's "Outwitting History" the excellent and entertaining memoir of how a million Yiddish books were saved. You can find a copy in the KJCC library. This month we read "the Jewish Nazi" by Jon Vocale, a novel of time travel. If you want to be added to the e-mail list, contact Linda Pollack. Look for the poster on page 12.◇

The Perfect Holiday Gift

**Sisterhood Cookbooks
make a great gift for
the holidays!**

Available at the Synagogue with a phone call to Susan Gordon 305-766-3585 or at Erica Lieberman-Garrett's office.



ONEG SPONSORS

Dec. 3	Linda Pollack Chanukah Dinner Skip Rose's 92nd Birthday Steve & Jan Hartz Jan's Birthday
Dec. 10	Geri & Stuart Smith Geri & Stuart's Birthdays
Dec. 17	Barney Coltman Memory of those passed
Dec. 24	Sisterhood Celebrating Holidays & End of 2021

Dec. 31	Steve & Amelia Kasinof Steve's Birthday
Jan. 7	Sherrie Willner Birthday
Jan. 14	Barney Coltman Anniversary
Jan. 21	KJCC Sisterhood
Jan. 28	Sylvia & Alfred Rimm Anniversary

KJCC Chanukah 5782

Sisterhood Latke Oneg to Celebrate Chanukah

Friday, December 3, 2021
7:00 p.m. (note change)

Bring your own personal Chanukah to the
Sanctuary and we will light them together before
Services which will be led by Gloria Avner

Latke Oneg in the Social Hall following Services ~
And we will be having a birthday celebration as a
bonus! Happy 92nd ~ Skip Rose

Contact Erica Lieberman-Garrett
hippiejap@hotmail.com; 305-393-1162, before
November 30th to reserve your spot.



Per KJCC COVID Protocols:

Attendees must be masked and have vax on file.
Masked children are welcome under parental supervision.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support the Keys Jewish Community Center by remembering and honoring friends and loved ones through 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 specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER, 2021

Yahrzeit	In Memory/Honor of
Lillian Tallent	Samuel Tallent
Patricia Isenberg	Henry Isenberg
Robert Temkin	Charlie Temkin
Skip Rose	Rosalyn Rose
Sanford Yankow.....	Nancy Kram Yankow
Rosalyn Kofler.....	Sam Kofler
	Robert Goldfaden
Joan Boruszak.....	Harold Goldstein
Michael Krissel.....	Deborah K Cannon
Patricia Isenberg	Helene Tulsy
Mel & Joyce Ruthen	Pauline Roller
Nancy Cohn	David Cohn
Gerri & Frank Emkey	Jimmy Gottesman
Marshall & Myra Kaplan.....	David Kaplan
	Janet Kaplan

Unrestricted

Aaron Fogelson Dave Feder's work at HHD & Deborah Feder

Leaf

Linda Pollack.....Marc Bloom
Skip Rose.....Marc Bloom
Stephen SteinbockMarc Bloom

Meditation Garden

Stuart & Lauren SaxMarc Bloom
Jerrold Benowitz
Medina Roy.....Marc Bloom

Tzeddakah

Barney ColtmanMarc Bloom
Linda Kaplan.....Marc Bloom
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Susan Horn & Dot Brooking.....Marc Bloom
George & Muriel Swartz.....Marc Bloom
Joan Boruszak.....Marc Bloom
Mary Lee SingerMarc Bloom
Elaine SchulbergMarc Bloom
Geri & Stuart SmithMarc Bloom
Donna & Bill BoltonMarc Bloom
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Ellen Ecker& Barry NeumannMarc Bloom
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Laurie Blum & Gary MargolisMarc Bloom
Mike Beni.....Marc Bloom
Joan Stark & Joel BernardMarc Bloom
Joyce Peckman.....Marc Bloom
Adam & Judy Starr.....Marc Bloom
Steve & Jan HartzMarc Bloom

Scholarship

Barney Coltman Robert Coltman
Eva Levine

Unrestricted

Susan Tatelman Laurie Blum & Gary Margolis
& Anne Steinman

— SISTERHOOD DONATIONS —

Oneg Sponsorship

Jane Friedman.....Paul Friedman's Birthday
Alfredo Castillo's Birthday
Linda Kaplan..... Birthday
Gloria Avner..... Birthday
David Gitin's Memory
Richard & Barbara KnowlesBarbara's birthday
Sammy's Birthday
Ethel Hankin
Joyce Peckman Birthdays of Family Members
Linda Pollack.....Skip's 92nd Birthday
Steve & Jan HartzJan's Birthday
Geri & Stuart Smith Birthdays
Barney ColtmanMemory of those passed
Steve & Amelia Kasinof Steve's Birthday
Sherrie WilnerSherrie's Birthday
Marla Berenson and Joe Gould
Jeff and Cheryl Margulies
Joel and Mary Roth
Beth Horowitz
Bill and Donna Bolton
Joel and Toby Bofshever
Susan Roberts

Dinner Sponsorship

Linda Pollack..... Chanukkah
Lynn Nobil Honoring Joel & Sarah Cohen,
Founding Members of KJCC

— D & D—

Leaf

Jon Tainow & Tainow Willner Family
Terry Willner-Tainow

Siddur

Jon Tainow & Tainow Willner Family
Terry Willner-Tainow

High Holy Days

Marshall & Myra Kaplan
Robert Temkin
Joyce Peckman

Security

Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow
Paul & Susan Roberts

Yizkor

Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow
Richard & Barbara Knowles
Robert Temkin

Holocaust Education

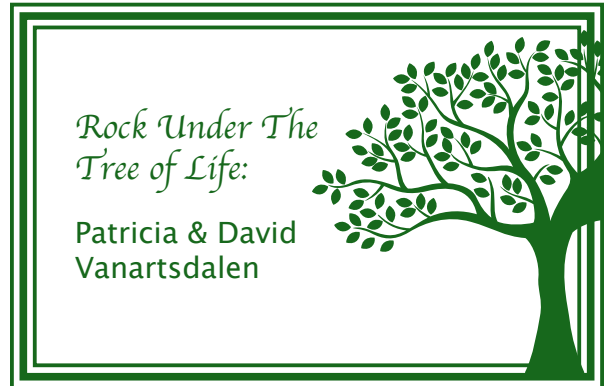
Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

Chai-Lights Support

Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow

Unrestricted

Susan & Paul Roberts
Roy Pollack
Jon Tainow & Terry Willner-Tainow
Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz
Patricia Isenberg



HOW CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO KJCC CAN INSTANTLY BECOME PERMANENT, LIVING MEMORIALS

Yahrzeit Plaques: KJCC has six special, Israeli-made boards in the sanctuary for yahrzeit memorial plaques. Each plaque is accompanied by its own light, which is switched on for both yahrzeit dates and on Yom Kippur; names are also read aloud in memory from the bemaah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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

Tree of Life Leaves: We have three beautiful, six-foot Trees of Life — the world's most enduring spiritual metaphor — adorning the wall at the rear of the KJCC sanctuary. For \$75 an individual, golden leaf can be engraved with your message of memory or love. An example: "To our grandchildren: May they always be in the presence of the Eternal Light."

Garden Bricks: \$125 buys a single brick and \$200 a double brick in our magnificent Meditation Garden walkway, engraved with your personal message. An example: "You were the best, Aunt Goldie. Well, you and those amazing cheese blintzes." For \$300 we'll plant the native tree of your choice as the ultimate living tribute, with an outdoor plaque included in the price.

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for information, or send your desired inscription to lindap4000@ymail.com.

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 Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Gloria Avner, 305-619-0216, to make your donation.

CHAI-LIGHTS OR DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights or annually in our KJCC Directory. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429, for annual rates.

GIFT SHOP: We have lovely items for all holidays and for every day enjoyment. If you have a special request, call Susan Gordon, 305-766-3585.

MEDITATION GARDEN: Have you visited our beautiful garden? Thank you, Steve Steinbock and Jane Friedman. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: : To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Erica Lieberman-Garrett, 305-393-1162, or email her at hippiejap@hotmail.com.

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.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Joyce Peckman, 732-447-5225. The Caring Kehilah Committee is calling and checking in on our socially distant members. Call Laurie Blum, 414-698-5647 if you wish to request that someone be contacted.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at lindap4000@ymail.com.

Further Information about pricing can be found on the KJCC website: keysjewishcenter.com. 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. Rabbi & Cantor Fund, Holocaust Education Fund, Meditation Garden, Scholarship Fund, Sara Cohen Memorial Tzedukah Fund, Sunshine Fund, or General Fund.

December & January Birthdays

Dec. 1st.....Paul Hudson	Dec. 26th..... Steven Smith
Dec. 3rd..... Ashley Berk	Dec. 27th..... Claire Tallent
Dec. 3rd.....Cammie Berk	Dec. 27th..... Steve Kasinof
Dec. 4th.....Jan Hartz	Dec. 28th.....Elaine Schulberg
Dec. 4th.....Judith Klein	Dec. 28th..... Emily Sherman
Dec. 5th.....Geri Smith	Dec. 28th..... Len Levi
Dec. 5th.....Joseph Beth	Dec. 28th..... Michael Klimpl
Dec. 5th..... Stuart Sax	Dec. 29th..... Joan Stark
Dec. 6th.....Haley Borisoff	Jan. 1st Justin Wade Gilson
Dec. 6th..... Leslie Boruszak	Jan. 1stLaura Goodman
Dec. 7th..... Franklin Rose	Jan. 2ndSherrie Willner
Dec. 7th..... Gary Grossinger	Jan. 3rd.....Lucinda Kurtz
Dec. 7th.....Rhett William Casey	Jan. 4th..... Howard Gilson
Dec. 7th. Vada Charity (Bella) Greenbaum	Jan. 4th..... Randi W. Freundlich
Dec. 8th..... Naomi Moss	Jan. 6th..... Stanley Margulies
Dec. 9th.....George Swartz	Jan. 8th..... Jan Price (Karen) Shiloh
Dec. 9th.....Jacob Grossinger	Jan. 8th..... Matthew Barrett
Dec. 10th..... Susan Greenbaum	Jan. 9th..... Cathy Rakov
Dec. 11th.....Oran Hesterman	Jan. 11th..... Michelle Zinner
Dec. 11th.....Sara Rose Friedman	Jan. 12th..... Alex Dutton
Dec. 12th.....Laurie Blum	Jan. 13th..... Amy Nobil
Dec. 13th..... Robin Margulies Juenger	Jan. 15th..... Charlie Horowitz
Dec. 13th..... Sarah Boruszak	Jan. 15th..... Heather Gilson
Dec. 16th.....Diana Lal	Jan. 15th.....Jamie Goodman
Dec. 16th..... Samuel Klimpl	Jan. 16th.....Brieze Levy
Dec. 17th.....Bruce Forman	Jan. 16th..... Donald Zinner
Dec. 17th..... Jeffrey Schocket	Jan. 17th..... Andrea Kluger
Dec. 17th..... Lilian Forbes	Jan. 17th..... Neal Rakov
Dec. 18th..... Emelyn Anne Juenger	Jan. 17th..... Suzi-Sarot Feder
Dec. 18th.....Jerry Small	Jan. 19th..... Benjamin Friedman
Dec. 19th..... Jonah Gross	Jan. 19th..... Mark Kanarek
Dec. 19th..... Lorena Kaufman	Jan. 19th..... Sandy Seder
Dec. 19th..... Terry Willner-Tainow	Jan. 24th..... Bev Strumor-Blitzer
Dec. 20th.....Jennifer Erin VanArtsdalen	Jan. 24th..... Randy Klein-Gross
Dec. 22nd..... Laura Molly Friedman	Jan. 26th..... Marshall Kaplan
Dec. 22nd..... Lisa Miller	Jan. 27th..... Beth Hudson
Dec. 22nd.....Stuart Smith	Jan. 27th..... Pat VanArtsdalen

Anniversaries

	Years		Years
Dec. 7th	Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum11	Dec. 27th	Joe & Linda Levi39
Dec. 10th	Linda & Bruce Pincus32	Jan. 4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof39
Dec. 11th	Arthur Lee & Johanna Willner56	Jan. 12th	George & Muriel Swartz.....41
Dec. 11th	Jamie & Laura Goodman.....16	Jan. 27th	Alfred & Sylvia Rimm.....64
Dec. 14th	David & Pat VanArtsdalen.....40		

Shabbat Service Leaders

December 3 Gloria Avner
December 10 Erica Lieberman-Garett
& Jane Friedman
December 17 Yardena Kamely
December 24 Joyce Peckman
December 31 Joe Shabathai

January 7 Laurie Blum
January 14 Susan Gordon
& Linda Pollack
January 21 Steve Hartz
January 28 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner

Hannukah – More than latkes - Is it oil, or is it politics?

by Joyce Peckman

Chanukah originally celebrated a political revolution. When Antiochus III took over Judea from Egypt, many Jews began quietly assimilating Roman values and mores. There was a lot of tension between them and their countrymen, who remained faithful to traditional Judaism. In 176 BCE, Antiochus IV came into power and was determined to force the Jews to abandon their monotheism and assimilate into the Roman culture. He outlawed Torah study, Sabbath observance and circumcision on pain of death, and brought idols and sacrificial pigs into the Temple.

The Jews united against this extreme persecution and, under the leadership of the family of Mattathias, defeated a powerful army and reclaimed the Temple. It may be the first time in history that people revolted, successfully, for religious freedom. In our earliest historical records about the holiday, and in the additional prayers we say in the ancient Amidah prayer, the language is clearly about political revolt and the few defeating the many. The books of the Maccabees, part of Christian sacred text, document the political nature of the holiday. The Hasmonean Dynasty, rooted in the family of Mattathias, marked an end of 500 years of foreign rule. The land of Israel was again independent, with its own coinage, and boundaries like those of King Solomon's reign. There was reason to rejoice!

This glorious part of our history didn't last long. The Hasmoneans were Cohanim, of the priestly tribe, not of David's tribe of Judah. They claimed not only the throne, but the high priesthood. Not surprisingly, corruption and rivalry caused the rapid downfall of the Hasmonean kingdom.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, we were again under foreign control. The holiday of Hanukkah celebrated the fight for freedom, encouraging revolts, with the result that Jewish "freedom fighters" and their communities kept getting massacred. The existence of the Jewish people was in danger.

The rabbis of the time then acted. They changed the focus of the Hanukkah from political into spiritual. Five hundred years after the revolution we suddenly, for the first time, find a story appearing in the Talmud about the miracle of the oil. The rabbis understood that Judaism needed to be a living religion, relevant to those who observed it. We needed to celebrate, not war, but light in times of darkness.

And so, for two thousand years and counting, we light Hanukkah menorahs (chanukiyot), spin dreidels, enjoy latkes and donuts (sufganiot) and tell a story of persistence, tradition and joy. ◇



In Memoriam – December 2021

Alex Avner

By Gloria Avner

Daniel Birnbaum

By Norbert Birnbaum

David Pearlman

By William & Donna Bolton

George Paul Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

Eva Levine

By Barnet O. Coltman

Harry Friedman

By Jane Friedman

Alvin S. Gross

By David & Patti Gross

Laurie Beth

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Ivy W. Blumenfeld

By Marvin A. Blumenfeld

Burton V. Boruszak

By Joan Boruszak

Leatrice Tomor

By Barbara A. Calev

Lola Rosenberg

By Robert Dandrea & Joni Sages

Harry Wolfe

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Jerry Levy

By Yardena Kamely

J.D. Stanlake

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Betty Abramson

By Joel & Toby Bofshever

Julius Kohlenbrener

By Joan Boruszak

David Cohn

By Nancy L. Cohn

Jimmy Gottesman

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Stephan Ban

By Franklin & Judy Greenman

Dinah Levy

By Yardena Kamely

Evelyn Stockser

By Sandy Kaplan

Kurt Kluger

By Nancy Kluger

Charles Margolis

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

M. Arlene Hess

By Jan Price

Raymond Martell

By Skip Rose

Jacob Menahem Shabathai

By Joseph & Katherine Shabathai

Steven Garfinkel

By Betty Small

David M. Kaplan

By Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Gary Kreitman

By Marcia Kreitman
& John David Hawver

Daniel Harvey

By Linda Perloff

Clayton Allan Rakov

By Neal & Cathy Rakov

Mr. Samuel Roth

By Joel & Mary Roth

Rhonie Lee Klipper

By Mary Lee Singer

Peter F. Steinberg

By Richard & Sheila Steinberg

Anita F. Katz

By Melissa Katz-Fusco

Harris Warren

By Gary Margolis & Laurie Blum

Claire Lempel

By Linda Pincus

Ruth Greenwald

By Paul & Susan Roberts

Joseph Cohen

By Jules & Nettie Seder

Sylvia L. Singer

By Mary Lee Singer

Steve Cimkowski

By Stephen Steinbock

In Memoriam – January 2022

Talia Agler

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Lou Roazen

By Sylvia Berman

Kitty Nyman

By Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Muriel Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer &
Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Irving J. Kulick

By Thomas & Renée Brodie

Sylvia Weiner

By Nelson & Roberta Chester

Lester Singer

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Sue Steinberg

By Richard & Mindy Agler

Bernice Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Annette Bitton

By Michel Bitton

Judy Strumer Hartman

By Murray Blitzer &
Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Betty Weinstein

By Rita Bromwich

Yetta Hitzig

By Wes & Rita Conklin

Nathan Weisberg

By Gerri & Frank Emkey

Bea Avner

By Gloria Avner

Sunnie Bernstein

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

Joshua Daniel Blitzer

By Murray Blitzer &
Bev Strumor-Blitzer

Emma Kohlenbrener

By Joan Boruszak

Sylvia Chait Weiner

By Nelson & Roberta Chester

Larry Daddona

By Hanna David

Sheldon Paul Frankel

By Miriam Frankel &
Nadine Thompson

Marvin Greenbaum

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Nella Gross

By Tomar Gross & Randy Klein-Gross

Bernard Kaminstein

By Beth Kaminstein

John Evans

By Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Bea Gulkis

By Elaine Schulberg

Mr. Bobby Serota

By Selma (Sandy) Serota

Miriam Blinder

By Steven & Barbara Smith

Judy Lombardi

By Marilyn Greenbaum

Louis Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz

Walter Hankin

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

Maria Quesada

By Orlando Quesada

Paul Kaminsky

By Elaine Schulberg

Joseph Shapiro

By Libby P. Shapiro

Hedy Kopecky

By Adam & Judy Starr

Eugene Greenstein

By Scott & Sharon Greenstein

Ernest Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg

Goldie Schweitzer

By Richard & Barbara Knowles

Nat Gulkis

By Elaine Schulberg

Joan Kaminsky

By Elaine Schulberg

Janet Garfinkel

By Betty Small

Mr. Harry Miller

By Shirley Stein



Sisterhood Book Club

~ Books and dates for the coming three months ~
Meetings will be at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

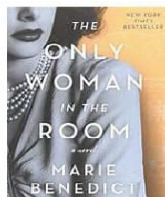
December 27, 2021 ~ The Jewish Nazi

January 31, 2021 ~ The Only Woman in the Room

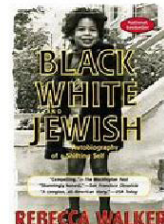
February 28, 2022 ~ Black White and Jewish



Born 1980—Died 1940?
Benjamin Bauman, a contemporary Jewish Orthopedic Surgeon, is blinded by a flash of light while driving his car. Ben blacks out. When he awakens he finds himself in a Berlin hospital in Nazi Germany. It is Christmas Day, 1937.



Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star.



A look at the challenge of personal identity, in a story at once strikingly unique and truly universal.

Email Joyce (joycepeckman@gmail.com) before the meeting date to let her know you will be attending and she will send you an invitation to Zoom.

SISTERHOOD Susan Gordon



Sisterhood is beginning to cautiously move forward towards what we hope to be 'post-pandemic' times, or at least a more manageable lifestyle where we can begin to socialize with one another. We have recently met face-to-face at the KJCC for a couple of onegs following in-house Shabbat services. We are adhering to very specific guidelines and protocols concerning gathering together, safe handling of food preparation and the serving of food and refreshments. We want the KJCC to be a safe place for us to gather for both prayer and socialization.

During our recent zoom Sisterhood meeting in November, several ideas were discussed regarding the gradual re-opening of the KJCC. We have been closed for 20 months and feel enthusiastic about re-uniting with our friends. We are entering into the winter season, which is usually bursting with social activities and educational opportunities. This season, we will plan to slowly resume some of those activities. We will begin with a Chanukah celebration on Friday December 3rd, immediately following in-person Shabbat Services. Sisterhood is planning a wonderful (and delicious) "Latke Oneg". Those wishing to attend services and the Chanukah celebration must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask as safety precautions.

Another 'in-house' activity which is being offered to the entire (vaccinated only) KJCC membership is a three session technology workshop. These informative sessions will be expertly presented by Betsy Baste, and offered free of charge on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 2:30pm. The scheduled meeting dates are November 30, December 7, and December 14.

Lucinda Kurtz has graciously offered to lead the (vaccinated only) women of the KJCC in a monthly New Moon Rosh Chodesh Circle. These New Moon

events bring women together, while building spiritual and emotional energy through meditation, poetry, movement and more. The sessions will run for two hours from 3pm to 5pm. The dates are January 4, February 2, March 2, and April 6. The KJCC Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM for the time being. The book club meetings are generally held monthly on Mondays at 12:30pm. The titles of the books and the exact dates of the ZOOM meetings may be found in Chai-Lights. You will soon see a new, beautifully designed Sisterhood logo on all of our correspondence, including letterhead & thank you notes. Erica's sister, Risa Alt, has created this beautiful logo for us. She is a very talented graphic designer. We greatly appreciate her, and give thanks to Risa for a job well done!

The KJCC Sisterhood cookbooks are wonderful. Thank you to Beth Hayden for all of her hard work in putting this project together and for seeing it through from start to finish. The Cookbooks are available for purchase through the Sisterhood Gift Shop at a very reasonable cost of just \$20.00. All of the most delicious recipes were sent in by our Sisterhood members. These cookbooks will be treasured for years to come, and will also make a great gift!

The next Sisterhood meeting will be held via ZOOM (just for now!) on Sunday morning, December 5th at 10am. If you are not already involved, please try to join us. Sisterhood is welcoming to ALL female members of the KJCC and we would LOVE to see you! ◇

Wishing happiness & good health to all,
Susan Gordon/ KJCC Sisterhood Vice President

Keys Jewish Community Center

The JOY Center is offering Tech Savvy classes to be held at the KJCC. This will be a series of 3 tech classes with a most interesting and knowledgeable instructor, Betsy Baste.

Bring your questions to class and Betsy will help you, and all of us, with situations such as texting, email, security, Face Book, smart phones (both Apple and Android), pads and computers.

Classes: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Tuesday, December 07, 2021

Tuesday, December 14, 2021



Contact Linda Pollack

lindap4000@ymail.com; 305-587-7429

to let her know that you are interested.

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



What?? Really??

In early October, teachers in a Texas school district were told that a new state law – requiring them to “present multiple perspectives about widely debated and currently controversial” issues – meant that they needed to make “opposing” views available to their students, including about the Holocaust. NBC News obtained an audio recording of the Carroll Independent School District’s executive director of curriculum and instruction, Gina Peddy, telling the teachers how to navigate through the new law. The law was passed in the middle of a wave of Republican-led statehouses intending “to prevent Critical Race Theory, divisive topics and concepts related to race and bias from being taught to children.” Peddy’s instructions to the teachers: “Make sure that if, if you have a book on the Holocaust that you have one that has an opposing – that has other perspectives.” In her defense, the recording seems to suggest that Peddy does not necessarily support the new law, but that it is now law and she does anticipate conflicts over its enforcement. (By the way, Critical Race Theory is a subject explored at the graduate level, not with K-12 and undergraduate students.)

This new episode comes a year after a Florida school district fired a principal – twice – who told a parent that he could not say the Holocaust was “an actual, factual event because not all parents shared the same belief.” (Florida’s school board has since enacted a ban on Holocaust denial in schools – apparently not seeing the irony of ignorant and unchallenged racial theories contributing hugely to the Holocaust – as part of a ban on teaching CRT.) (www.nbcnews.com, 10-15-21)

A Jewish Language Renaissance

Back in April, Duolingo, the language-learning app, added Yiddish (which once had as many as 12 million speakers), its 40th language, to its

program collection. And then there’s Ladino, a Romance language of Sephardic Jews still spoken by hundreds of thousands worldwide. In recent years, Ladino classes, both on-line and in-person, are widely available to those interested. Still, many other Jewish languages – ones spoken in Crimea, Baghdad, Baku and beyond, have miraculously survived but are mostly inaccessible to interested learners. (Raise your hand if you didn’t know there were other Jewish languages. It’s okay. You’ll have lots of company.) But now, all of that is changing. The Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages (OSRJL) in the UK has launched an inaugural semester of courses in twelve languages belonging to the Aramaic, Arabic and Turkic language families. They range in number of speakers from millions to zero. These courses, which began in mid-October, run for an hour a week online and are free. Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, president of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, is the creator of the new program. She’s convinced that the format – online and free – will ensure that classes are accessible to an international pool of students. Yiddish is one of the twelve Jewish languages offered by OSRJL. And with some 1.5 million speakers worldwide – and growing – it is the only language offered by the program that is not endangered or extinct. Judeo-Greek, however, a language that originated in the Macedonian Empire, is going to die out with this generation unless there’s some serious intervention. And most of the languages offered by the OSRJL face a similar fate. Some – Judeo-French, Classical Judeo-Arabic and Classical Judeo-Persian – are already considered extinct. Then there’s Judeo-Neo-Aramaic, with only an estimated 60 speakers left. Kalman Weiser, a Silber Family Professor of Modern Jewish Studies at York University in Toronto believes that “studying any Jewish lan-

guage, whether it is of heritage or not, opens up a window into the diverse history of world Jewry.” (*www.haaretz.com, 10-13-21*)

Update

In the October/November issue of Chai-Lights, we reported on Zubulon Simantov, the last Jew to leave Afghanistan following the Taliban’s takeover of the country. At the time of the report, Simantov had not given his wife a get (Jewish ritual divorce) and had refused to do so for more than twenty years. Well, Simantov has finally granted her the get via videoconference. (She and their children have been living in Israel since 1995.) He now wants to begin a new life in Queens, New York, where he has relatives. (*www.israelnationalnews.com, 9-25-21*)

Hank Greenberg Would Be Proud

Jewish pitcher Max Fried, 27, brought his Atlanta Braves to their first World Championship since 1995 with six shutout innings in Game 6 of the World Series. (Some have said it was the most Jewish World Series in baseball history.) The lefty held the Houston Astros to four hits, escaping a potentially serious injury to strike out six without surrendering a run or a walk. (In the bottom of the first inning, Fried ran to cover first base on a ground ball when the Astros’ Michael Brantley, racing to first base, stepped on Fried’s ankle instead of the base. Replays revealed that Fried’s ankle was almost flattened under Brantley’s cleat. But Fried was okay and continued playing.)

The game had what may have been the most Jewish play in any Major League Baseball matchup ever: In the bottom of the second inning, Astros star third baseman Alex Bregman hit Fried’s second pitch to right field, where Braves outfielder Joc Pederson easily caught it for out number two. To Jewish fans, the play showcased three Jewish players performing on the sport’s biggest stage. For Pederson (nicknamed JOctober), the eventual victory gave him a second consecutive World championship. He played for the 2020 World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers. The fourth Jewish player to appear in the World series, Astros backup catcher Garrett Stubbs, entered the game as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning. He did not have an at-bat.

After the Series was over, Fried then won his second consecutive Gold Glove Award, given to that season’s best defensive player at each position in each league. Fried joins Atlanta Hall

of Famers Greg Maddux and Phil Niekro as the only Braves pitchers to win multiple Gold Glove Awards. Maddux is the all-time MLB Gold Glove leader with 18, including 10 consecutive wins as a member of the Braves. Niekro, known for his legendary knuckleball, won five. (*www.timesofisrael, 11-4-21 and jta.org, 11-8-21*)

French Museum Redeems Dreyfus

What might be the world’s very first museum on the wrongful and anti-Semitic persecution of Army Captain Alfred Dreyfus has been inaugurated in Paris by France’s President Emmanuel Macron. The museum features more than 500 documents including photographs, court papers and personal objects from the eight-plus-year ordeal that ended in 1906 with Dreyfus’s exoneration from fabricated espionage charges and convictions. (In the interim there had been a court-martial, a sentence to life imprisonment at Devil’s Island, and two trials.) Also on display are copies of anti-Semitic caricatures that were published in mainstream newspapers in France in connection with the Dreyfus trials. The Dreyfus Museum is part of the Zola House, a cultural institution whose goal is to preserve the memory of Emile Zola, the noted French writer. Zola, who was not Jewish, played a key role in leading opposition and protests against the injustice done to Dreyfus. (Zola’s role in the Dreyfus affair was immortalized in 1898, when he authored the influential article, “J’Accuse.” It was an open letter criticizing the prosecution of Dreyfus, supposedly for spying on France for Germany. Zola maintained that Dreyfus was prosecuted and convicted on scant evidence because he was Jewish, and that it was state injustice that set him up, since long before then the Army knew who the real traitor was, an aristocrat named Ferdinand Esterhazy. Following the article’s publication, Zola was put on trial for libel and fled the country. Theodor Herzl, the father of modern secular Zionism, covered the trial as a journalist and later described it “as a watershed moment in his ideological development from an assimilationist Jew into a Zionist.”) In 1899, Dreyfus was pardoned by the French president and released from three years in jail. In 1906 a military commission officially exonerated him. He died in obscurity in 1935. (*www.jpost.com, 10-27-21*)

And the (Jewish) Winners Are...

- Professor Joshua Angrist, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) who

has dual Israeli–American citizenship, was named one of three winners of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on how public policy developments impact society. Born in Columbus, Ohio, Angrist lived in Israel for a few years in the 1980s and taught at the Hebrew University from 1991–1996. He then became a professor in the economics department at MIT. He’s written several papers about labor conditions in Gaza and the West Bank and served as a member of Israel’s Finance Ministry Working Group on Israeli–Palestinian Labor Market Relations in 1994. (www.haaretz.com, 10–11–21)

- David Julius, professor of physiology at the University of California, San Francisco, whose grandparents fled antisemitism in Czarist Russia, has been awarded – along with a molecular biologist and neuroscientist – this year’s Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The Nobel Prize committee cited their research “for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch,” which have improved treatments for pain caused by a wide range of diseases. Professor Julius was born and raised in Brooklyn’s Brighton Beach (where not just Neil Simon but my Bubby and Zeydee lived!) which was then home to a large population of Russian Jewish emigres. A graduate of MIT and the University of California, Berkeley, Julius spent his career researching the way human senses like touch, pain and heat function and has used capsaicin, the chemical in chili peppers that makes them burn, to explore how human nerve endings feel heat. (www.jta.org, 10–4–21)

In Memoriam

- Aaron Feuerstein, known as the “Mensch of Malden Mills” for continuing to pay his workers after the textile factory he owned burned to the ground, died in early November. He was 95. Malden Mills, located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, was best known for its line of synthetic fleece products called Polartec. In December 1995, the factory complex caught fire, causing one of the largest fires in Massachusetts history. Work for the factory’s 1,400 employees ended, but the Orthodox Feuerstein kept paying them. “I’m not throwing all these people out of work two weeks before Christmas,” he said. “When all is moral chaos, this is the time for you to be a mensch,” he said, explaining that he was guided by Jewish tradition. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Jewish teachings informed how he treated his workers. Feuerstein resisted leaving the area and rebuilt

the family–run factory. His grandfather, a Jewish immigrant from Hungary, had founded Malden Mills in 1906. (www.nytimes.com, 11–5–21)

- Rabbi Moshe Tendler, considered to be an expert in Jewish law and medical ethics, died recently at age 95. Dean of the rabbinical school and a professor of Jewish Medical Ethics and Biology at Yeshiva University (YU), Tendler was most known for his fierce advocacy of the Jewish legal position that brain death constituted death, thereby allowing Orthodox Jews the ability to donate and receive organ transplants in the event of brain death. When a group of rabbis issued an opinion stating that the cessation of heartbeat, rather than brain death constitutes death, he denounced them. He did this publicly, quite unusual in the civil discourse of Orthodox Jewish law decision–makers. Tendler was born and raised on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He rigorously pursued both secular and religious studies from a young age under the guiding influence of his mother, a law school graduate, and his father, head of the Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva. Tendler grew up in the same neighborhood as Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, one of the most important Orthodox rabbinic authorities of the United States in the 20th century. He eventually married Feinstein’s daughter. He was ordained at YU and earned a doctorate in microbiology from Columbia University. Tendler served as a bridge between the scientific experts and the experts in Jewish law and ethics, helping to influence Feinstein’s stance on questions of Jewish law and ethics. (www.jewishpress.com, 9–329–21)

Did You Know...

- Vermont’s Patrick Leahy, the longest serving Democrat in the U.S. Senate, recently announced that he will not run for re–election next year. What does that mean? There is a chance that Dianne Feinstein of California could be the first woman – and the first Jew – to be the Senate’s president pro tempore, the one who presides over the Senate when the vice president is absent. So? What does that mean? Feinstein would be third in line to the U.S. presidency. Should that happen, and should the Democrats keep the U.S. House of Representatives in the midterms, there would be three California women lined up to succeed President Biden were he to leave office before the next election: In order: VP Kamala Harris, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and then Feinstein. (www.jpost.com, 11–17–21) ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center

Adult Ed Program

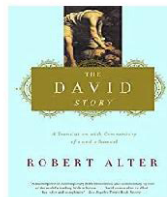


THE DAVID SAGA LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI AGLER

Discussion of the David saga will continue on December 11, 2021, and January 29th, 2022.

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Even if you have not partaken in our previous sessions or done any preparatory reading, come and enjoy the discussion. No preparation is necessary.



Zoom invitations will be sent out prior to the session.



The newly updated logo for KJCC, designed by Erica's sister, Risa Alt.

Susan Gordon switches over from Thanksgiving to Hanukkah.



We are so happy to be back more and more often in our own Sanctuary, Social Hall and Schoolroom, worshipping together, celebrating Shabbat and members' Simchas as well as remembering our dear departed.



Joyce's grandson is ready for Chanukah!



Two grandmas



Three cheers (at least) for Joyce Peckman and Linda Kaplan, who showed up on a Sunday morning to help Superstar Jane Friedman to clean up and prepare the KJCC Organic Vegetable Garden for this winter's planting. Burton Memorial Church's Food Bank will be one happy recipient of the bounty to come and so will KJCC members!!



We all had Happy thanksgivings—so much to be thankful for, including this fruiturkey for vegetarians by Gloria Avner.



We love when our Sunday School Students come back to visit. Harry will be on his way soon to Israel on a Birthright trip. Jane and Steve Friedman are as proud of him as we are. He has promised to write. Can't wait. Go with our blessings, Harry.

So good to have President Joyce Peckman back, leading a sweet service with Jane Friedman in our own Sanctuary, with onlookers from zoom, and blessings over wine and bread in our Social Hall.





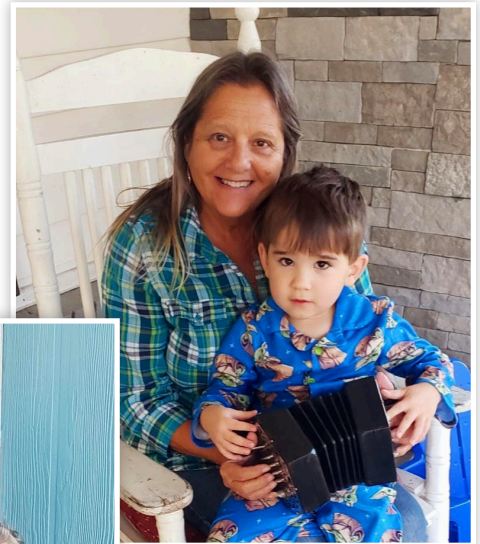
Founder Joel Cohen's legacy lives on. His daughter Beth sent us this photo of her Shabbos table.



Some of us spent autumn in the northeast and North Carolina. Sharing the color



Gloria Avner and Linda Kaplan happily sponsor onegs for their birthdays within days of each other, both happy to be doing it live back home in our Social Hall.



Susan Gordon starts grandson Hank's music education.



A small birthday celebration for Gloria



Remembering Marc Bloom

7/27/1956 - 9/27/2021

There are some people whose being is so tightly woven into the fabric of KJCC and our mishpocha that we are left overflowing with emotion and memories when they leave this planet. No one is ever lost who is remembered. Especially one who so embodied kind service to others.





I first met Marc at the Oneg of my first Keys service back in '02. As I recall, he asked if I wanted coffee. He was such a friendly guy, it was impossible not to feel an instant connection to him. For the next 15+ years, he and I would have many great conversations. Marc was usually the person I sat next to at board meetings. He wasn't just the person from KJCC I felt closest to. I think he was, and will live on as the heart of our congregation.

Even after he went to the nursing home, he continued to be a fixture at both services and board meetings. And though Covid made it so I hadn't seen him in awhile, he was never far from my thoughts. When I first visited him, he was staying in the same room as my best friend's stepdad. Not surprisingly, they became friends too.

His passing is a loss we won't soon get over, but we are so much better for the time we knew him. Things will not be the same, but whenever I'm there, I know I'll picture him sitting at a table, or helping in the kitchen.

— *Ken Atlas*

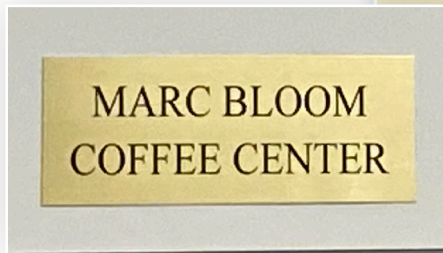


We think of Marc whenever we are in the kitchen, reaching for those very high shelves where he kept "his" coffee supplies. For years he kept us smilingly well caffeinated, and then he taught us how to do it without him.

How appropriate that the KJCC

sisterhood created this plaque in his honor and memory: Marc Bloom, the only person of the male persuasion ever to be accepted as an official Sisterhood member. Long may he reign as well loved coffee king and valued friend.

— *Gloria Aoner*



Marc will always hold a special place in my heart. I don't think I ever saw him without his big, wonderful smile, always ready to show me some sweet video or joke on his phone. I don't eat bagels often but I will always think of him fondly when I do. and how did he make such great coffee?? even decaf? rest in peace, dear friend.

—*Medina Roy*



Marc exuded positive energy wherever he went. In the kitchen setting up the coffee maker, helping to organize a deli night, at a board meeting, in a Hebrew class or at an MS rally - he always worked with a willing heart, stretching his abilities to their utmost.

When his body betrayed him, I never heard him complain; although I remember his gentle apologies – when he could no longer cut deli meat or bagels, when he had trouble remembering words in class. He seldom asked for anything, and always gave his best with a smile. I feel his spirit whenever I enter KJCC.

—*Joyce Peckman*

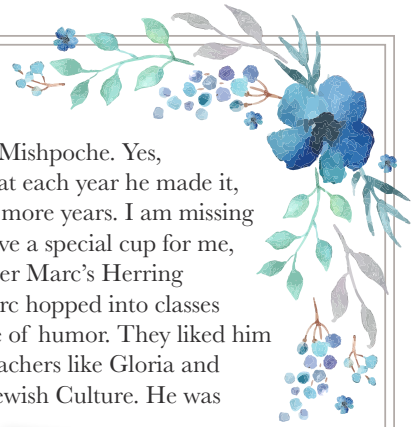
Remembering my dear friend Marc Bloom. It is hard for me to write about Marc.

It makes me so sad to think of him ever since we lost him, only a short time ago.

We are still grieving a very dear friend. Marc was loved by many of us, his KJCC Mishpoche. Yes, Marc was a special friend to us. We spent many good times with him. We knew that each year he made it, it was a gift given to him. And we were hoping that he will hang in there for some more years. I am missing Marc's coffee he was preparing on Friday's Shabbat Services. He would always have a special cup for me, the way I like to drink coffee. And his Herring in Sour Cream. I'll always remember Marc's Herring when having this dish. The children in Sunday School always enjoyed it when Marc hopped into classes on Sundays morning. He had a special way to treat children, with his special sense of humor. They liked him and he enjoyed being in class, telling the Kids that they have a privilege to have teachers like Gloria and Yardena. Marc never missed an event at the KJCC that involved learning about Jewish Culture. He was eager to study and hear stories about Jewish people around the world. Each time he would ask a question of the lecturer, he showed how compassionate and empathetic he was for human suffering. He was a "Mensch". Marc's brother told us at Marc's funeral how much he suffered. He was very sick for a long time. Many times the pain was unbearable, but Marc suffered in silence. He didn't want to bother his friends. He was telling us that he is ok. He made efforts to stay in good mood. What a strong man!!! How I wish we could have helped him more with this damn sickness.

With time, I will be able to write more about my memories of my best friend in the Keys. I would like to tell about this beautiful friendship, but not now, I hope soon. It is a Jewish custom to leave the deceased alone for a time so that he can find peace and rest. Rest in peace my friend. I know that you are in good company, lying next to the graves of my parents, David and Michal. Each time I'll visit their grave, I will also visit yours, remembering you my dear friend.

— Yardena Kamely



Leaf on the tree of life:
In Memory of Marc Bloom

Fond Times with Marc Bloom
Our Kitchen Maven

By Steve Steinbock, Skip Rose, Linda Pollack

TORAH COMMENTARY PRESENTED AGAIN Art Itkin



Months ago Art Itkin prepared and delivered a dvar (Torah talk) that struck many of us as particularly meaningful. People requested copies and Art agreed. Sometimes things are easier said than done. Meaningful things do not lessen with time fortunately, especially when dealing with end of life issues. So in memory of Marc and all others who have left their legacies with us in this difficult year and in honor of all those who asked Art for copies of his talk, we present it again here. Thank you, Art.

The Torah parsha this week is Vaetchanan, Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11. My D’var Torah is based on remarks by Rabbi Marc Saperstein of Leo Beck College in London and by Rabbi Ruth Zlotnick, Senior Rabbi, Temple Beth Am in Seattle, Washington.

D’varim – the book of Deuteronomy – is the last book of the Torah. It is primarily Moses’ farewell speech, his last will and testament, to the Israelites as they are getting ready to enter the Promised Land. He is almost 120 years old and has been their leader for 40 years. He reviews many of the events which have been described previously in other books of the Torah.

In this week’s parsha, Moses recalls an incident recorded in the book of Numbers. When the people had run out of water, G-d tells Moses to speak to the rock and the water will flow. However, Moses hits the rock twice instead. G-d accuses Moses of not trusting in Him and, as punishment, will not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land with the rest of the congregation. Moses was punished because he failed to acknowledge the holiness of G-d in front of the people.

We now learn that Moses did not accept this ruling without protest. We are told that Moses prayed and pleaded with G-d to change his mind. He wanted permission to fulfill his dream by leading the people into their land of destiny. But this prayer received a firm, negative response:

“Lo ta-avor et ha-yarden hazeh.” – You shall not go across the Jordan!! So Moses was powerless to change his fate. Yet he still had decisions to make. What should he do now?

Moses could have said: “Look G-d, I think you have given me a rotten deal. For 40 years, I followed your instructions and put up with these stubborn people. And then because of one small mistake, you deny me the right to finish what I began. And then when I appeal, you tell me, in effect, to shut up. I don’t think that’s fair. Get yourself another leader if you can.”

Or, as a second option, Moses could have said to himself: “If I can’t lead the people to the Promised Land, I’ll make sure they will miss me. I won’t lift a finger to help my successor – why should he get all the credit? He’ll probably fail anyway and the people will wish I was still around.”

Or, as a third option, Moses could have continued to protest against G-d to the very end. He could have refused to obey G-d’s instruction to climb a mountain so that he could only see the Promised Land from far away. And then Moses could attempt to lead the people across the Jordan River himself against G-d’s wishes.

While all of these options were possible, all were rejected. Regardless of what must have seemed like an unfair decision, Moses continues to trust in G-d’s wisdom and love. He does everything possible to prepare his successor, Joshua, for the leadership role by encouraging and counseling him.

Moses urges the people to remain faithful to his own ideals and to G-d’s teachings after he is gone. And then Moses climbs alone to the mountain top for his rendezvous with eternity, accepting his end with the confidence that others will continue his work. Moses faces death with a quiet dignity and inner peace.

Each one of us, like Moses, will someday have to recognize that there are dreams that we will not see fulfilled and hopes that we will not achieve.

We begin life with all potential. As small children, we seem to have no limit as to what we might accomplish, but gradually we become aware of the reality of our limitations. As we get older, we come to the realization that we will never be like the professional athlete we once adored. Later on, we will never be President of the United States. At some point, we may also realize that we will never transform the lives of other people. And if we are true to ourselves, we may even realize that we are not the good, ethical, caring person that we would like to be.

Eventually, we reach the stage where we must recognize that our lives will come to an end and even some of our more modest, realistic goals will remain unfilled.

Sometimes we think that our children will reach the goals that we have failed to achieve. Perhaps they will. But we usually go through the same process with them. They may accomplish things we did not – things in which we take pride – but rarely do they achieve everything a parent may dream about. And eventually we reach the same stage as before: even some of our modest goals will remain unfilled.

So how should we respond to all of this? Do we become angry at G-d because we were not as talented or as fortunate as others? Do we lash out in

resentment at those who are now younger, more promising, more accomplished than we were? Do we abandon worthwhile causes because others have taken our places and we are no longer needed the way we once might have been? Or can we simply accept ourselves as we are and take pride in what we have been able to accomplish?

So what have we learned from this parsha? Moses has spent much of his life shepherding a stubborn people across the wilderness and now can only look at the Promised Land. This is a heart-breaking symbol of humanity: A man, at the end of his life, sitting at the edge of the land of his dreams. There is so much we want, so much we strive for, but we never quite get to the place of our heart's desire.

Maturity forces us to confront our own limitations, to accept what cannot be changed. With all our failings and weaknesses, with all our unfilled dreams and our disappointed hopes, each one of us is a unique individual cherished by G-d, who wants us to be the very best we can but who accepts our humble regrets over what we did not achieve.

From Moses, we learn that no matter how talented or influential that we may be or may have been, the future cannot always be shaped to our desires. Disappointment is built into life. Whatever answer we receive to our prayers, we can – like Moses – accept our limits and mortality with dignity and peace. May we all take heart from his example! ◇



“ETZ CHAIM HEE” HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TREE OF LIFE

by Gloria Avner

When spring arrives and you first see a fruit tree burst forth with blossoms, there is a blessing we are told to say: Baruch Atah Adonai Elohainu Melech ha-Olam, Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who did not cause any lack in this world, but created in it good creatures and good trees that all may enjoy them.” As Jews, we are nothing if not constantly attentive to “firsts” and grateful to be alive to celebrate them. Witness all our “Shehechyanu’s”. But this prayer, and these trees, are even more special. The Kabbalah teaches that the blessing upon blossoming fruit trees, Bircat Hallanot, can redeem souls. It is Shabbat morning. We’re getting ready to take out the Torah. Rabbi chants: “L’dor va dor .” We echo with gusto: “L’dor va dor,“ from generation to generation. There is pride in our on-goingness, and in almost every mention of continuity there is metaphor. In every metaphor, at bottom, is a tree.

As children we learn to count growth rings to tell the age of a tree. When we want to document our personal ancestry, generation to generation, we make a graph of continuity and call it a family tree. Awe sets in early when we discover that trees use the carbon dioxide waste we exhale to make their food and they then excrete oxygen. We breathe their air, eat their fruit, and plant their seeds to make new trees. The linkage between trees and man, physically and metaphorically extends throughout every field of study from biblical history to anthropology, art, poetry, philosophy, biology, and mysticism. The deep-rooted fascination (pun intended) crosses cultural boundaries, continents, and centuries. On the 15th day (the number Tet Vav, pronounced Tu) of Sh’vat, the Jewish take on trees comes to life.

Because Tu B’Shvat marks the last of the winter rains in Israel, it also marks the time when life force in the form of sap begins to rise from earth, roots, and tree trunk to the growing tips of branches. Seasons transition from death like winter stasis to a promise of spring and budding fruit growth. The day is not just a birthday, but the beginning of a New Year for the Trees, one of the four distinct New Years that Jews celebrate over the course of one calendar year.

For us, the tree is a double symbol, representing both Man and Torah. From the psalmists we hear “. . . a man is as a tree of the field.” From our liturgy on Shabbat morning, we sing “Etz chaim hi.” Torah is a “tree of life” for all who cling to it. Both man and Torah have roots, trunk, branches, and fruit, all the major elements of a tree.

The roots of man, the Jewish people, are our ancestors, our matriarchs and patriarchs, the whole book of Genesis. The trunk is the whole body of the Jewish people, the “signers-on” to the covenant at Sinai, who received the Torah and entered the Promised Land, the cast of the Book of Exodus.

In Hebrew, the word for tribe is Shevet, a word close to Sh’vat, the name of this month and also the exact word for branch of a tree, all who came before us, survived oppression, and nurtured coming generations in the ways of Judaism. Our tribes are our branches, spreading out from but still attached to the trunk, with sub branches from original branches reaching all the way to and throughout the diaspora.

What is the fruit? The fruit of Man and the fruit of the Torah are the same: the good deeds of every living soul. When Rabbi Agler talks on a Shabbat morning of those deeds that we cannot do too much of - visiting the sick, honoring our parents, consoling the bereaved, celebrating with bride and groom

– studying Torah is the last act mentioned, and said to be the greatest, because , as the verse goes on, the study of Torah leads to them all.

One interpretation of Torah’s roots, trunk, and branches are its inner secrets, the concealed mother and father principle explored in Kabbalah, and the body of written and oral Torah with all the different methods of commentary. Torahs fruits can be seen as new insights that flow to those who devote themselves to its study and share those insights with the world, resulting in tikkun olam actions

People, Torah and trees. There are very specific laws (Halacha) that interrelate the three. We are told not to harvest the fruit of a tree until it is three years old. Even in war, it is forbidden to cut down a fruit tree. There are laws about gleanings. And numerology (Gematria) adds even more mystical depth.

The period from Rosh Chodesh Sh’vat to Tu B’Shtvat falls exactly between the two holidays of Chanukah and Purim. From the last day of Chanukah until Rosh Chodesh Sh’vat there are 29 days. From the 2nd of Shevat until Tu Bishvat there are 14 days. Following Tu Bishvat, from the 16th to the day of Purim again there are 29 days. 2 times 29 (58, the value of the word chen, “grace” and “sym-

metry”) plus 14 gives a total of 72 days, the value of chesed, “lovingkindness” . We come back to the fruits of Man and Torah, “gemilut chasadim.”

From the fruits of kind deeds we move to fruits we can eat. The holiday of Chanukah is the holiday of pure olive oil. The holiday of Purim is the holiday of wine. All of the seven species and fruits of the land of Israel are contained within and encompassed by these two primary fruits. We used to celebrate together in the schoolroom the mystical seder devised more than 5 centuries ago in S’fat during the time of the Ari . We would sample all 15 varieties of fruit , listen to stories, drink four cups of “wine” progressing from pure white to rose to russet to pure red, symbolizing each season of the year. And with Jane Friedman’s leadership we’d plant a tree or two, sing and dance and say the blessings from the Torah. What we will do this year remains to be seen but we will certainly say the blessings.

The words of the first psalm describe a person who follows the Torah: “she shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in season; her leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever she does shall prosper.” ◇



In ancient Israel, whenever a baby girl was born, a cypress tree was planted. When a baby boy was born, the planted tree was a cedar. Each child cared for their own tree as they and the tree grew. When the time came for marriage, a chuppah was fashioned from the bride and groom’s own trees, intertwined. The couple stood under the canopy for their wedding service, united with each other in a tradition that honored birth, marriage, and a reverence for trees and nature.

Keys Jewish Community Center

Presentation by

Lucinda Kurtz



ROSH CHODESH CIRCLE FOR WOMEN

Rosh Chodesh gatherings bring together a group of women interested in deepening their spiritual connection to our tradition and to each other at the time of the new moon of each month. Rosh Chodesh Women's Circles are gaining national and international popularity as a way for contemporary women to tap into our ancient Jewish rituals. Today's Jewish women are rediscovering a path back to the sharing of wisdom and tradition inherited from our female ancestors.

In these Circles, we explore the different energies that are manifested in each Hebrew month according to the Kabbalistic teachings of our sages. We do this through a variety of mediums such as music, movement, meditation, connection to the natural world, story telling and Torah study. We may look at any number of aspects each month such as: the important biblical events in Jewish history that occurred that month, the Torah portion, the astrological sign of the month, particular biblical figures active in the month, and the holidays.

I have been teaching Rosh Chodesh Circles in person and on line for several years. They were an outgrowth of the Kabbalah classes that I taught. They initiate and deepen the spiritual exploration and personal connection many women find very nourishing and stimulating. I look forward to facilitating this type of Circle with interested women in the Keys Jewish Community Center.

The Rosh Chodesh Circle will meet at the KJCC from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on:

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 - Shevat

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 - Adar I

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - Adar II

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - Nisan

For more information, please call Lucinda at 734-635-9441 or write lucindakurtz@comcast.net. Also, see my website at www.lucindakurtz.com

KEEP ON THE SUNNY SIDE: HELPFUL HINTS FOR GETTING THROUGH COVID TIMES



by Mindy Agler

My mission for this article, as defined by Gloria: “Maybe you have some tips for staying positive in a world you see as increasingly dour, incomprehensible, and on a serious downhill slide. How about something like ten small steps to reclaim joy, or how to make a difference in someone’s life (paying for the harassed looking lady in the car behind you in the Starbucks line), volunteering to make happy birthday calls, etc. I’m open to anything you’d like to write/right/rite about, but I’m thinking you might be the hope and joy Queen at this moment and could sprinkle some of that shiny stuff on us, (with a bit of Jewish perspective, if possible).”

That’s a tall order! (Rich said I’m essentially being asked to write a High Holiday sermon!) But I’ll give it a go.

First, if you’re feeling any of those negative, hopeless feelings that Gloria described, please know you’re not alone. The world has indeed become a darker place since the pandemic began. I recently saw a study that found that 1 in 6 Americans sought counseling for the first time in 2020! This number astounded me, but I guess the good thing is that we Americans think counseling is helpful!

Whether it’s due to climate change, the political climate in America and the world, the pandemic, other news issues, or more personal concerns like finances, family, health or loss, it would be hard to argue that we aren’t feeling more bombarded and overwhelmed by stressors since 2020.

So, what are we to do with this increased anxiety? Let’s start the answer with more questions!

Are our personal buttons being pushed by the current state of affairs? Is our Jewish sense of justice and righteousness being offended by the political reality? Does our mandate of tikkun olam, making the world a better place, seem impossible? Are we left to feel that our commandments to care for the widow, the orphan, and the stranger are being trampled, or worse, are no longer relevant? Do we feel we have no control in the circumstances that surround us at every turn?

Let’s garner some wisdom from Instagram, of all places! These words were posted by Adam Grant: (https://www.instagram.com/p/CWgGYuZrycp/?utm_medium=share_sheet)

“The events that make your blood boil reveal what matters most to you.

Anger rises when your core values are in jeopardy.

With reflection, it becomes a mirror for seeing your principles more clearly.

With action, it becomes a map for making change to protect what you hold dear.”

If our Jewish core values weren’t so important to us, so ingrained in us, indeed, so much a part of what makes us, us, we could skip merrily through news items that push those buttons, and go on about our business. However, we can notice, “With reflection,” as Mr. Grant writes, that the values are important to us, and we can do our part to make positive change in the

world. If this seems impossible because the problems are so vast, we would do well to remember the words from our sages: “You are not commanded to complete the task, but neither are you free to abstain from it.” We as individuals are probably not equipped to solve every problem facing the world, but we are all capable of making small changes that will have positive effects.

For example, if climate change is one of the issues that bothers you, you can make a difference by taking your own bags to the supermarket, participating in a beach clean-up, using non-plastic laundry detergent, planting a native plant in your garden or on your balcony, writing letters to leaders, attending protests, or even installing solar or making your next vehicle hybrid or electric if you have the funds. We are not free to abstain from doing our part, whatever that may be, but “every little bit helps.”

Another most important way to combat eco-anxiety (yes, that’s a thing), is to make time to be outside every day. Being in nature helps calm and soothe us, increases our mindfulness, and slows our “monkey brain” from its incessant worrying. It gives us great opportunities to find items for our daily gratitude list, (I saw my first tree frog last night since moving to San Diego),



provides our bodies with essential Vitamin D, and has been linked to “improved attention spans (short and long term), boosts in serotonin (the feel good neurotransmitter) and shows increased activity in the parts of the brain responsible for empathy, emotional stability, and love....” (7 Scientifically-Backed Health Benefits of Being in Nature (thetrek.co)). Get out there and enjoy Mother Nature!

How can we decrease our anxiety about the pandemic, where admittedly we have even less control? One way is to control the way we THINK about the pandemic; then our thoughts will greatly affect the way we FEEL about it. This is best illustrated by the words of Viktor Frankl, a survivor of Auschwitz, and author of “Man’s Search for Meaning:”

“Everything can be taken from a man or a woman but one thing: the last of human freedoms to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way.”

If our thoughts lean into worst-case scenarios, such as “We’re never going to get over this, I can’t stand living under these conditions, It’s too much to take,” then our feelings are going to reflect those attitudes of hopelessness and fear. So choose your attitude, for this and all other stressors that come along, and you’ll find your stronger and lighter feelings will help you through.

Another bit of control we have over the pandemic is how much time we spend absorbing news about it. One simple behavioral change we can make is to limit our “screen time” that can blast us 24/7 with words, graphs, images to show us how awful everything is. This is what sells, unfortunately, but we can TURN IT OFF! After 9/11 (remember the stress then?), a friend said to me “I have the news on every minute I’m home and I’m so scared.” I suggested she limit her exposure, and she agreed that if something else “really big” happened, she would hear about it soon enough without

having to torture herself with every new detail and every old image from the event all day. How grateful we can be that we can control our exposure, unlike Dr. Frankl when he was in the camps!

Gloria asked for a list of 10 small steps to reclaim joy. How about a Daily Plan of 6 steps to help us live in a pandemic, as proposed by Aaron Norton, Ph.D., LMHC, LMFT, in a virtual CEU class for therapists on “Working with Clients During a Pandemic”? Dr. Norton suggests each of our days should include a balance of each of the following:

Something productive (i.e., gives you a sense of accomplishment, contribution, or success)

- Something physical (i.e., a minimum of 20–30 minutes of mild, moderate, or intense exercise)

- Something social (i.e., involves interaction with others while still social distancing as long as we need to)
- Something meaningful (i.e., gives you a sense of value or purpose)
- Something entertaining (i.e., is fun, interesting, or engaging)
- Something relaxing (i.e., helps you to se-stress, relax or unwind).

If we can look back on our day and realize we have taken care of ourselves using each of these tasks, and that we have taken some of the other suggestions here to heart; Then my hope is we will realize it has been a good day, and that we’ll be able to string several “good days” together, one day at a time.

Blessings, and I hope I fulfilled the assignment! ◇



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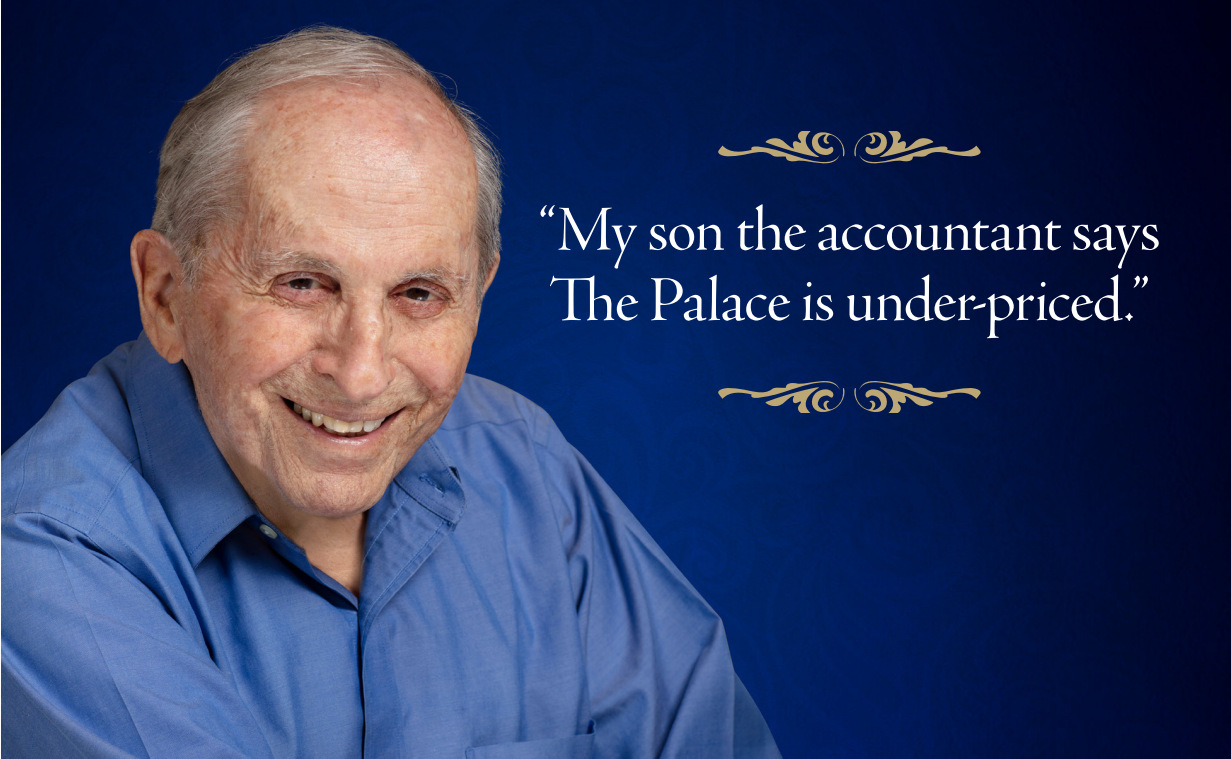
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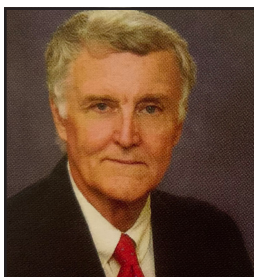
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