

Chai~Lights



January 2016

20 Tevet - 21 Shevat 5776

World Jewish Report — Page 11

Chanukah in Photos — Page 25

From Monaco to Dubai — page 32

Keys Jewish Community Center

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Yardena Kamely & George Swartz	2
3	4	5 Rabbi Zucker Class 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Bernie Ginsberg <i>Susan Gordon</i>	9
10 Mtgs., Sisterhood 9, KJCC Board 11:00; <i>Laura Wetzler Con- cert 7:00 p.m.</i>	11	12	13	14	15 Sisterhood Service <i>Advertisers Dinner 6 p.m. Susan Ellner</i>	16
17 Adult Ed 7:00 p.m. Shirley Stein - - Irving Berlin	18 Martin Luther King Day	19 Rabbi Zucker Class 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22 Meredith Cline <i>Meredith Cline</i>	23 Rabbi Agler Torah Service 10:00
24 Tu B'Shvat at KJCC School 10:30 a.m.	25 Tu B'Shvat (New Year of the Trees)	26	27	28	29 Arthur Itkin <i>Arthur Itkin Yardena Kamely</i>	30

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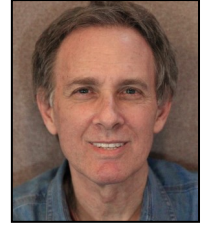
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President's Message Sam Vinicur



No one really knows when Jews first migrated into the fertile valleys of central Europe, but a fair guess is the first few centuries of the Common Era. There's strong evidence that Jews had settled in Prague, Bohemia's capital (then and today), by the 900s. By the early 1700s there were 30,000 Jews living in Bohemia *outside* of Prague, in 168 small market towns and 672 villages.

One of those small towns, in Bohemia's far southwest, was Susice, founded in the 8th century to mine gold from the Otava River. Jews are known to have lived there since the early 1600s. The first synagogue was built in 1659. A grand new synagogue was begun in 1857, said by a local paper to be one of the most beautiful in all of Bohemia. It had "a large entrance hall, a fine gallery for the choir and an elegant altar."

The building took years to finish. Perhaps they then decided that a beautiful new synagogue deserved a regal new Torah. We know that a stately and highly legible Torah was commissioned around 1880. We know that this Torah served the Jews of Susice through a number of upheavals in the modern Czech/Bohemian world. We know that Nazis killed the Jews of Susice and then stole

this Torah. We know that this Torah was a wounded and homeless refugee at the end of World War II.

We know so much because this Torah is Czech Scroll No. 418, KJCC's beloved Holocaust Torah, currently being restored and re-koshered by a skilled scribe.

Though it's the words and ideas that are sacred, not the physical entity, this particular scroll is somehow...more. Its story bonds us to the lives of our forebears. It emerged out of the long, complex saga of European Jewry, and stands as a stiff-necked survivor of the worst Jewish catastrophe in 2,000 years. It embodies our people's ideas, yes, but also the emotional power of Jewish hands clasped firmly across the whole of our experience, good and bad. Rabbi Agler often talks of *kavanah* – intent. Next time you rise before our Torah for Kaddish, or reverently touch it, think of actual people from Susice it once served. Think of Benedikt Wedeles, or Olga Furthova, or Kamila Freundova.

The work on our Torah is almost finished. We'll be scheduling a full day of celebration and ceremony and re-connection upon its return. It will be one of the most important days in the entire history of KJCC. I hope all of you will be there with us. ◇

Nosh

KJCC Activities Club is Born

The KJCC now has an Activities Club! As its chairman, I will be providing monthly updates of upcoming activity opportunities

There are presently two planned events. Laura Wetzler, an internationally known Jewish folklorist and singer, will be performing at the KJCC on Sunday, January 10th at 7 P.M.. Tickets will be \$18. Contact Sam Vinicur for more information. (Please see the promo on page 20 of this issue.)

The second planned event is Itzhak Perlman: "In the Fiddler's House" at the Arsht Center in Miami on Wednesday, March 9th at 8:00 P.M. Twenty tickets have been reserved in the Orchestra Circle section at a price of \$86 each plus a \$4 handling fee. Log onto the Arsht Center website at www.arshtcenter.org and use Promo Code KJCC to order tickets.

Other opportunities under consideration include: "The Producers" at Waterfront Playhouse, a sunset cruise, visits to Botanical Gardens or Miami Zoo, Jewish Food Walking Tour and a Jewish Walking Tour of Miami Beach.

I encourage suggestions, so please feel free to contact me at harveyaicp@yahoo.com or on my cell at 303-521-5240. And stay tuned!

—Mitch Harvey

KJCC Shabbat Dinner

We are once again holding a Shabbat dinner to thank our advertisers and to invite perspective members to come join our *mishpocha* for dinner. The dairy dinner will be held on January 15th at 6:00 P.M. Please contact Medina by January 8th to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish. You can reach Medina at hiitsmedee@gmail.com

Adult Hebrew Class

Yardena's Adult Intermediate/Beginner Hebrew, focus on reading and understanding Siddur, continues January 10, from 12-1.

Oneg Sponsors for January 2016

January 1st - Sisterhood

January 8th - Susan Gordon to celebrate the birth of Rhett William.

January 15th - Susan Ellner in thanks for a safe return.

January 22nd - Meredith Cline in honor of her 60th birthday.

January 29th - Arthur Itkin in honor of his 85th birthday.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome several new members to KJCC.

Augie and Kristy Moss live in Tavernier with adorable babies Lucy and Joseph. Grandfather and Grandmother Joe and Gail Moss, who live in Key Largo and Chicago, also joined. Carol Roaman, who also lives in Key Largo and NYC, filled out an application right at the Hanukkah dinner! We hope to see all of them often. Look for their pictures in our Photo Gallery.

Rabbi Agler's January 23 Torah Service

In December we learned the three questions asked before we enter the "world to come": Were you honest in your business dealings? Did you put aside regular times for Torah study? Did you keep hope for redemption? By attending Rabbi Agler's 10 A.M. Saturday service, we can answer an enthusiastic "YES!" to the second question. You will also be energized and uplifted, with opportunity for meaningful informal discussion, led by our gifted Resident Scholar.

Important Sisterhood Meeting

They all are, of course. Sisterhood is the life blood of the KJCC. But this month is even more important. We need to appoint a new Treasurer and Secretary and will be discussing these positions at the January 10th 9 A.M. meeting. Also being discussed: our annual fundraiser, the Jewish Food Extravaganza. All female members of KJCC are automatically members of Sisterhood. Mark your calendar and join in. —Erica

January Birthdays

January 1st.....	Jerry Olsen
January 1st.....	Justin Wade Gilson
January 1st.....	Laura Goodman
January 2nd.....	Sherrie Willner
January 2nd.....	Stanley Rosenberg
January 3rd.....	Crue LaMarche
January 4th.....	Howard Gilson
January 4th.....	Randi W. Freundlich
January 6th.....	Janice Gorson
January 6th.....	Stanley Margulies
January 8th.....	Matthew Barrett
January 8th.....	Roger Levy
January 9th.....	Cathy Rakov
January 9th.....	Deborah Beinfest
January 9th.....	Sarah Kamely
January 10th.....	Nancy Yankow
January 11th.....	Michelle Zinner
January 12th.....	Alex Dutton
January 12th.....	Meredith A. Cline
January 13th.....	Amy Nobil
January 14th.....	Tovah Fishman
January 15th.....	Charlie Horowitz
January 15th.....	Heather Gilson
January 15th.....	Jamie Goodman
January 16th.....	Brieze Levy
January 16th.....	Donald Zinner
January 17th.....	Andrea Kluger
January 17th.....	Neal Rakov
January 17th.....	Suzi-Sarot Feder
January 18th.....	Barry Alter
January 19th.....	Benjamin Friedman
January 19th.....	Mark Kanarek
January 19th.....	Sandy Seder
January 20th.....	Sy Gelbard
January 22nd.....	Sheila Olsen
January 24th.....	Randy Klein-Gross
January 24th.....	Stuart Grossman
January 26th.....	Marshall Kaplan
January 27th.....	Beth Hudson
January 27th.....	Pat VanArtsdalen
January 28th.....	Yardena Kamely
January 29th.....	Beth Kaminstein
January 29th.....	Jeffrey Boruszak
January 30th.....	Kristen M. Schur

New Year for the Trees — January 24th

Come. You are invited to our favorite outdoor Jewish holiday celebration — one of the four Torah-mandated Jewish New Years. Be at the KJCC David Kamely Schoolroom on Sunday morning at 10:30 A.M. for *Tu B' Shevat* (named for the 15th day — numerical value of the two letters making up *Tu* — of the Hebrew month, *Shevat*). Experience a special *seder*. Honor and sample varieties of fruits and grains important to Israel while we drink four glasses of "wine," from pure white to barely rose to dark pink to ruby red, each corresponding to a season of the year. Help tell stories and recite blessings over each of the fruits.

It is good to spend time each year wrapped in our agricultural past, remembering to be grateful for the earth we walk on, for food and shelter, air to breathe and beauty to behold, all gifts given to us by trees. The best part is when we and our children get to get dirty and plant the seedlings that will bring us (and the food bank next door at Burton Memorial) healthy fruit and vegetables. Then we all hold hands, dance and sing in a circle around the living beings we are nourishing, wishing for them all they need to prosper. We have been particularly good lately at effective water prayer, "*Mayim, mayim, mayim*." Special thanks to the ongoing ground-breaking hard work of Harry Friedman, on his way to Eagle Scout-hood, Steve Steinbock, and Mindy Agler, who will be ably assisted on this special day by KJCC Religious School students. Bags of potting soil are always welcome. *-Gloria*

January Anniversaries

	Years
1st	Sanford & Nancy Yankow26
4th	Steve & Amelia Kasinof35
12th	George & Muriel Swartz36
17th	Alan & Elaine Schulberg23
23rd	Marvin & Ivy Blumenfeld67
26th	David & Pamela Marmar31
27th	Michele & Ed Riley43

Laura Wetzler Concert at KJCC

On Sunday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m., KJCC will host an evening of music with singer/songwriter/folklorist and Jewish musical anthropologist Laura Wetzler. This will be the latest in a long series of high quality, iconic performances at KJCC by internationally known artists. Many of you will remember the Joshua Nelson concert, Dave Feder's last year, and others. Laura will be joining us as she wends her way home to Massachusetts after an international tour.

The program will include some of Laura's own compositions and also some of her interpretations of beloved American standards. But the majority of the program will be culled from her years of research into varieties of Jewish

music from around the world and from every sub-culture of Jewish life – eastern and western and southern Europe, Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Spain and the Maghreb and South America. This is a musical treasure that is too often ignored.

Please go to Laura's website, laurawetzler.com, to hear a sample of her clear, lovely, lilting voice and the amazing range of her music. For further information about reservations and tickets, please see the promo in this issue on page 20.

This evening will be one of the highlights of the season. (Laura will also be joining us afterwards in the Richardson Social Hall for coffee and chats.)

You're going to love this.

Ongoing Projects and Mitzvah Programs of KJCC

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations or condolence card from the KJCC, call Gene Silverman, 305-664-3316.

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 Bernie Ginsberg, 305-852-9300.

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

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

KJCC TREE OF LIFE LEAVES and ROCKS, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Call Mitch Harvey, 303-521-5240, to arrange your donation.

VEGETABLE GARDENS: We are in need of potting soil for a vegetable garden, which will hopefully yield fresh produce for the food bank.

GIFT SHOP: The Sisterhood gift shop stocks kiddush cups, mezuzot, cards, jewelry and much more.

KJCC BOOKPLATES for siddurim: Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575 for information.

CHAI-LIGHTS MITZVAH: Place a greeting or notice in Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, to make your donation.

ADVERTISEMENT IN CHAI-LIGHTS or DIRECTORY: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-852-8575, for annual rates.

LIVE GREEN – RECYCLE: We are recycling ink cartridges, laser toners, cell phones, laptops, iddevices, tablets and more. Call Steve Steinbock, 305-394-0143, or just bring your items to the KJCC.

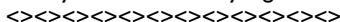
Call the names listed above for assistance or send your request and check to the KJCC, P.O. Box 1332, Tavernier, FL 33070. Recipients of your gifts will be notified by card and listings will appear in Chai-Lights as well. Honorarium and memorial cards can also be requested. Donations can be earmarked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

In Memoriam January 2016

In Memory Of

Talia Agler

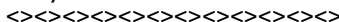
By Richard & Mindy Agler



In Memory Of

Bernice Bernstein

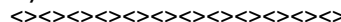
By Paul & Barbara Bernstein



In Memory Of

Laurie Beth

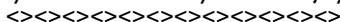
By Alan Beth & Candace Stanlake



In Memory Of

Annette Bitton

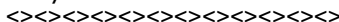
By Michel Bitton & Sylvie Coeurjoly



In Memory Of

David Pearlman

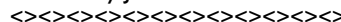
By William & Donna Bolton



In Memory Of

Emma Kohlenbrener

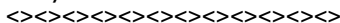
By Joan Boruszak



In Memory Of

Irving Kulick

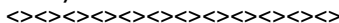
By Thomas & Renée Brodie



In Memory Of

Betty Weinstein

By Dick & Rita Bromwich



In Memory Of

Rita Zalk Cline

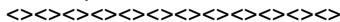
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

Carolynne H. Cline

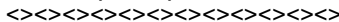
By Meredith A. Cline



In Memory Of

David Cohn

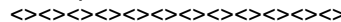
By Nancy L. Cohn



In Memory Of

Yetta Hitzig

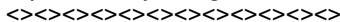
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In Memory Of

Lola Rosenberg

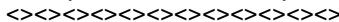
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In Memory Of

Nathan Weisberg

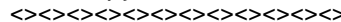
By Gerri & Frank Emkey



In Memory Of

Marcus Weiss

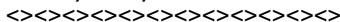
By Janice Gorson



In Memory Of

Marvin Greenbaum

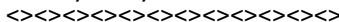
By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Judy Lombardi

By Marilyn Greenbaum



In Memory Of

Alvin S. Gross

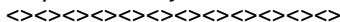
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In Memory Of

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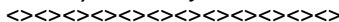
By Kenneth & Jerri Grossman



In Memory Of

Louis Hartz

By Steven & Jan Hartz



In Memory Of

Daniel Harvey

By Mitchell Harvey

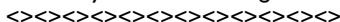


In Memoriam January 2016

In Memory Of

Ernest Isenberg

By Patricia Isenberg



In Memory Of

Irving Rosen

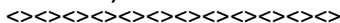
By Harvey & Joan Kay



In Memory Of

Henry H. Rubin

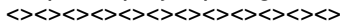
By Carol Laskin



In Memory Of

John Evans

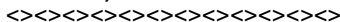
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In Memory Of

Eta Brownstein

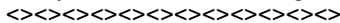
By Pauline Roller



In Memory Of

Joan Kaminsky

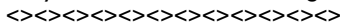
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

Sally Sussman

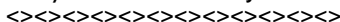
By Richard & Sheila Steinberg



In Memory Of

Sylvia Emsig

By Lawrence & Pearl Jacobs



In Memory Of

Walter Hankin

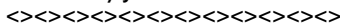
By Richard & Barbara Knowles



In Memory Of

Samuel Neubauer

By Jackie LePree



In Memory Of

Ann Netzman

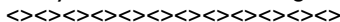
By Alan Netzman



In Memory Of

Nat Gulkis

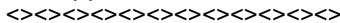
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In Memory Of

Joseph Cohen

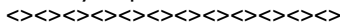
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In Memory Of

Karen Hayhurst

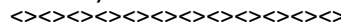
By Stephen Steinbock



In Memory Of

Bernard Kaminstein

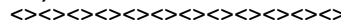
By Beth Kaminstein



In Memory Of

Goldie Schweitzer

By Richard & Barbara Knowles



In Memory Of

Lila L. Line

By Jonathan & Arlene Line



In Memory Of

Betty Weinstein

By Jerry & Sheila Olsen



In Memory Of

Bea Gulkis

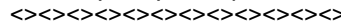
By Alan & Elaine Schulberg



In Memory Of

Joseph Shapiro

By Libby P. Shapiro



In Memory Of

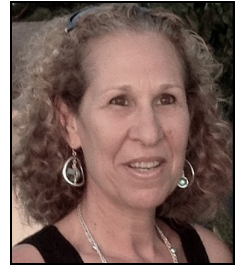
Sydney Zinner

By Donald Zinner



Sisterhood

Erica Lieberman-Garrett



It's hard to believe that another calendar year has gone by, capped with the almost end-of-year celebration of our annual Chanukah party. Almost 90 people gathered as we lit our menorahs together, sang songs, ate latkes and *kugels*, and enjoyed the company of our KJCC *mishpocha*. Many guests and occasional visitors joined us, as together with the regulars, we all *fressed* and *kibitzed*. I love this time of the year and especially the celebration of Chanukah. Our holiday fell midway between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, so it was lovely to focus fully on Chanukah, and to have our community Shabbat dinner on the seventh night, when so many candles on the menorahs lit up the room so brightly.

It is always fun to decorate as well, and to have the children participate in their special way. I really missed having Susan Gordon add her singular touch to decorating the room, but she had her own Chanukah *simcha*, with the birth of her daughter Rose Marie's baby Rhett up north.

In her absence, one of our new members, Sydney!, stepped up and added her stylish flair to the room, and it looked fabulous! I really enjoy that particular time when we are together setting up the Ruth Richardson Social Hall and David Kamely classroom for the event, and preparing the food table and everything else we need for the evening. I would like to specifically thank Barb Bernstein, Joanie Stark, Medina Roy, Mitch Harvey, and Sydney! Faye-Davis for helping to make that wonderful atmosphere happen this Chanukah. I feel like this is part of our family activities, just as if we were in our own home.

The dinner was scrumptious as well, with lots of latkes, kugels, soufflés and salads, not to mention the mandel bread, tiramisu, and some healthy fruit salad. We even had three kinds of applesauce! Thanks to all who made the food and contributed to the wonderful

dinner. Special thanks go to Linda Pollack, who once again sponsored the dinner. The evening had a nice *hamish* feel of camaraderie and celebration.

At our December Sisterhood meeting, our treasurer Linda Kaplan, who has been balancing our finances and taking care of business for two years, let us know that she is ready to move on to other endeavors and would not be continuing in this position. She has been an integral part of our Sisterhood, and has done a fantastic job, which has been deeply appreciated. So now, we are in need of a new treasurer.

We also are in need of a new secretary for our monthly Sisterhood meetings. Marsha Harris told us that she would not be able to continue after April. She, too, has done a great job in keeping the notes, which are a vital part of our organization, since we often have many discussions that are important to document for further reference.

At our next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday January 10, we will be discussing these newly open positions and would love to see all the women of the KJCC join us and become more involved. We will also be planning our annual fundraiser '*The Jewish Food Extravaganza*', scheduled for Sunday, Feb 28th. We love this event. It has been very successful in the past, and we hope that this year it will be even more fun. Mark your calendars and join us.

Our weekly onegs continue to be lovely, with healthier food, thanks to Jane Friedman.

So as we begin the calendar year 2016, I know that this is going to be our best year yet, thanks to all the support and enthusiasm of our KJCC Sisterhood. Thank you and I wish you and your families a happy, healthy New Year. ◇

Contributions to KJCC

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

General Fund

Kaufman, Michael & Lorena Happy Hanukkah and Our Appreciation to KJCC

Gessley, Debra
Pollack, Linda

Education

Bofshever, Joel and Toby

Meditation Garden

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Steinberg, Richard & Sheila
Steinberg, Richard & Sheila

In Honor of

Gloria Jean Rakov
Lillian Cutler

In Honor of

Bat Mitzvah of
Eliana Peckman

In Memory of

Joel Cohen
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Sydney! Faye-Davis

Yahrzeits

Boruszak, Joan
Boruszak, Joan
Grossman, Stuart
Kluger, Nancy
Kreitman, Marcia
Krissel, Michael
Steinbock, Stephen
Steinbock, Stephen

Edward Deutsch Davis

Burton Boruszak
Julius Kohlenbrener
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How Certain Contributions to KJCC Can Instantly Become Permanent, Living Memorials

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

Tree of Life Leaves: We have 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; an outdoor plaque is included in the price.

YEDA VE'TORASHA Yardena Kamely



Student Awareness Day – Learning Lessons from History

This past Chanukah, I joined a group of educators attending an educational program at the Broward County Convention Center. More than a thousand students from Broward schools met Holocaust survivors and participated in “Student Awareness Day”. They came to listen to the survivors’ stories and to interact with them, asking questions about their experiences in WWII, the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The Holocaust Documentation and Education Center was founded in 1980 as a multi-faceted organization. It opened the first South Florida Holocaust Museum. The Education Center, through its outreach programs, is teaching the universal lessons of the Holocaust; it’s about values, pluralism, responsibility and respect for human life and dignity. During Student Awareness Days, students from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach high schools meet with Holocaust survivors and engage in round table discussions. At each table are ten to twelve students, a survivor and a facilitator. Students listen to the survivor’s story and ask questions about prejudice, intolerance, hate and persecution.

Some students come to these programs with little or no knowledge of the Holocaust. The role of the survivor is to tell his/her story and serve as a resource person. This is usually the first opportunity for the students to ask a survivor questions face to face. The role of the facilitator is to keep the conversations and discussions going, to give the survivor as much time as possible to answer questions and share, and to help everyone enter into a difficult, emotional dialogue, loaded with memories of traumatic experiences lived by

the survivors when they were at the student’s age or younger. If no questions are asked, if the students hesitate to ask out of fear of hurting or offending the survivor, the facilitator has a sheet of “Questions for Round Table Discussions” he can refer to as jump-starters. These are general questions about the Holocaust, resistance, prejudice and personal and collective responsibility.

At this year’s program I was the facilitator for two round tables with eighteen students from different high schools. The survivor at our table was Sam Schleider. He told his story of survival as a four-year-old child in the city of Stanislaw, Poland. When the war started, his family endured anti-Semitic hostility from their Polish neighbors. Sam didn’t mention details of the restrictions, aggressions and humiliations his family suffered. He said he didn’t want to “scare the students with horrific, unimaginable atrocities.” He described the fear and deprivations they lived through. “Life became more and more difficult with each day,” he told us, with tears in his eyes, his voice choking. This was one of the moments when the facilitator had to help the survivor, giving him time to regain his composure. I filled in with historic facts and told about the solutions the Nazis implemented for the “Jewish problem” in Eastern Europe. In Stanislaw, the Germans selected the oldest, most neglected part of the city to become the ghetto. At least 20,000 Jews had to live in this very small and overcrowded area. Those who lived outside the ghetto had less than two weeks to move inside. Many were put up in cramped, small apartments, in every available space including storehouses and syna-

gogues.

Sam continued to tell his story. He and his mother moved to the ghetto. His father managed to continue with his small business, working outside the ghetto. He had a plan to smuggle Sam and his mother out. He chose another eighteen people to go with his family into hiding. Why them? He had found some Polish neighbors who were willing to hide Jews in their house for money. Together, those eighteen Jews had the money to pay

these conversations want to convey to young people. "There is intolerance and hate in our world today." Sam said, "You are suffering from bullying in your school... Don't let fear stop you from speaking up, from finding a way to resist injustice and prejudice. We, in the Holocaust, felt helpless, we couldn't fight back, and even when you had occasioned to fight, there wasn't much we could do. The enemies were too powerful. *You* can stand up and speak out. You live in a privileged coun-



Sam Schleider and the students

the "rent" for the hiding place - a dark and cold basement. Sam and his mother stayed in this basement for eighteen months. "There was nothing in the room, nothing. No sanitary conditions. We slept on the floor, had one meal a day on the floor. We couldn't see the outside. When you are all the time in the dark, you start to feel all kinds of fear... imagine you cannot make noise, you cannot scream, you cannot shout, you can only cry."

Sam interrupted his story here. By that time we could feel the anxiety Sam had to live with as a four-year-old child. It was time to open a conversation, to listen to the students' questions. His answers emphasized the message all survivors who participate in

try, America; you can fight hatred in your school. You can do something when you hear racist jokes, name-calling, and labeling."

Sam Schleider's message resonated with the students. Since it was the second day of Chanukah, I took the opportunity to include in our discussion examples of heroism from Jewish history. The story of Chanukah is about rebellion and courage. It tells us how the Jews stood up against oppression of religious freedom by the Greek Empire. I mentioned how the spirit of the rebellious Maccabees influences the Israeli soldiers fighting in the wars defending Israel. The Jews in WWII had fought, too. For them, just staying alive was resistance. ◊

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



Yiddish-Speaking Canine Soldiers

With the recent spike in terror attacks throughout Israel, an elite squad of security dogs is in high demand from Israeli citizens looking for extra security. Mike Guzofsky is the founder of the *Israel Civilian K9 Unit*, a private company that occasionally works with Israeli law enforcement or the military. There are some 60 dogs in the unit, mostly Belgian and Dutch Shepherds imported from Europe and costing up to \$10,000 each. Of those, five dogs – David, Moishe, Zalman, Seven and Uman – respond to Yiddish commands. Once the dogs arrive in Israel, they are trained by a group of volunteers and deployed all over the country. Some dogs are trained for search and rescue – their primary mission – while others are bred as “security dogs.” Why teach the dogs to respond to Yiddish commands? “There was a search in the Jerusalem forest for an autistic ultra-Orthodox kid that went missing,” he said. “...I think having Uman there responding to Yiddish commands helped him.” Guzofsky, a one-time yeshiva student, grew up in Far Rockaway (Queens), New York. He was a close associate of the late Jewish extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was assassinated in 1990. Guzofsky became involved with the Jewish Defense League (JDL), moved to Israel and became Kahane’s “chief of operations in Israel.” He has remained active in the far-right-wing, anti-Arab movement that continues Kahane’s militant philosophy. Guzofsky is banned from Britain, accused of advocating Jewish terrorism. He did say, however, that as a professional, if there’s an Arab missing, his K9 Unit would join in the search and rescue.

(*The Forward*, 11-28-15)

For All to See

The Israeli flag that in 1947 flew on the SS *Exodus*, the most famous of hundreds of ships that attempted to bring European Jews

to British-mandate Palestine immediately after World War II, was scheduled to be auctioned in Jerusalem at the beginning of December. The flag was expected to sell for \$100,000 to \$120,000. The auction was called off at the last minute, however, after the flag was quietly bought by a public institution. Meron Eren, owner of the *Kedem Auction House*, said that the flag was withdrawn “to ensure its placement in a public institution.” The iconic ship had 4,500 Jewish survivors of Nazi death camps, none of whom had legal immigration certificates. In real life, *Exodus* was boarded by the British Navy shortly before it docked and forced to return to British-controlled Germany, where the passengers were held in camps in Hamburg. (The voyage was the inspiration for Leon Uris’s best-selling novel “*Exodus*,” written in 1958. Two years later the movie based on the book and starring Paul Newman was released.) As of this writing, the auction house has not released details of the sale or any information about the institution that purchased the flag. (www.timesofisrael.com, 12-3-15)

They Stood United

For the first time ever, an American soldier has been recognized by *Yad Vashem* as a “Righteous Among the Nations,” Israel’s highest honor for non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue Jews during World War II. Thirty years after his death, Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds of Knoxville, Tennessee, has received recognition for rescuing Jewish soldiers at a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany in January 1945. Edmonds had been captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and placed in the POW camp along with over a thousand other American soldiers. He spent 100 days in captivity. His actions in the camp,

placing his own life at risk, saved the lives of some 200 Jewish-American prisoners. The *Wehrmacht* had a strict anti-Jewish policy and segregated Jewish POWs from non-Jews. (Jewish soldiers had been warned that they would be in danger if captured. They were told to destroy dog tags or any other item that would identify them as Jews.) When the German camp commander, speaking in English, ordered the Jews to identify themselves, Edmonds, the highest ranking noncommissioned officer in the camp, turned to the rest of the POWs and said "We are not doing that, we are all falling out," at which time all the camp's inmates defiantly stood. "We are all Jews here," Edmonds said. He never wavered, even with a pistol to his head. The German officer eventually backed down. Edmonds is one of only five Americans to be recognized as a "Righteous Gentile" by *Yad Vashem*, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust. (The others are Varian Fry, Waitsill & Martha Sharp and Lois Gunden.) Edmonds is also now being considered for a Congressional Medal of Honor. (www.ap.org, 12-2-15)

Relativity's 100th Birthday

November 25th marked the centennial of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, a "discovery that forever revolutionized the study of gravity, space and time." Although he devised the $E=mc^2$ equation ten years earlier, it was first published in 1915. There are many interesting facts about Einstein and his relationship to Judaism and Zionism which, at the time, was still evolving:

1. He went through an observant phase when he was twelve, keeping kosher, even though his parents were secular Ashkenazi German Jews. (He didn't stay interested in Judaism long enough and consequently never had a Bar Mitzvah.)

2. He devoured science books, which he saw as contradicting religious teachings.

3. When Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president, died in 1952, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion offered the office to Einstein, who regrettably declined.

4. In 1955, he wrote a speech for Israel's seventh Independence Day and was sched-

uled to deliver the speech on ABC, NBC and CBS, but he experienced internal bleeding that landed him in the hospital. He refused emergency surgery and died the next day.

5. Einstein believed in a "pantheistic" god as described by Baruch Spinoza, the 17th century Sephardic Dutch thinker later excommunicated by the Amsterdam Jewish community for his "rationalist" philosophies. "I believe in Spinoza's God, who reveals himself in the harmony of all being, not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and actions of men," Einstein wrote to a rabbi in 1929.

(www.timesofisrael.com, 11-25-15)

Jimmy Carter's Cancer

Keytruda, a drug that was researched and tested in Israel, may be responsible for former President Jimmy Carter's announcement in early December that he is cancer-free. In August, Carter had been diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma that had spread across his body including four cancerous lesions on his brain. *Keytruda* is one of a group of new immunotherapy drugs that allows cancer cells to be seen by the immune system which then targets and kills them "with amazing precision." Chemotherapy destroys cancerous cells but also destroys healthy ones. The side effects of *Keytruda* are less severe than chemotherapy. The drug was researched by Jacob Schachter, head of the *Ella Institute for Melanoma* at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel. Carter, 91, said he experienced no side effects while taking *Keytruda*. Doctors have found no new signs of cancer growth and the lesions are gone. (www.nbcnews.com, 12-7-15 and www.jta.org, 12-8-15)

It's Angela, Not Bernie

In early December, TIME Magazine announced that Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, was the magazine's 2015 "Person of the Year." But according to a poll taken by the magazine, readers of TIME differed, selecting Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders as "Person of the Year." In the magazine's survey, Sanders, the Jewish senator from Vermont, received more than ten percent of the vote. The runners-up were Malala

Yousafzai – the young Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate, shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012 when she was 15 – followed by President Obama, Pope Francis and talk-show host Stephen Colbert. A presidential candidate has never been selected “Person of the Year” prior to winning the election. (www.jta.org, 12-7-15)

Busted Bubbles

A weekly game of *mah jongg* played by four Jewish bubbles – ages 87 to 95 – in Altamonte Springs, Florida, was shut down by local police after a “snitch” – a “troublemaker in building 11” of the condominium – turned them in for gambling. They were charged with violating a local ordinance that prohibits playing *mah jongg* for money. As a result, the condo’s management banned *mah jongg* from being played in the clubhouse “until further notice.” It turns out that the ladies can continue to play in the clubhouse because they do in fact abide by the Florida gambling laws, specifically Statute 849.085, which states that the winnings of any player must not exceed \$10. (The nefarious bubbles had a \$4 limit.) Watch out, KJCC mah jonggettes! (www.tabletmag.com, 11-25-15)

They Do What Few Others Can

Roim Rachok (the Hebrew words meaning “seeing far”) is an Israeli program that helps people with autism integrate into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and allows them to serve in key positions. In the past, autistic 18-year-olds would enter the IDF and be given menial, frustrating jobs. But now, these soldiers do what few other soldiers can do: they use their extraordinary ability to focus and analyze visual data and pay attention to detail. Soldiers with autism can excel at this work. They are often highly skilled at detecting patterns. The soldiers of *Roim Rachok* decipher aerial reconnaissance photos to provide information to soldiers ahead of combat missions. These trainees also learn about following orders, staying on schedule and working with a team. They are based in the IDF’s intelligence unit, which maps and analyzes visual data.

Some autistic soldiers are trained to be army electricians, who deal with devices like night vision goggles, or optics technicians, who work with binoculars. “A big part [of the work] is to notice changes and maintain a certain routine repetition,” said a former Defense Ministry official who co-founded *Roim Rachok* in 2012. (www.jta.org, 12-8-15)

In Memoriam (sort of)

· Marcus Klingberg, the best known – and probably the most important – spy the Soviet Union had in Israel, has died. He was 97. For some 20 years, Klingberg passed secrets to the Soviets about Israeli scientific advances and chemical and biological weapons development. In 1969, he joined the *Sackler Faculty of Medicine* of Tel Aviv University and in the 1970s was the deputy head of the top secret *Israel Institute for Biological Research* (IIBR). Klingberg was involved in numerous professional organizations and was considered an upstanding member of the Israeli professional community. Israeli security officials believe he had been actively spying from 1957 to 1976. Klingberg was caught in 1982 when the Mossad entrapped him using a double agent. Klingberg admitted that he was a spy and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released for good behavior in 1998, after serving 15 years, and kept under house arrest. He was ultimately freed in 2003 and immediately left Israel for Paris. Klingberg said that he spied for ideological reasons. He also claimed that he had not been paid. (www.israelnationalnews.com, 11-30-15)

Did You Know...

· Dan Uzan, the Jewish security guard who was killed by a terrorist outside Copenhagen’s main synagogue in February 2015, was elected 2015 Dane of the Year. Uzan, 37, had volunteered to serve as a security guard at the synagogue for a Bat Mitzvah party when he was attacked and killed. The prize is awarded annually following an election that is open to the public. Along with Uzan’s mother, father and sister, Denmark’s prime minister attended the award ceremony. (www.worldjewishcongress.org, 12-9-15) ◇



**ITZHAK
PERLMAN**
IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE

**Itzhak Perlman: 20th Anniversary of In the
Fiddler's House**

Undenably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Marking the 20th anniversary of the release of his album *In the Fiddler's House*, this exciting evening will highlight the collection of traditional klezmer music. Joining Perlman are members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and other special guests. Experience this exceptional music live on stage, and join us for an unforgettable evening!

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Time: 8: 00 pm
Location: Adrienne Arsht Center - Knight Concert Hall
Contact: Mitch Harvey (303) 521-5240, harveyaicp@yahoo.com,
for further information about tickets or carpooling.

Please follow these steps to order tickets. Log onto www.arshtcenter.org. Go to the Itzak Perlman page by way of the Events Calendar for March 9th, enter Promo Code KJCC and click Apply, then click on Buy Tickets. On the Buy Tickets page, click on Choose Best Available Seats, click on Orchestra Circle, select the number of tickets, and then click on the Reserve button at the bottom of the page. This will assign seats to you in our reserved section. Tickets are \$86 + \$4 handling = \$90. Then buy and enjoy!

A Letter from Morah Yardena

Last Sunday we had a special class. It was our Chanukah celebration, the lighting of the first candle. It was a nice surprise for the teacher when two mothers, Sylvie and Randy, decided to stay in class and help with setting up for the celebration. I decided to take this opportunity and turn it into a learning and educational experience. I asked the mothers to teach



Below, Oceana, Mikhaela, Cole and Morah Yardena show off the posters they created for the classroom bulletin board.



the girls how to set the table and arrange the food for our “Chanukah Dinner”. Jane Friedman had joined us; she volunteered as tutor and was so helpful, as always. The Silverman boys worked on Chanukah decorations for our classroom and the social hall, showing good teamwork.

Sylvie, Randy — You made this learning experience meaningful by participating in working on the decorations and posters together with the students. I could see the difference it made for the students. They were really motivated and active. The discussion we had at the table about the meaning of Chanukah had the same effect; the

students listened attentively when you, parents, emphasized the importance of tradition, remembrance, faith, Israel and courage in Judaism.

Thank you all for this special class and the fulfilling of the mitzvah of educating our children.

-Yardena



**KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
SHABBAT DINNER**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016

6:00 PM

COVERED DISH DINNER

~DAIRY~

Once again, we are inviting our Chai-Lights and Directory advertisers to join us for dinner to thank them for their support. We are also extending a special invitation to our newest Members. And we are encouraging you, our Members, to encourage prospective members to join with us also.



Contact:

Medina - hiitsmedee@gmail.com -

to reserve your spot and coordinate your covered dish.

Please reserve by January 8th.

no charge

Photo Gallery

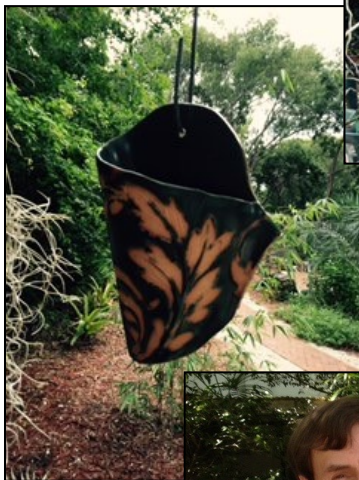
In the center, Lee Schur *kvells* at the bar mitzvah of her grandson Jeremy , shown with his sister Brittany. At right, the three rabbis of the temple in San Antonio bless the bar mitzvah boy and his parents. Lee was greatly moved by the presence of three generations of rabbis: the young woman assistant, the older female rabbi and the rabbi emeritus.



At the November 20th oneg (sponsored by Gloria Avner), David Goldfinger (at left) samples Jane's homemade Challah. Not only did Gloria sponsor the post-service nosh, but she also provided a vegetarian (fruititarian?) turkey, shown below.



The pottery creations shown below are among the flower and orchid containers that Medina Roy has fashioned in honor and memory of friends. Look for them in the KJCC Meditation Garden after Steve Steinbock finds appropriate plants for them. Who knows, it may be one that you donate!



Below, Barbara Clev and husband Roy Moran, who is an avid metal worker, gift the KJCC one of his creations, a tricolor Chanukiah.



Ken Atlas, a frequent service leader, shown at left with his wife Nicole, sent these photos of his family so that we can see how lovely his shy wife is, and (below), how Seraphina, his poetic daughter, has grown.






Above, Rabbi Yaakov Zucker of Key West Chabad is pleased with the large group that showed up for his Tuesday class at KJCC.

Below, Dr. Erica Lieberman-Garrett poses with her nephew, Sergio Oliva, the new National Super Heavyweight Bodybuilding Champion, shown proudly clutching his trophy. (I wonder how much the trophy weighs.)



Above center, proud Grandma Susan Gordon holds Rhett William, born in Tennessee on the first day of Hanukkah. Half-brother Tucker is thrilled, too. Mom Rose-Marie and baby are both doing fine.

Concert Presented by
The Keys Jewish Community Center



ASCAP Award-winning singer-songwriter **LAURA WETZLER** tours in over 150 concerts and lectures each year, singing critically-acclaimed Contemporary Folk / Americana originals, World Jewish Roots Music in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) and the great classics of American songwriting.

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: KJCC, MM 93.5 Oceanside

For tickets and information contact

Sam at

(305) 852-8741

president@keysjewishcenter.com

General Admission \$18

Credit/Debit Cards will be accepted.

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"A rich resonant voice weaving traditional, ethnic and contemporary threads into intelligent, literate songs."
Richard Fox, WCUW

Eye On The Arts — *Gloria Avner*

January, 2016

Our snowbirds are back. The season's offerings of cultural events in our 'hood are piling up, thick and fast. We don't want to miss any of them, especially if KJCC members are a significant force behind the offerings. So here is a partial list, to which Mitch Harvey, board member and Chairman of the brand new Outside Activities Committee, will add even more possibilities for entertainment and enrichment. Save these dates. Plan a carpool.

January 10th Laura Wetzler at KJCC — On Sunday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m., KJCC will host an evening of music with singer/songwriter/folklorist and Jewish musical anthropologist Laura Wetzler. This will be the latest in a long series of high quality, iconic performances at KJCC by internationally known artists. Many of you will remember the Joshua Nelson concert, Dave Feder's, and others. Laura will be joining us as she wends her way home to Massachusetts after an international tour. For more information see the flyer on page 20.

January 15, 16, and 17: BayGrass BlueGrass Fest - Founders Park, Islamorada, brought to us by impresario David Feder and ICE (Islamorada Community Entertainment). ICE provides arts-related scholarships to local high school students. Tickets are available at the gate. For more information: www.keysice.com

January 14th-28th — The 19th Annual Miami Jewish Film Festival. Films from Israel and around the world will be shown in nine venues around Miami. Included are Academy Award entries and Florida premieres. Go to

www.miamijewishfilmfestival.org for more information or call (888) 585-3456 for tickets.

January 16th, Art Under the Oaks -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the San Pedro Catholic Church at MM 89.5. Always a fun Arts and Crafts fair, one of the longest-running local art shows.

January 19th, 7:30 p.m. -- The New Xavier Cugat Orchestra will kick off the 2016 Florida Keys Concert Association Series with the high-energy sounds of legendary Latin performers Xavier Cugat and Desi Arnaz, with dancing duo Tango Romantico. Tickets are \$45 for this concert, but you can hear all six concerts by purchasing a season ticket for \$110 and never have to go off the rock. All concerts will be held at Island Community Church, MM 83.3. For concert details and to buy tickets online, visit the FLKCA website www.FloridaKeysConcerts.com. Or talk to Joyce Peckman, one of the KJCC people who make this special series happen.

January 21st, Morada Way Third Thursday Art Walk: Outdoor festival featuring arts vendors and music. Runs from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. MM 81.8 Oceanside.

January 26th, Chamber Music Featuring Trio Solisti - The second FLKCA concert of the season will feature chamber music played by Trio Solisti and will also include a special performance by 10-year old acclaimed piano prodigy, Harmony Zhu. Longtime supporters of the arts, our own David and Toby Goldfinger, are sponsoring this performance. The Concert starts at 7:30 p.m., at the Island Community Church, MM 83.3. Individual tickets are \$30.00. ◇



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

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ONEG \$60

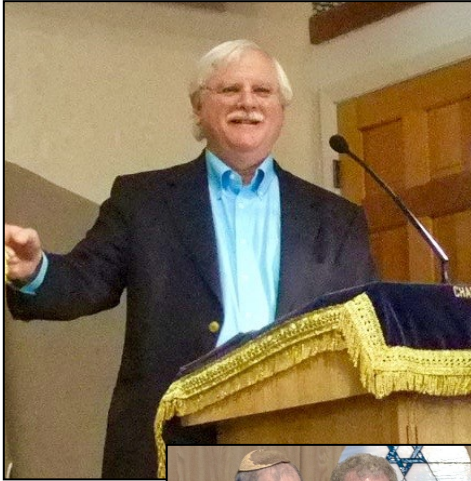
SHABBAT DINNER \$300

**YOUR ONEG OR DINNER SPONSORSHIP WILL BE
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AND ANNOUNCED FROM THE BEMA.**

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, bar/bat mitzvah, safe return or any other occasion of your choice. Sisterhood will purchase challah, wine, coffee/ tea/soft drinks and baked goods.

Contact: Joyce Peckman
(732) 447-5225

KJCC Shabbat Services



Rabbi Agler's December 12th Saturday Torah teaching helped us see the Festival of Lights in an entirely new historical light. Below, Stan Margulies, Richard Kaufman and Mitch Harvey assist in the Torah service, while Steve Hartz chants from the Torah.



Above, during Friday evening services, Steve Hartz shows how Torah trope (cantillation notes) can focus the reader on meaning.



NOTE: Rabbi Agler's next Torah learning service will be on January 23rd. Don't miss it!





KJCC Meditation Garden

Our extended brick walkway is in place. Come and spend some time walking around our peaceful and beautiful Meditation Garden. Bricks and benches can be purchased as honorariums or memorials and as gifts. Trees line the walkway and are available for dedication to our loved ones or to memorialize a happy occasion.

Also newly dedicated is our Orchid Pergola. We invite you to become a part of this fresh undertaking. Make your donation toward a new and beautiful orchid. The orchid will be tagged with the name of the donor and the name of the person being honored or remembered.

Information regarding pricing for orchids, bricks and benches can be obtained by visiting our website, keysjewishcenter.com.



The 2015 KJCC Chanukah Dinner

A Festival of Lights, Music and Food



The set-up alone was a community event , beginning with decorations hand-crafted by the Sunday School.

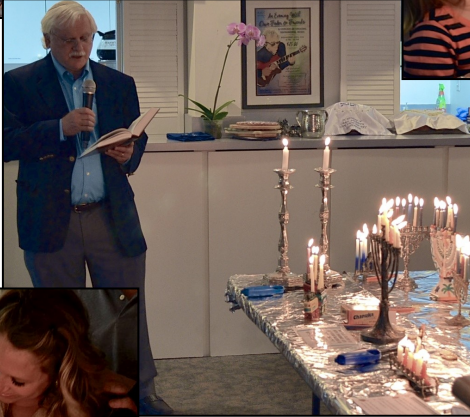


Kudos to the team, shown above, of Medina , Joan, Mitch, Barbara, Erica and Sydney!

Not shown are the latke fryers, casserole bakers, salad makers and dessert creators, who came later.



We were rich with lights and celebrants. Before our feast, families gathered to light their *channukiahs*. The children's faces glowed as brightly as the candles. After Chanukah candles came Shabbat candles, Kiddush and blessing of the bread.



Jack Corrigan, at left, celebrates his tenth birthday. His family came to the Keys and helped sponsor the Oneg.



Below, Jonah Gross, on trumpet, leads nearly 100 of us in a rousing chorus of “Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah.” As the song says, “Let’s have a party.”



At right, Oceana Gross plays “The Dreidel Song” on her bassoon while two of our youngest members, Madison Bloom and Sean Kaufman, are entranced by sound and light.



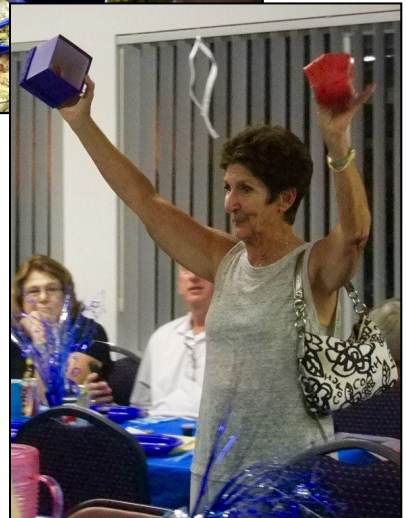
Our three Ocean Reef amigas, Patricia Isenberg, Libby Shapiro and new member Carol Roaman, join the singing.



Above, Muriel Swartz (left) and Jan Hartz. At left (l-r), Bobbie and Nelson Chester are joined by their Hebrew teacher, Yardena Kamely.



At right, Marsha Harris enthusiastically sells raffle tickets. Just below, Dana Grace enjoys a moment with Jan Hartz. The smiling faces at the bottom belong to new member family Augie and Kristy Moss and children Lucy and Joseph. Below right, Erica loves her latkes.



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Chanukah Celebrations “off the rock”

Clockwise, Dan Peckman lights candles in Denver with bat mitzvah girl Eliana and 8-year-old Michal. Yosef and Michal play dreidel with dried starfruit instead of pennies. Amit, Shayella and Negev Shuker love the lights, and Grandma Bea Graham plants a bright kiss. Joel and Toby Bofshever admire some of their *channukiot* (and each other). Keith, Becca, Libby and twins Isaac and Adara Peckman enjoy the first Chanukah in their new home.



How delightful to see past president and KJCC matriarch Bea Graham actively enjoying her great grandchild in New Jersey.

From Monaco to Dubai

Gene is our guide as she and Mort cruise the Mediterranean

by Gene Silverman

We're off – or almost. Marc Bloom picked us up right on schedule and the drive up to Miami Airport wasn't crowded at all, so we had plenty of time. It was the beginning of a trip that



Gene stands before the storefront of exclusive Monaco shopping emporia. What's a cruise without shopping?

would stretch from Monaco (a tiny principality on the French Riviera) to Dubai, the main city of the United Arab Emirates, on the Arabian coast of the Persian Gulf. We were going to be gone for a total of 34 days on a Seabourn Cruise plus three extra days ashore in Dubai. We were going to visit the countries of Monaco, Italy, France (the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean), Malta, Greece, Turkey, and Israel, then transit the Suez Canal and visit Jordan, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. We also were going from very cool (to us) and rainy to hot and very dry.

After a hop to JFK in New York we were off

eastward to Monaco. We went to sleep in our airplane beds (really, we slept) after indulging in champagne and dinner. That was followed by a very, very early breakfast.

Our arrival at the Nice airport went smoothly (contrary to their reputation, the French were very courteous) and we were off to Monaco. After driving through too many tunnels to count – it's mountainous right up to the water there – we arrived at our hotel, the Fairmount, bright and *way* too early. But, upon checking in they were most gracious and gave us our room and even upgraded us. We weren't unpacking as we were to board the ship the next morning around 11:00. But this also gave us the chance to explore Monaco, where we had never been despite many previous trips to Europe.

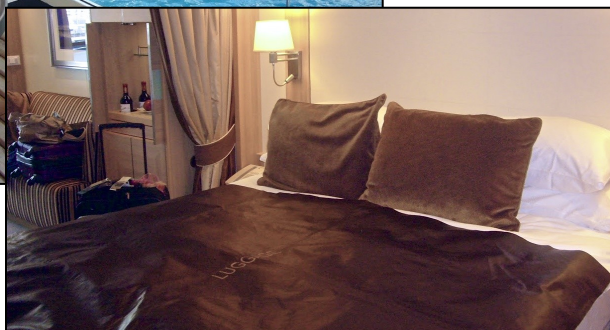


First impressions were that Monaco was clean, loaded with tunnels, tiny and very business-orientated. We started to walk from the hotel to investigate and realized the reason for all the tunnels is because rather than level any part of the local mountains they chose to tunnel through them. Hence, walking around was not on level ground! You were either going up or down some very steep hills to wend your way. (But it did make for very picturesque views.) We did manage to find their very beautiful shopping area after following signs to a lift. If not for the lift it would have been a walk the equivalent of six stories up, but we did walk back down to the level where our hotel was.

We loved the glitz and glamor of this store – but not the prices! We continued our investigation until we could no longer walk around. Then back to the Hotel for a rest and nap and shower then out to dinner at a wonderful-looking Italian restaurant we discovered while walking back. (Little did we realize that it was located back up that hill we had just walked down.) Showered and rested, we took off for this restaurant, eagerly waiting what turned out to be a fabulous dinner! Of course we had a delicious Chianti to accompany our meal of veal and lamb chops served with a fabulous bread and salad.

Off to the ship around 11:00 the next morning; happy to say they let us board upon arrival but only after checking into their welcome area. We still didn't know if our cabin/

suite was available, so we first had to go to their arrival desk and find out if it was prepared and ready. YES – so we went to the cabin to check it out, then of course to have our first meal (lunch) aboard the Seabourne Sojourn. None of our luggage had been delivered to our cabin, so we were footloose and fancy-free for the mo-



Some views of their cabin including the veranda, with an elegant leather spread to protect the bed.

ment. Of course, after lunch we did have to return to start the process of unpacking and trying to remember where we had put our belongings. When we went to enter our cabin our steward introduced herself; we loved her name – which is perfect for anyone over the age of 65 – Memory!

Then we were off to investigate the ship that was to be our home for the next 34 days! Found the gym, restaurants, laundromats, bars and nightclubs, all very elegant and appealing. Upon reading the ship's daily



The outdoor shipboard lounge, above, prior to departure. Gene at one of the restaurants with a glass of her beloved pinot noir.



The view of Santa Margherita from aboard ship.

paper we were informed that the temperature was from 50°F to 59°F - no wonder we felt chilled. That first evening, at 6:30, there was a talk given by Aldon Ferguson about classical Florence, Pisa, Santa Margherita (near Genoa), Livorno and Calvi - many of the next

few stops on our itinerary. Then, to top that off, after dinner there was a dance party at The Club on Deck 5. Guess we were going to be very, very, very busy - if we could stay up! (What and when to eat was always a big deal. Each day they'd ask what you wanted for dinner the *next* day. To me, it was a waste of

time, as how was I supposed to know what I wanted to eat the next day?! Happily, the dinner menu, along with lunch and breakfast, was also included each morning, though it seemed they really did expect us all to make up our minds what and where to eat the day before. That wasn't my style. But I surmised that I was in the minority, so be it.)

We were

now underway, saying goodbye to Monaco with a blast of the ship's horn and a party with farewell cocktails up on the pool deck.

It's the next morning, 8:00. Our first impression of Santa Margherita, Italy is that it's a clean, very lovely seaside town loaded with



At left, Mort debarks the cruise ship's ship-to-shore ferry in Santa Margherita. Then, after they had walked about, they found this statue erected in 1854 honoring Vittorio Emanuele II, the first king of Italy since the 6th century.

cafes, ice-cream shops and bakeries, and clothing stores displaying very expensive but very beautiful items. We walked around and found, to our delight, an art gallery that was displaying some very unusual works. Alas, we could only peek at them through a plate glass, as the gallery was closed.

The town of Santa Margherita is set on the Gulf of Tigullio between Rapallo and Portofino, therefore it is very busy with artists and writers and overlooks the many gorgeous yachts that moor there. It also has a 16th century castle and of course the ubiquitous Basilica from the 17th century.

We have to be back aboard ship by 4:00 to prepare for our first formal and the Captain's Welcome party then onto dinner in their specialty restaurant with the extremely fancy name of Restaurant 2.

The food was delicious, and good thing we went to the Captain's welcome party before dinner, as by the time we were finished with drinking and eating we certainly didn't have the energy to go listen to the singers and dancers that were starting at 10 p.m. that evening.

Tomorrow we would be arriving at Livorno, Italy, where we would try to discover the remnants of the Jewish community that had been there. ◊

(To be continued next month...)





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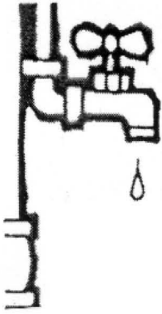
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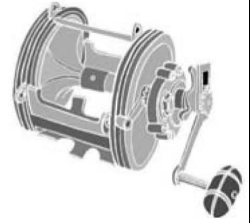
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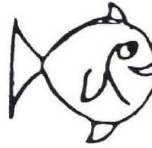
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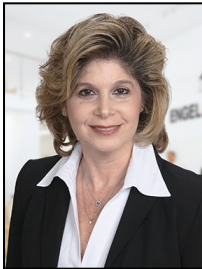
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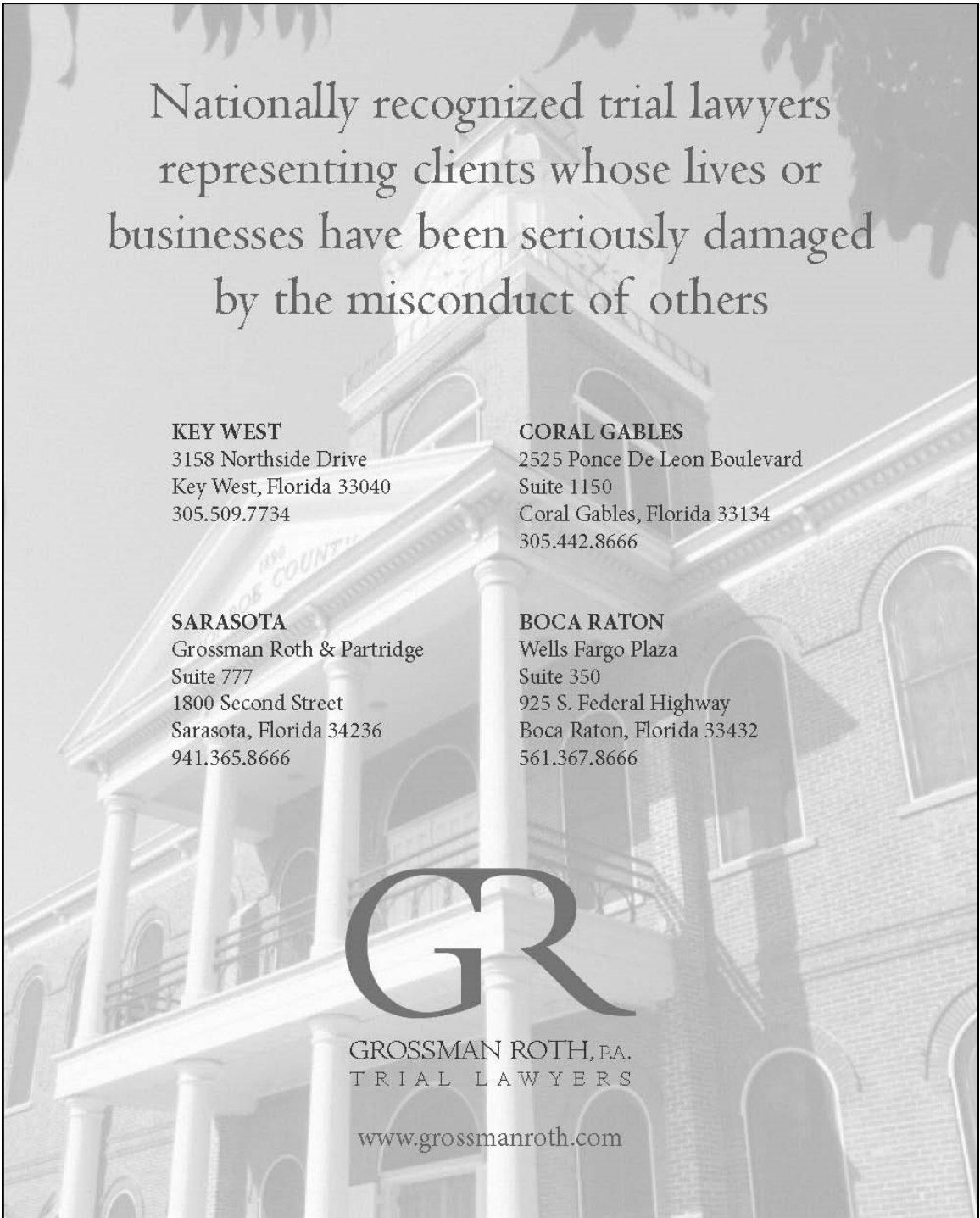
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